



Explosives driver licence – general information

Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004

Dangerous Goods Safety (Road and Rail Transport of Non-explosives) Regulations 2007

ABN: 69 410 335 356

The following information is to guide you on the requirements for applying for and renewing [explosives driver licences](#). Licences are issued for five years. Refer to [schedule of fees and charges](#) for the applicable fee.

1. Do you need a licence?

An explosives driver licence is required:

- to drive a vehicle transporting Category 1, 2 and 3 loads of explosives by road and licences are issued to individuals not businesses. New licences are issued to transport Category 1 and 2 loads.

Note: Licence holders may transport Category 3 loads. Refer to item 7 Transporting Category 3 loads of explosives for eligibility.

For information on transporting low-risk explosives, exemptions from licensing and driving on mine sites refer to [Dangerous goods safety guidance note – transport of explosives on roads and at mines](#).

2. Suitability of application

To be eligible to apply for an explosives driver licence you must:

- be an individual applicant
- be at least 21 years of age
- hold a current Motor Driver's Licence (MDL) issued anywhere in Australia or New Zealand
- hold a current [Dangerous Goods Security Card or recognised security clearance](#)
- pass a [medical assessment](#) against the standards in *Assessing Fitness to Drive – Medical Standards for Commercial and Private Vehicle Drivers* not more than six months before the day the application is lodged
- pass an approved two-day [training course](#) not more than six months before the day the application is lodged
- demonstrate a suitable driving history.

3. Mutual recognition

If you **are not** resident in this State, but hold an explosives driver licence in another State or Territory of Australia, and/or New Zealand, you may apply for:

- Mutual recognition of your interstate licence (refer to [Mutual recognition of Australian occupations](#))
- or
- Mutual recognition of your New Zealand licence (refer to [Trans-Tasman mutual recognition in Western Australia](#))

4. Security clearances

- If you **are** resident in this State and have been for more than three months, a Dangerous Goods Security Card is a prerequisite for obtaining an explosives driver licence.
- If you **are not** resident in this State, the WA explosives regulations recognise explosives and security sensitive ammonium nitrate licence/permits issued by other States and Territories of Australia (see table below) are valid security clearances in this State.

The licence only remains valid while the security clearance is current.

State / Territory	Legislation
New South Wales	Explosives Regulations 2013
Queensland	<i>Explosives Act 1999</i>
South Australia	Explosives (Security Sensitive Substances) Regulations 2006
Tasmania	<i>Security-Sensitive Dangerous Substances Act 2005</i>
Victoria	Dangerous Goods (Explosives) Regulations 2011 Dangerous Goods (HCDG) Regulations 2006
Northern Territory	None applicable
Australian Capital Territory	None applicable

5. Before completing your application

- Apply for a Dangerous Goods Security Card or provide proof of your current recognised security clearance.
- Colour copy both sides of your security clearance.
- Colour copy both sides of your MDL.
- Print the medical certificate and take it to your medical practitioner to complete.
- Attend a two-day approved explosives driver training course.
- Apply at Australia Post for your National Police Certificate.
- Apply at a police station for your WA Certified Copy of Traffic Infringements.
- Apply for your driving record from other Australian States or Territories and/or New Zealand where you **have held** a MDL within the past five years, and/or, have incurred a traffic offence or conviction where you **have not held** a MDL (refer to [driving record contact details](#)).
- Obtain a reference from your employer(s) to transport Category 3 loads of explosives, if applicable (refer to item 7 Transporting Category 3 loads of explosives).

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- Provide original or original certified copies of documents detailing any relevant offence (refer to item 6 Relevant offence).
- Have a coloured passport photograph taken (refer to item 11 Passport photograph).

6. Relevant offence

All individuals applying for a licence must disclose details of:

- any relevant offence for which they have been convicted
- any charge of a relevant offence that is pending.

Relevant offence is an offence against the *Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004* (the Act), or any regulations made under the Act; and

- a law of another place that substantially corresponds to the Act or the regulations made under it
- the law of this State or another place an element of which is the handling, storage or transport of explosives.

7. Transporting Category 3 loads of explosives

To transport a Category 3 load of explosives, you must have:

- held a MDL for a motor vehicle for at least 12 months
- performed 50 hours of driving under the direct supervision of a driver licensed to transport Category 3 loads of explosives
- a signed reference from your employer(s) confirming you have performed 50 hours of supervised driving.

Note: The 50 hours of supervised driving may include driving vehicles carrying Category 1 and 2 loads and it may also include the supervised driving of an un-laden vehicle licensed to transport explosives on a return journey after delivering a Category 3 load of explosives. In both cases, the supervisor must be licensed to transport Category 3 loads of explosives.

8. Medical assessment

Assessment by a medical practitioner is required for both new and a renewal application not more than six months before the day the application is lodged.

Where a medical condition is noted on your MDL the doctor should as a minimum recommend the same condition for your licence. If you wear items such as spectacles or hearing aids take them to the examination.

9. Driving record

The regulations require your driving history to be reviewed for five years prior to lodgement of your application to demonstrate your suitability for a licence within this period. If your MDL has been suspended or cancelled, refer to [Overview of dangerous goods and explosives driver licences](#) for more information.

10. Competency

Competency training is required for both new and renewal application. The training certificate must not be dated more than six months before the day the application is lodged.

Competency training for each application type is as follows:

- New – a two-day driver training course. If you hold a dangerous goods driver licence, training is a one-day course.
- Renewal – a one-day refresher driver training course.

11. Passport photograph

The photograph lodged with your application must be the same as for an Australian passport. Refer to www.passports.gov.au for more information.

12. Lodging your application

The completed application form and supporting documentation must be:

- the original or the original certified document (where a **copy** is requested this does not apply)
- dated not more than six months before the day your application is received by DMP.

Lodgement details are provided on the application form.

13. Processing the application

Failure to provide the required documentation may delay the processing of your application, or result in it being returned. Processing time for compliant applications that do not need complex internal assessment may take up to 20 business days.

14. Obligation of a licence holder

You must notify the Chief Dangerous Goods Officer within 14 days of any material changes to the details on your licence e.g. change of name, change of address, or change to driving record or medical status. Refer to item 15 Amending the licence for more information.

15. Amending the licence

A fee is not required to amend or upgrade your licence and a completed application form must be lodged. Refer to the following information or visit the Resources Safety website.

Note: Before lodging, check the application form for any supporting evidence required.

- Change of personal details (e.g. change of name or change of address) – complete a [Change of details form](#)
- Upgrade to licence (e.g. to include transporting Category 3 loads of explosives) – provide written correspondence requesting the upgrade and attach a reference from your employer. Refer to item 7 Transporting Category 3 loads of explosives.

16. Renewing your licence

A renewal notice is sent three months prior to the licence expiry date. You must lodge the renewal prior to the expiry date of your licence.

Note: Expired licences cannot be renewed and you must apply for a new licence.

17. Reference material

Further information can be found at the [Resources Safety website](#) and as follows:

- [Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004](#)
- [Dangerous Goods Safety \(Explosives\) Regulations 2007](#)
- [Dangerous Goods Safety \(Security Risk Substances\) Regulations 2007](#)

(download of the Act and regulations are available free on the State Law Publisher's website at www.slp.wa.gov.au)

- [Australian Explosives Code, 3rd edition](#)

(available from www.canprint.com.au or CanPrint. Phone: 1300 889 873)

- [Dangerous goods safety information sheet - licensing requirements for the storage and transport of dangerous goods in WA](#)
- [Dangerous goods safety guidance note – transport of explosives on roads and at mines](#)

(available from the Resources Safety website at www.dmp.wa.gov.au/ResourcesSafety)