

Driver Training Information Bulletin

December 2021



Christmas message

Greetings and Merry Christmas to all. Another year is rapidly drawing to a close.

A lot of work has been undertaken this year. Initiatives like the myLs learner driver test, the manuals for motorcycle testing, advanced driver assistance systems and of course the Driver Trainer Reform Bill. Other initiatives to be delivered in 2022 include the national review of the heavy vehicle driver competency framework, publishing and implementation of the new heavy vehicle manuals and rollout of new training materials for the TILE and MC courses.

Reform Bill

A lot of our efforts this year have gone into preparing the Driver Training Reform Bill for Parliament. The Bill sets out the framework for the management of the driver training industry.

At this time, it is not clear if the Bill will be passed through Parliament before the upcoming election due to the lack of sitting days. The Regulations which contain most of the reform detail will not be drafted until the Bill has passed.

Use of the DIT logo

It has been noted that the SA government's logo has been used by a driver training business to promote their business. The South Australia Government logo is copyright and may not be used unless approval is granted by the Department. If anybody is using the Government logo on their website or paperwork you must remove it immediately.

Driving Companion updates

The next edition of the Driving Companion will have changes to the yellow coded section which includes the Competency Based Training and Assessment 'Tasks'. The changes have been made with input from representatives of the driver training industry. Some of the main changes are to make sure that the requirements of the task are worded to accommodate different vehicles (eg handbrake replaced with park

brake) and to remove ambiguity in 'Task Requirements'.

It is anticipated that the new updated version of the Driving Companion will start to be issued to licence applicants before the New Year. It is recommended that you make yourself familiar with the new 'Task Requirements' and changes to some of the 'Task Assessment Records' in readiness for applicants presenting with the new version of the Driving Companion. The new version is available at [MR195 The Driving Companion \(mylicence.sa.gov.au\)](https://mylicence.sa.gov.au). Complimentary changes to the Competency Based Training and Assessment manual are currently being finalised to ensure that the manual and 'Driving Companion Task Requirements' match. When this is complete the manual will be published on the SA.GOV.AU website.

myLs

myLs is an online interactive learning and assessment course that learners can take to obtain their learner's permit in South Australia.

Designed to improve learner driver education, the myLs course focuses on road rules, road safety, and driver attitudes and behaviours, giving new drivers the best possible start before they get behind the wheel.

Assessment is embedded throughout the course in the form of quizzes, activities, and challenges. As the learner progresses through the course, they will be taught all they need to know in preparation for the learner theory test.

The course should take around four hours to complete. Each topic displays an estimated completion time. The learner theory test is the final stage of the myLs course and will take about 30 minutes to complete.

Learners have 12 months from the date they enrol in myLs to complete the course and learner theory test. Unlike the learner theory test conducted at Service SA Centres, the learner theory test in myLs can be attempted as many times as the learner needs to pass at no additional cost.

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Government of South Australia
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and Transport

myLs is not limited to learner drivers. A person can choose to undertake myLs as a refresher course on the South Australian Road Rules. Visit the [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) for further information.

[Watch myLs demo video.](#)

Motorcycle Graduated licensing scheme

On 22 November 2021, a new graduated licence scheme for motorcycle licensing came into effect. This will not affect most in the driver training industry, however there are some Authorised Examiners in regional areas who conduct motorcycle rider testing.

The objectives of the scheme are to improve the safety of novice motorcyclists and other road users by ensuring riders have more experience before they can ride a motorbike on an unrestricted licence.

Entry requirements and the training manuals for new Authorised Examiners wanting to deliver R and R-Date testing in areas not serviced by Rider Safe have now been approved. This manual and information on obtaining an appointment to provide R and R-Date testing will be provided to existing Authorised Examiners and will be published online in the near future. For more information go to [My Licence - GLS - Motorcycle gls](#)

COVID

With the opening of borders the state is entering a new phase in managing COVID 19. Authorised Examiners and Motor Driving Instructors should utilise the services of the [SA Government COVID](#) information web pages for their information on COVID related Directions and restrictions.

COVID and auditing

In the past the Department has received some correspondence raising concerns about the Assessment Officers conducting in-vehicle audits, particularly in heavy vehicles.

DIT has reviewed the Emergency Management (Activities—General No 3) (COVID-19) Direction 2021 and advise that the audit function undertaken by Government Assessment Officers are “*unrestricted activities*” which are not subject to the requirements of the Direction unless the State is subject to level 5 restrictions. However, Assessment Officers are required to wear masks in accordance with the Directions.

This means that Assessment Officers will conduct their normal auditing functions, including in-vehicle audits, despite distance requirements or COVID plans that may be in place. If you refuse an in-vehicle audit you may be subject to disciplinary action. In

addition, it could mean that your client is required to undergo further testing before they are issued a licence.

COVID Directions are constantly changing and DIT is constantly reviewing its operations in accordance with the Commissioner’s COVID Directions.

Compliance report

Compliance activities have continued over the last 12 months with 29 matters investigated or under investigation involving 22 Authorised Examiners and 7 Motor Driving Instructors with the following outcomes recorded:

- 2 Authorised Examiner appointments revoked
- 3 Motor Driving Instructor licences cancelled
- 5 Authorised Examiner appointments suspended
- 1 Motor Driving Instructors’ licence suspended
- 6 Authorised Examiners and 1 Motor Driving Instructor received warnings
- 8 matters were not pursued further, and
- 3 matters involving both Authorised Examiners and Motor Driving Instructors are ongoing.

The above involved the following types of breaches:

- Unprofessional conduct towards learner drivers including:
 - sending of inappropriate text messages and emojis
 - sexual assaults
 - sexual or inappropriate comments
- Corrupt behaviour
- Failing to ensure a learner driver is eligible to undertake an assessment
- Failing to ensure the learner driver is to standard prior to undertaking a Task 30
- Signing off of heavy vehicle tasks which have not been assessed
- Undertaking assessments during COVID lockdown, and
- Refusing audits due to COVID.

Of great concern, is that there has been a significant increase in the number of complaints received from learner drivers of sexual, inappropriate or unprofessional conduct by Authorised Examiners and Motor Driving Instructors.

The Department refers all matters of a serious nature to South Australia Police for investigation. A number of industry members have received criminal convictions and had their appointment/licences cancelled by the Registrar as a direct result of their conduct.

ADAS

There is a national Austroads project being undertaken on Advance Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) and their use in driver training. ADAS refers to technologies that have been designed to assist the driver, particularly systems that alert the driver to hazards and that assist the driver to avoid the hazard.

Some examples of ADAS include lane assist, collision avoidance and park assist. These are becoming more common in newer vehicles and in the driver training fleet. This raises issues about what should be included in driver training and if these systems should be allowed during a driving assessment.

When they are finalised, resources will be available to the industry providing more guidance on training and assessing with in-vehicle ADAS.

Communicating with DIT

DIT would like to clarify the email address to be used for various purposes by industry members. Adhering to the following recommendations will serve to ensure emails reach the right area to action your enquiry or request.

DIT.licensingbookings@sa.gov.au is for:

- **TILE and MC booking sheets**
- **Manual bookings** (must be sent in with an explanation of why it cannot be processed via EzyReg, the MR228 booking sheet and a contact telephone number so payment can be made).
- ***Insurance certificates** (applies to Authorised Examiners only).

In recent times we have been made aware that some Authorised Examiners are being asked **to send in their own public liability insurance certificates to DIT**. It is important that these are sent to the **email address above** for efficient processing.

DIT.licencestandardsandtraining@sa.gov.au is for:

- Motor Driving Instructor/Authorised Examiner communications including complaints, applications, upgrade requests, moratorium applications and audit report feedback
- providing route feedback
- coordinating a regulator assessment.

Please do not send emails to more than one email address.

MDI/AE contact details

Help us to keep in touch with you by providing your new email address (when applicable) via DIT.DriverTrainerEnquiries@sa.gov.au with the following details:

- Name
- Client or MDI number
- New email address
- Contact telephone number

Are you receiving all communications?

Most email issues received relate to members advising DIT that they have not received any communications. The three common causes are:

- Member's email box is full therefore emails are returned as 'undeliverable'
- The email has gone into 'SPAM' or a 'Junk' folder
- An outdated email address is recorded.

What is a 'Safe Sender'? *To prevent emails going into 'SPAM' or 'junk' folders*

Email providers filter incoming emails in a bid to reduce the amount of unwanted emails in your inbox. Often these emails can either go straight into your 'junk' folder or may not even make it to your inbox. The best way to ensure this does not occur is to add the department's email address in as a 'safe sender'. There are a large number of email providers so rather than list the process for the common ones, please Google how to do this for your email provider.

Industry Bulletins are sent from email: DIT.drivertrainerenquiries@sa.gov.au so this is the email address you will need to add as a safe sender to ensure industry bulletins and other communications reach you.

Have a safe and enjoyable festive season.

