

Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) Program Frequently Asked Questions

What if I get my Instruction Permit before April 1, 2007?

- *You may enroll in a driver education program or get your Instruction Permit prior to April 1, 2007 and the old 180 day waiting period will apply to you.*

What are Stages 1, 2 and 3?

What are the stages of the GDL Program?

- *Stage 1 is when you first receive your Instruction Permit (Class 7). This is often called the Beginner's Permit. You have to hold this permit for 365 days before you may take a road test to get your Class 5 and enter Stage 2. You are also required to have an identifying decal on your windshield. The decal is a bright yellow sticker with a large black "L" in the center.*
- *Stage 2 is the period when you receive a driver's licence after passing a road test. It lasts for one year (365 days). You are also required to have an identifying decal on your windshield. The decal is a bright yellow sticker with a large black "G" in the center.*
- *Stage 3 is the period after completing Stage 2. It lasts for one year (365 days). You are also required to have an identifying decal on your windshield. The decal is a bright yellow sticker with a large black "G" in the center.*

Where do I get the decal?

EFFECTIVE DATE IS APRIL 21, 2007. This applies only to those that have received their Instruction Permit after April 20, 2007.

- *The decals will be given directly to the Graduated Driver when they obtain their Stage 1 (Class 7) or Stage 2 (Class 5) driver's licence.*
- *The decals are made of a material that is designed to be removed and replaced onto your windshield over and over.*
- *Please ensure that you take the decal with you in whatever vehicle you are driving.*
- *The decal is to be placed directly above the Motor Vehicle Inspection sticker on the lower left-hand side of the windshield.*
- *If you misplace or tear your decal, you may obtain a replacement at any Access PEI office or in the case that you are not able to make it directly to an Access PEI office or in the event that they are closed, you may print off a paper version of the decal and fix it to the*

windshield in the same location or place it on the dash in full view for law enforcement. The website address is www.gov.pe.ca/tpwpei and follow the link to the NEW Graduated Driver Licensing Program.

Do I require a decal if I operate a motorcycle when I hold a Stage 1 Driver's Licence?

- For those who operate motorcycles, a small yellow decal with the black letter "L" will be issued. This decal is to be placed on the **back of the** motorcycle operator's helmet.

When may I get my Instruction Permit (Class 7) commonly called the Beginner's Permit?

- You may enter Stage 1 of the GDL Program at age 16.

At what age may I enroll in a driver education program?

EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2007

- The minimum entrance age is 16 years old.

When may I have my first road test to leave Stage 1?

- If you are enrolled in a driver education program, you may take your first road test after waiting 275 days. If you are not enrolled in a driver education program, the waiting period is 365 days.
- When you successfully pass the required road test you will enter Stage 2 of the GDL Program

How long do I stay in the full GDL Program?

- The GDL Program has three stages. For those who have completed a driver education program, the GDL Program last for a minimum of 2 years and 275 days. For those who were not enrolled in a driver education program, the GDL Program is a minimum of 3 years.
- Those are the minimum times. Any driver licence suspensions that have occurred in the GDL Program will result in those suspension times being added to the time needed to exit the program.
 - For example; a thirty-day suspension will extend the exit time by thirty days, depending on the Stage you are in. If you hold an Instruction Permit/Stage 1 (Class 7) and your waiting period is 275 days or 365 days, you will have to wait an additional thirty days for your first road test to exit Stage 1.

Passenger Restrictions

When I get my Instruction Permit (Stage 1) who may be in the vehicle with me?

EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 3, 2007 - Applies to all GDL drivers with an Instruction Permit.

- *Only the person giving instruction and that person's immediate family will be permitted in the vehicle. The individual giving instruction must be in the front seat and have held a valid driver's licence for at least four years. There may not be more people in the vehicle than the number of seatbelts in the vehicle. The individual giving instruction may not have a Blood Alcohol Content of .05 or more.*

How many passengers may I have in my vehicle when I first receive my Class 5 Driver's Licence (Stage 2)?

EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 3, 2007 - Applies to all GDL drivers in Stage 2

- *You may have only one non-family member as a passenger. The other passengers must be members of your immediate family, and there may not be more passengers than the number of seatbelts in the vehicle.*

What is meant by immediate family?

EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 3, 2007 - Applies to all GDL drivers in Stage 1 and 2

- *PEI's Highway Traffic Act defines immediate family as the following:*
- *92.1 (1) In this section, "immediate family member" means, in respect of a newly licensed driver,*
 - *(a) the spouse or common-law partner of the newly licensed driver;*
 - *(b) the father and mother of the newly licensed driver and the spouse or common-law partner of the father or mother of the newly licensed driver;*
 - *(c) the children of the newly licensed driver and the children of the newly licensed driver's spouse or common-law partner;*
 - *(d) the grandchildren of the newly licensed driver;*
 - *(e) the brothers and sisters of the newly licensed driver;*
 - *(f) the grandfather and grandmother of the newly licensed driver;*
 - *(g) the father and mother of the spouse or common-law partner of the newly licensed driver and the spouse or common-law partner of the father or mother; and*
 - *(h) any relative of the newly licensed driver who resides permanently with the newly licensed driver or with whom the newly licensed driver permanently resides*

How many passengers am I allowed after I leave Stage 2?

EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 3, 2007 - Applies to all GDL drivers in Stage 3

- *After you leave Stage 2 you enter Stage 3 which means you are allowed as many passengers as there are available seat belts in the vehicle.*

How do I know when I am in Stage 3?

- If you have the new PEI Driver's Licence you can tell by looking at your licence. There is a line on the licence that says First Licence/Prem Permis and a date. This date tells you when you first received your Class 5 licence. If you have not had any suspensions and one year has passed since the date showing on the Driver's Licence, you are now entering Stage 3. If you are unsure about your status, please contact any Highway Safety office for assistance.

Seat Belt Violations

Do seat belt fines cause my Driver's Licence to be suspended?

EFFECTIVE DATE APRIL 21, 2007. This only applies to those who have received their Instruction Permit after April 20, 2007.

- Yes, any conviction you receive for a seat belt fine while you are in the GDL Program will result in the suspension of your licence. First offence results in a suspension of thirty days and a second offence results in a suspension of ninety days.

If I am a GDL driver, can I be charged if one of my passengers is not wearing their seat belt?

EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 3, 2007 - Applies to all GDL drivers.

- Yes, under Section 92.1(4) of the Highway Traffic Act

92.1(4)	Newly licensed driver holding a valid driver's licence for less than two years operating a motor vehicle on a highway while accompanied by a passenger who is not wearing a seat belt but is seated in a seating position that has an available seat belt	100	200
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Cell phones and other handheld communication and/or entertainment devices.

May I have any of these devices in my motor vehicle if I am a GDL driver?

EFFECTIVE DATE APRIL 21, 2007. This only applies to those who have received their Instruction Permit after April 20, 2007.

- Use of these devices is not allowed by the driver.

May I use a hands-free cell phone in my vehicle?

- Yes

Night Time Driving Curfew

Does the night time driving curfew apply to all individuals in the Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) Program?

EFFECTIVE DATE APRIL 21, 2007. This applies only to those who have received their Instruction Permit after April 20, 2007.

- No. The curfew applies only to individuals below the age of 21 and are in Stage 1 or two of the GDL Program.

What time is the curfew?

- The curfew is from 1 a.m. until 5 a.m.

Are there any exemptions to the night time driving curfew?

- Yes. An individual in Stage 2 may apply for an Exemption for Work Purposes. Applications for this exemption may be found at all Access PEI offices or on the Internet at <http://www.gov.pe.ca/tpwpei/> Follow the links under Graduated Driver Licensing Program. An individual may also drive between the hours of 1 a.m. -5 a.m. if accompanied by an individual who has held a valid driver's licence for at least four years and does not have a Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) level of .05 or more. There is no cost for the exemption.

How do I know when I am no longer in Stage 2 and don't have to follow the curfew restriction?

- If you have the new PEI Driver's Licence you can tell by looking at your licence. There is a line on the licence that says First Licence/Prem Permis and a date. This date tells you when you first received your Class 5 licence. If you have not had any suspensions and one year has passed since the date showing on the Driver's Licence, you will automatically enter Stage 3. If you are unsure about your status, please contact any Access PEI or Highway Safety office for assistance.

May I get an exemption if I hold an Instruction Permit (Class 7)?

- There are no exemptions for those that hold an Instruction Permit (Class 7).

What does Zero Tolerance Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) mean?

Applies to all GDL drivers of any age and those under the age of 19.

If you are stopped by Police and requested to give a breath sample and have any measurable amount of alcohol on your breath sample, your driver's licence will be suspended for a period of 90 days. This applies to all drivers in the Graduated Driver Licensing Program and to those below the age of 19.

If you have a reading of .08 BAC or more, you will also be charged under the Criminal Code of Canada for Impaired Driving and face further suspensions of your driver`s licence.

Refusing to provide a breath sample will result in a 90 day suspension of your driver`s licence and a Refusal charge under the Criminal Code of Canada that will lead to a further suspension of your driver`s licence.