

# Compliance, Investigations and Prosecutions

## Driver Training Information Bulletin



### July 2020

#### Update on Driver Training Reform

Thanks to those industry members who participated in the recent industry consultation largely conducted online due to the Covid 19 response. Everybody's feedback is appreciated. It all counted whether you submitted a feedback form, sent an email or attended an Association session. We value your option and thank you for helping us shape the future of this industry.

You will be updated via email on the outcomes of the consultation and progress of this project. So that you can keep up to date please

- a) ensure that you have provided us with an up-to-date email address, and
- b) emails (from [DPTI.DriverTrainingConsultation@sa.gov.au](mailto:DPTI.DriverTrainingConsultation@sa.gov.au)) don't go to your Spam or Junk Mail folder.

#### Working with Children Check

In June 2019 DPTI provided advice to the driver training industry of the requirement to have a current working with children check. This new legislation has now come into effect and having regard to the transition provisions under the *Child Safety Prohibited Person Act 2016*, it is an offence for a person to work or volunteer with children without a working with children check. A child-related employment screening check will be recognised as a Working with Children Check until it expires. Then, you must [apply for a Working with Children Check](#).

You will be required to provide with your MDI application/renewal a current working with children check. If you do not provide one you may be required to demonstrate you do not work with children for your application to be considered.

#### MDI licence extension

As a result of the closure of the light vehicles segment of the driver training industry, MDIs who operate exclusively in the light vehicles environment will be receiving an extra 52 days on their MDI licence. DPTI has reviewed the booking records and Authorised Examiners who booked heavy vehicles tests during this period will not get the extension.

Due to legislative requirements and the need for systems changes we are unable to extend your licence at this time. As soon as possible the 52 days will be added to your licence. To avoid becoming unlicensed, if your MDI licence

is due, you need to submit your renewal with all the paper work on the understanding that the 52 days is yet to be added. A new badge will not be generated once the 52 days is added.

In addition, please remember that you are no longer limited to a National Police Certificate from SAPOL as you may go to any accredited provider for Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Checks <https://www.acic.gov.au/our-services/national-police-checking-service/find-out-more-information/accredited-bodies>.

#### AE upgrades and Regulator Assessments

All regulator assessments, Authorised Examiner training and assessment and upgrades have re-commenced having regard to the social distancing requirements and one (1) person per two (2) square metres. This means that DPTI Assessment Officers will not undertake in person audits, regulator assessments, upgrades etc. in a heavy vehicle where they cannot sit in a separate seat behind the client and Authorised Examiner. If you are seeking an upgrade to your heavy vehicle Authorised Examiner appointment please ensure that you provide a vehicle with seating to meet the above requirements.

#### COVID UPDATES - Current Emergency declarations

With the reopening of the industry in early June 2020, new requirements were introduced under the *Emergency Management Act 2004*. Industry members using light vehicles are required to have COVID safe plans, record attendees and to disinfect vehicles after each session with a student. Failure to comply with these requirements could result in a fine of up to \$5000. For more information please go to <https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/>.

#### Temporary Driving Permits for overseas licence holders

Further Temporary Driving Permits (TDP) can continue to be issued for any TDP that was issued prior to 1 June 2020 where the licence applicant has been unable to undertake a practical driving test. The applicant is not required to write to Licence Policy to seek the issue of a further TDP.

However, if a person who holds a TDP undertakes and fails a practical driving test after 1 June 2020 then they are required to be issued with a learner's permit until they successfully pass a practical driving test.

#### Learner's permit renewals

The admin fee for a Learner's permit that requires renewal due to the learner not being able to undertake a practical

driving assessment during the COVID shutdown will be waived. This applies to permits that expired between the shutdown of driver testing, 10 April 2020, and 1 August 2020. The application to renew the learner's permit must be made on or before 1 August 2020 for the fee to be waived.

### **CBTA applicants changing Authorised Examiners**

Feedback is coming to DPTI that there is some confusion about reassessment of Competency Based Training and Assessment (CBTA) tasks signed off by another Authorised Examiner.

There are a number of reasons that a learner driver completing the CBT&A will change Authorised Examiners.

*When this occurs the learner driver **does not** automatically have to restart the CBTA process from the beginning.*

Upon the learner driver presenting their Driving Companion with the signed off tasks, the new Authorised Examiner must satisfy themselves that the learner driver is competent at these tasks. This can be done where the learner driver demonstrates on one occasion, without any training, the competencies already signed off. Verifying the signed off tasks could be done by programming a review drive or making observations during training and assessment of new tasks. Either way is acceptable as long as the new Authorised Examiner verifies competency of the tasks signed off by the previous Authorised Examiner.

If, under review the learner driver does not demonstrate competency in any task they must be re-trained and reassessed for that task in accordance with the manual.

### **VORT and CBTA Driver training/assessment essentials**

#### **Direction giving**

Good direction giving provides your client the best opportunity to demonstrate their driving skills without being confused as to what you want them to do or where you want them to do it.

*Direction giving should be brief and to the point.*

*Direction giving should not be an exercise in navigation.*

Do not say "at the roundabout go straight".

Say something along the lines of "follow the road", or "continue following the road" because you should only be giving directions for a turn or manoeuvre.

Another tip is do not count down roads prior to a turn. A better way is to say "At the third road on the left turn left; this one being the first".

Use the same language and be consistent – don't say "street, road, junction, intersection" etc. Refer to them as "roads".

You can also refer to landmarks such as a letter box or a parked vehicle (but not a stop or give way sign because this

is viewed as assistance) to alert your client to the general location of a turn.

An example of this could be "after the traffic lights, at the first road on the right turn right".

Remember also that directions must be given in English and supported by hand signals where appropriate. You must speak clearly and repeat or confirm the direction if it is not understood the first time you give it.

### **Compliance Report**

Since 1 January 2020, fourteen Authorised Examiners have been reported for possible breaches of their appointment, one has been revoked, four have been suspended and nine matters are still under investigation.

In addition one MDI has been cautioned and three MDI's are currently under investigation. The breaches relate to:

- Non-compliance with assessment requirements.
- Corruption.
- Failing to ensure the client is up to standard to undertake the last training session.
- Training on the VORT routes.
- Inappropriate behaviour towards applicants.
- Documentation non-compliance i.e. monthly returns.
- Inappropriate issuing of Certificate of Competency.

### **Driving Aids**

Most new vehicles are fitted with driver aids. Whilst these do assist in general traffic, they are only an aid to driving and do not replace good observation patterns.

Applicants must be trained to look in the direction of travel and also check mirrors and blind spots to ensure safety. It is not acceptable to rely on parking sensors or reversing cameras only when assessing manoeuvres.

### **Industry Questions**

To ensure the Information Bulletins are relevant we are seeking questions from industry that we can include in the bulletin. So if you have any matters you would like clarified or explained, please provide them to [DPTI.DriverTrainerEnquiries@sa.gov.au](mailto:DPTI.DriverTrainerEnquiries@sa.gov.au).

### **MDI/AE contact details**

Help us communicate with you by providing your email via [DPTI.DriverTrainerEnquiries@sa.gov.au](mailto:DPTI.DriverTrainerEnquiries@sa.gov.au) with your

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Client or MDI number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact number: \_\_\_\_\_