Guide to Private Car and Light Goods Vehicle Driving Test Amendment sheet

(The following revised paragraphs replace the corresponding paragraphs in the printed Guide)

p. 3

General Requirements

Vehicles have to meet the following general requirements also, otherwise, it will NOT be accepted for the purpose of driving test: —

- (A) The test vehicle must be in good mechanical order with a braking system readily accessible to the Driving Examiner.
- (B) The test vehicle must be insured to cover third party risks (including driving test purpose).
- (C) The test vehicle must have a valid vehicle licence which must be displayed on the left of the windscreen of the vehicle.
- (D) The test vehicle must be fitted with a gearbox capable of performing at least four forward and one reversing speeds.
- (E) The test vehicle presented for a light goods vehicle driving test must carry a simulated load in such a manner that the total weight of the vehicle including the required loading should be equivalent to at least two third of the permitted gross weight of the respective test vehicle.
- (F) Side mirrors must be fitted on both sides of the test vehicle for the light goods vehicle driving test. Moreover, the light goods vehicle must have a protective partition between the seating accommodation and the goods compartment, and that there must be no windows fitted to the sides of the goods compartment.
- (G) The test vehicle presented for light goods vehicle driving test must be fitted with a reverse warning buzzer.

Any driver assistance system used in test vehicle should be approved by Transport Department, otherwise, the vehicle will NOT be accepted for the purpose of driving test.

p. 9 Turnabout in a Narrow Road

Candidates will be required to demonstrate turnabout in a narrow road manoeuvre by means of 3-point turns (two-forward and one-backward) as the case may be. In the course of the turnabout manoeuvre, candidates have to check traffic conditions, signal properly and ensure that the vehicle does not touch any object, e.g. the railing or kerb. Candidates should take note that repeated steering at rest will not be accepted during the turnabout in a narrow road. Driving Examiners will regard this as a serious mistake which may eventually lead to a failure.

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Revised in August 2023



DRIVING SERVICES SECTION

Guide to Private Car and Light Goods Vehicle Driving Test

FOR CANDIDATES' ATTENTION:

- 1. According to past experience, learner drivers should receive <u>30 hours</u> or more of driver training before they can reach the basic driving standard required by the Transport Department.
- 2. The content of this guide will be updated on a timely basis. For the latest version, please visit the website of Transport Department: www.td.gov.hk (Publications and Press Releases > Publications > Free Publications). If there is any discrepancy between any hardcopy and the online version, the online version shall always prevail.
- 3. This guide is designed for reference only, and has no legal bindings on driving tests.

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INTRODUCTION

The private car and light goods vehicle driving tests aim at assessing candidates' driving ability, and help the candidates acquire good traffic knowledge, establish a safe driving attitude and give due consideration to other road users in future.

The Driving Examiner will carry out the driving test in accordance with the contents of this Guide and will handle situations that are not described here by applying his profound experience and sound judgment in driving.

PART I TEST VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS

Specific Requirements

Vehicles that do not meet the following specific requirements will **NOT** be accepted for the purpose of driving test: –

Private Car (Code 1)

- (1) It should be a licensed private car.
- (2) The cylinder capacity of a fuel-powered private car must not be less than 800 c.c.; an electric private car rated power must not be less than 7 kilowatts.
- (3) The length of the vehicle should be not less than 3.50 metres.
- (4) The seating capacity should be not less than 4-seater (including driver).

<u>Light Goods Vehicle (Code 2)</u>

- (1) It should be a van type vehicle licensed as a light goods vehicle.
- (2) It should have a permitted gross vehicle weight of not less than 2.7 tonnes.
- (3) Dimensions: –

Length – not less than 4.65 metres Width – not less than 1.69 metres *Wheel Span – not less than 2.40 metres

(4) The seating capacity should be not less than 2-seater (excluding driver)

General Requirements

Vehicles have to meet the following general requirements also, otherwise, it will **NOT** be accepted for the purpose of driving test: –

- (A) The test vehicle must be in good mechanical order with a braking system readily accessible to the Driving Examiner.
- (B) The test vehicle must be insured to cover third party risks (including driving test purpose).
- (C) The test vehicle must have a valid vehicle licence which must be displayed on the left of the windscreen of the vehicle.
- (D) The test vehicle must be fitted with a gearbox capable of performing at least four forward and one reversing speeds.
- (E) The test vehicle presented for a light goods vehicle driving test must carry a simulated load in such a manner that the total weight of the vehicle including the required loading should be equivalent to at least two third of the permitted gross weight of the respective test vehicle.
- (F) Side mirrors must be fitted on both sides of the test vehicle for the light goods vehicle driving test. Moreover, the light goods vehicle must have a protective partition between the seating accommodation and the goods compartment, and that there must be no windows fitted to the sides of the goods compartment.
- (G) The test vehicle presented for light goods vehicle driving test must be fitted with a reverse warning buzzer.

^{*} Wheel Span: Distance between the centre points of the front axle and the rear axle.

Others

- (A) Candidates can use vehicles fitted with automatic transmission (including automatic clutch and pre-selected gearbox types) for the driving test. However, candidates who have passed their driving tests with automatic transmission vehicles will be given, upon application, restricted driving licences allowing them to drive automatic transmission vehicles of the same class as the test vehicles used by them.
- (B) Handicapped candidates, including those with impaired hearing, missing or defective limbs, or with walking difficulties, have to be referred by medical officers and to successfully pass a physical test conducted by the Transport Department, before they are allowed to apply for a driving test. For enquiries, please contact the Driving Services Section at 2713 7262.

Part II TESTING PROCEDURES & INFORMATION TO NOTE

Basic Requirements of the Test

(I) The test is divided into three parts, candidates should be able to pass the Part A (Written Test), before they can be arranged to take the Combined Test – Part B (Intermediate Test) and Part C (Road Test), or the gradual test, i.e. Part B and then Part C tests, applicable only to students of government designated driving schools.

The Written Test is in the form of multiple choice questions from which 20 of them have to be attempted. The questions are set based on the content from the "Road Users' Code". Candidates must give not less than 16 correct answers in order to pass the test.

Should a candidate obtain a partial pass (Part B or Part C) during a Combined Test, the result of that part can be retained. The candidate may then apply for the test of the unsuccessful part, and upon passing the test may proceed to apply for a probationary driving licence.

Candidates applying for gradual tests must first obtain a pass in Part B test, before they will be scheduled for Part C test. After passing the Part C test, they may apply for a probationary driving licence.

Any person who applies to take a private car or light goods vehicle driving test before 9 February 2009 can apply for a full driving licence upon passing the test. Any person who applies to take a private car or light goods vehicle driving test on or after 9 February 2009 is required by law to apply for a probationary driving licence upon passing the test, except for candidate who has held a valid full driving licence of private car for at least 3 years or candidate who has completed the probationary driving period for a private car and has held a valid full driving licence of private car for at least 2 years, in which case the candidate may directly apply for a full driving licence of light goods vehicle. The holder of a probationary driving licence to drive a vehicle class has to undergo a 12-month probationary driving period (i.e. twelve months from the date the probationary driving licence is issued under the Road Traffic (Driving Licences) Regulations (Cap. 374B)). The holder should then apply for a full driving licence for the respective class within 3 years from the date of satisfactory completion of a mandatory probationary driving period. Otherwise, he / she must sit for and pass a driving test again to obtain a new probationary driving licence.

Successful candidates can apply for the issue of full / probationary driving licence after 4 working days (but not exceeding 3 years) from the date of their test. Successful private car candidates can apply for full / probationary driving licence of private car (code 1), whereas successful light goods vehicle candidates can apply for full / probationary driving licences of private car and light goods vehicle (codes 1 and 2) as appropriate.

- (II) Those who wish to take the private car or light goods vehicle driving tests must reach the standards required by the Transport Department including:
 - (A) Candidates must be fully conversant with the "Road Users' Code";
 - (B) Candidates should be familiar with the functions and safe manoeuvring of the control of the vehicle;
 - (C) Candidates should be able to master the following manoeuvres:
 - (i) The proper use of gears and accelerator to meet various traffic conditions;
 - (ii) The proper judgment of timing, speed and car distance to meet various traffic conditions.

- (D) Candidates should be able to master the following specified manoeuvres:
 - (i) Starting the engine of the vehicle;
 - (ii) Moving off straight ahead or at an angle;
 - (iii) Keeping an appropriate distance from the vehicle ahead;
 - (iv) Overtaking vehicles and selecting the appropriate traffic lane to meet the traffic conditions;
 - (v) Turning left and right;
 - (vi) Reversing and parking;
 - (vii) Turnabout in a narrow road;
 - (viii) Stopping and starting on a slope;
 - (ix) Giving correct signals under appropriate conditions;
 - (x) Responding promptly and correctly to people controlling traffic, other road users, traffic signs and traffic lights.

Documents and Papers Presented for the Test

Candidates should present the following documents and papers for inspection by Driving Test Centre Officer and Driving Examiner when attending a test: –

- (a) test appointment letter;
- (b) Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card / Hong Kong Identity Card / an alternative identity document previously registered in the Transport Department;
- (c) learner's driving licence and valid driving licence (if applicable)^;
- (d) letter of approval for disabled persons (if applicable);
- (e) valid Third Party Risks Insurance Certificate in respect of the test vehicle (should also cover driving test purpose); and
- (f) driving instructor's licence.

Vision Test

Candidates are required to read at a distance of 23 metres in good daylight (with the aid of spectacles or other corrective lenses, if worn) a motor vehicle registration mark. A candidate who fails the vision test will not be allowed to take the test and his / her test form will be invalidated. If the candidate wishes to take the driving test again, he / she will have to purchase a new test form.

[^] If candidate is a holder of valid temporary driving licence, they must bring it along for the test.

PART III POINTS TO NOTE ON DRIVING FOR CANDIDATES

Preparation before Moving Off

Before starting the engine, candidates should check that the handbrake is secured, the gearshift is in the neutral or parking position and the mirrors are adjusted. Adjust the seat and put on the seat belt. Before moving off, candidates should check the surrounding traffic conditions, give appropriate signal and move off under safe conditions.

Driving Manoeuvres and Control of Speed

Candidates should be fully conversant with the use of various controls of the vehicle in order to handle various road conditions, such as going up and down slopes, approaching road junctions and roundabouts. Maintain proper coordination of steering wheel, clutch, accelerator and footbrake so as to avoid rolling forwards or backwards during moving off and stopping.

Care should be taken in the control of the speed of the vehicle with the use of proper gear so as to suit the ever-changing traffic conditions. Do not drive too fast when approaching junctions, zebra crossings, pedestrians and objects or when cornering. Under normal traffic conditions, candidates should not frequently use low gears (first or second gear) or drive only at low speed during the test; otherwise, Driving Examiners will regard these as serious mistakes which may eventually lead to a failure. If the road conditions ahead are clear and safe, candidates should make use of the proper gear to raise to a reasonable speed as soon as possible, but not exceeding the speed limit. However, if the road conditions do not permit so doing, candidates should adopt low gear instead and reduce speed for the sake of safety.

Judging Car Distance

Candidates should always keep a safe distance from the car ahead, and bear in mind the 2-second rule. Avoid driving in parallel with other motorists in dual or multiple lanes, and try to keep a safe distance from other vehicles or objects when overtaking or stopping.

Overtaking

Candidates should observe the traffic situation as early as possible to prepare for the overtaking. If the traffic situation is safe, avoid stopping behind any stationary vehicle or obstacle prior to overtaking. Make full use of mirrors before overtaking, observe the rear following vehicles, and / or those vehicles from opposite directions, and signal properly. Make use of the mirrors especially before moving out and check the blind spot by looking back over the left / right shoulders to ensure safety (owing to the view of the light goods vehicle being obstructed by its load, candidates cannot check the rear left side blind spot, and they only need to check traffic conditions using the left side side-mirror). During the process of overtaking, care should be taken to keep a safe distance from objects ahead and control the speed of the vehicle properly, and should also make use of the mirrors to check around for any rear following vehicle. After overtaking, make full use of mirrors before moving in and check the blind spot by looking back over the left / right shoulders to ensure safety (candidates of light goods vehicles should check traffic conditions using the left side side-mirror). Candidates should return to the original lane if situation permits and make use of the mirrors for observing the traffic. Care should be taken not to cut in sharply in front of other vehicles. steps in overtaking should also apply when candidates adjust the position of their vehicles in a driving lane that is larger than standard lane in width.

Hazard Recognition

Candidates should constantly observe the road conditions, so as to respond appropriately to road signs, vehicles parked at roadside, pedestrians, junctions, change of road conditions and emergencies.

Roundabouts and Junctions

Before entering or leaving roundabouts or junctions, candidates should signal properly, adopt the appropriate speed and correct traffic lane. Observe the "Give Way" and "Stop" signs and yield right to vehicles having the right of way.

Candidates, before reaching the junctions, should control the vehicle properly and pay attention to warning, regulatory and informatory traffic signs and act accordingly. Select the appropriate lane beforehand, signal properly and make use of the mirrors. into the junction, candidates may stop at an appropriate position to check traffic conditions from the right, then left and then right again. After ensuring traffic conditions are safe, candidates should drive into the junction as early as possible, and should avoid hesitation as otherwise they will miss the chance. Constant observation of traffic conditions from both sides is necessary when passing the road junction. Maintain reasonable speed and avoid driving too slow which may cause traffic congestion or reduce the traffic flow. Care should be taken to keep the vehicle inside the proper track when cornering, i.e. should not be far away from the kerb or pavement and should avoid occupying another driving lane. The vehicle must not be allowed to touch the kerb and drive on the pavement. In addition, the vehicle should be kept at a proper speed when driving around corners. Premature / late steering or returning the steering wheel would lead to right corner cut or deviating from the proper track which may result in the vehicle occupying another driving lane.

Traffic Signs / Traffic Lights / Directions of Authorized Traffic Controllers

Candidates should be familiar with and obey the traffic signs, and follow the directions of traffic controllers (including policemen, traffic wardens and members of school traffic safety team). Candidates should also observe the change of traffic lights. When the green light is on and is not amber, candidates should not accelerate and should keep on driving with average speed to drive through the junction carefully. They should not deliberately slow down the vehicle if there is sufficient time to cross the junction before the green light change to amber. If the traffic lights change from green to amber and that the vehicle has passed the stop line, candidates may continue to move on. However, if it has already changed to amber and that the vehicle has not yet reached the stop line, candidates should stop the vehicle. If bringing the vehicle to a sudden standstill would lead to a traffic accident, candidates should carefully continue with their way.

Traffic Lanes

Candidates should always keep in left lane. Before reaching a road junction, they should select the appropriate lane for left turning, right turning or going straight ahead. Make full use of the mirrors to check traffic conditions and to signal properly in good time before changing lanes. When the traffic situation is safe, you should not stop on the lane before changing lanes. Mirrors and shoulder checking must be performed prior to steering in order to ensure safety (Note: owing to the view of the light goods vehicle being obstructed by its load, candidates cannot check the rear left side blind spot, and they only need to check traffic conditions using the left side side-mirror). Candidates should also check the mirror for safety when changing their driving position. When driving on a wide road without a line dividing traffic lanes, candidates should also make full use of the mirrors to check traffic conditions before and during a change of driving position, and look back to check the blind spot before steering.

The Stopping Rule

Before stopping, candidates should make use of the mirrors to check traffic conditions, signal properly and then pull up near the left side kerb. After stopping, the handbrake should be secured; the gearshift should be moved to neutral position. Before leaving the vehicle, make sure to switch off the engine and engage proper gear as appropriate.

Reversing and Parking Manoeuvres

Candidates have to reverse the vehicle into a designated parking space in one attempt. The parking space may be in the form of "S" or "L" shape, depending on the surrounding conditions of the test venue. In the course of reversing, the vehicle should not touch the marker cones or the kerb. After parking, private car should be brought within the boundary of the parking space, and any part of the test vehicle should not overhang any white line or the kerb, and the wheels should not touch any white line or the kerb. For light goods vehicle, the extreme rear of the light goods vehicle should stay within the 1-metre yellow stopping area, and the left and right sides should not overhang any white line or the kerb after parking. Candidates should take note that repeated steering at rest will not be accepted during the reversing and parking. Driving Examiners will regard this as a serious mistake which may eventually lead to a failure.

Turnabout in a Narrow Road

Candidates will be required to demonstrate turnabout in a narrow road manoeuvre by means of 3-point turns (two-forward and one-backward) as the case may be. In the course of the turnabout manoeuvre, candidates have to check traffic conditions, signal properly and ensure that the vehicle does not touch any object, e.g. the railing or kerb. Candidates should take note that repeated steering at rest will not be accepted during the reversing and parking. Driving Examiners will regard this as a serious mistake which may eventually lead to a failure.

Part IV OTHERS

Test Routes

Under normal conditions, Driving Examiners would conduct the test according to the standard test routes designed by the Driving Services Section of the Transport Department. However, in case of road repairs, traffic jam or emergency, test routes may be deviated to meet the traffic conditions.

Dangerous Driving / Inadequate Control

Should a candidate perform any dangerous act which may endanger other road users during the course of the test, or prove himself / herself to be in a state of inadequate control over the vehicle, the test may be terminated by the Driving Examiner.

In case of an emergency, which may endanger other road users or lead to traffic accidents, the Driving Examiner may exercise his discretion to stop the test vehicle.

Methods of Recording Driving Errors

The mistakes committed by candidates will be divided into minor and serious ones and recorded on the electronic test form by shaded box against the appropriate item: –

Minor Mistakes

Minor mistakes refer to those driving faults committed by candidates that would not endanger other road users or even cause inconvenience to them. Such driving faults would not lead to a fail in the test.

Serious Mistakes

Serious mistakes are those which would cause imminent or direct danger, as well as a candidate's driving technique or basic control not being up to the stipulated standard of the Transport Department. The driving test system being strict and fair, if a candidate commits one or more serious mistakes in a driving test, it will be regarded as a fail.

If a candidate commits minor mistakes against a certain item for three times or more, these mistakes will accumulate to form a *serious mistake* and the test will be regarded as a fail.

Test Form and Record of Result

After the test, the duty Driving Test Centre Officer will give the candidate the Driving Test Form (TD 553), on which all the mistakes committed by the candidate during the test as well as the test result are recorded.

The result of the candidate will become final only after it has been verified by the Transport Department. However, if the candidate undertook the test during the period his / her licence was suspended by the Court, the "Pass" result obtained will be rescinded and the fees paid will not be refunded.

Application for Driving Licence by Successful Candidates and Application for a Second Test by Unsuccessful Candidates

1. Successful Candidates

Successful candidates may approach one of the Licensing Offices of this department after 4 working days (but not exceeding 3 years) from the date of passing the driving test, to apply for the issue of driving licence, or for an endorsement of the relevant driving entitlements as the case may be. They should bring along the following documents: —

- 1. Original or photocopy of Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card / Hong Kong Identity Card / an alternative identity document previously registered in the Transport Department;
- 2. Original or photocopy of present address proof (residential address and correspondence address) issued within the last 3 months (e.g. utility or telecommunication bills, correspondence from banks, insurance companies, government departments, local universities, local or international charitable organization etc.);
- 3. The duly completed Application for Full Driving Licence (TD 557) / Application for Probationary Driving Licence (TD 590)* as appropriate;
- 4. The required fee for the issue of a full driving licence / probationary driving licence (not applicable for driving licence endorsement); and
- 5. Medical Examination Certificate (TD 256) duly completed by a registered medical practitioner (applicable to applicants aged 70 or above).
- * Application for Probationary Driving Licence (TD 590) is applicable to any person who applies to take a driving test for motor cycle, motor tricycle, private car or light goods vehicle, and who is only eligible to apply for a probationary driving licence upon passing the driving test in accordance with the Road Traffic (Driving Licences) Regulation (Cap. 374B). A probationary driving licence holder can apply for a full driving licence for the respective class after completion of a mandatory probationary driving period.

According to the Road Traffic (Driving Licences) Regulations (Cap. 374B), any candidate who applies for the issue of driving licence after 3 years from the date that the candidate passed his / her test will not be entertained by the Transport Department.

| Licensing Offices | | Tel. No. |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------|
| Hong Kong Licensing Office: | 3/F, United Centre, 95 Queensway, Hong Kong. | 2804 2636 |
| Kowloon Licensing Office: | 2/F, Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices, 303 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Kowloon. | 2150 7728 |
| Kwun Tong Licensing Office: | 5/F, East Kowloon Government Offices, 12 Lei Yue Mun Road, Kwun Tong, Kowloon. | 2775 6835 |
| Shatin Licensing Office: | 2/F, Shatin Government Offices, 1 Sheung Wo Che Road, Sha Tin, N.T. | 2606 1468 |

2. Unsuccessful Candidates

Unsuccessful candidates can apply to re-take the private car or light goods vehicle driving test 4 working days after the date of their test through the following ways. If a candidate passes part of a driving test, the result of the test part he / she passed will be retained. The candidate is only required to retake the failed part (for the test result details, please refer to the Driving Test Form (TD 553)): –

- Online booking for private car or light goods vehicle driving test by visiting the GovHK website (http://www.gov.hk/en/residents/transport/drivinglicense/roadtest.htm). Candidates may apply for an end-of-list driving test appointment or a repeater early test appointment (Note: Applicants who would like to apply for an end-of-list driving test appointment online must possess a valid personal digital certificate issued by recognized Certification Authorities or 'iAM Smart' account with digital signing function (i.e. "iAM Smart+") for authentication; and a credit card (Visa, MasterCard, UnionPay or JCB), a FPS or a PPS account for online payment.). Please contact the Driving Test Appointment Office at 2771 7723 for enquiries.
- Approach one of the following Licensing Offices with the necessary documents listed below for application for private car or light goods vehicle driving test: –

Licensing Offices Tel. No.

Hong Kong 3/F, United Centre, 95 Queensway, Hong Kong. **2804 2636**

Licensing Office:

Kowloon 2/F, Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices, 2150 7728

Licensing Office: 303 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Kowloon.

• Submit the application together with the necessary documents listed below by post to "Kowloon Licensing Office, Transport Department, 2/F, Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices, 303 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Kowloon" and mark "Application for Driving Test (TD 82)" on envelope.

Necessary documents for application for driving test: –

- 1. Original or photocopy of Hong Kong Permanent Identity Card / Hong Kong Identity Card / an alternative identity document previously registered in the Transport Department;
- 2. The duly completed Application for a Driving Test (Private Car, Light Goods Vehicle, Motor Cycle and Motor Tricycle) (TD 82);
- 3. The required fee for the purchase of the relevant driving test form (if the application is made by post, please pay by crossed cheque or cashier order, payable to "The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region". Do not send in cash):
- 4. Original or photocopy of present address proof (residential address and correspondence address) issued within the last 3 months (e.g. utility or telecommunication bills, correspondence from banks, insurance companies, government departments, local universities, local or international charitable organization etc);
- 5. Temporary driving licence (if applicable):
- 6. Learner's driving licence or full driving licence (if any, for verification of identity); and
- 7. Medical Examination Certificate (TD 256) duly completed by a registered medical practitioner (applicable to applicants aged 70 or above).

Pay Sufficient Postage for Mails

Underpaid mail items are subject to surcharge by the Hongkong Post. This department will not accept underpaid mail items, which will be returned to the sender (with return address) or disposed of (without return address) by the Hongkong Post. For proper delivery of your mail items to the department, and to avoid unnecessary delivery delay or unsuccessful delivery, please ensure your mail items bear sufficient postage with return address before posting. Please note details about postage and pay attention to the latest effective New Postage Structure.

3. Result of Driving Test

The result of the driving test as shown on the copy of the test form is subject to final verification by this Department. Should an amendment of the verdict be found necessary in the course of verification, the candidate will receive by post a notice to this effect and will be invited to the Driving Services Section for the purpose of updating the test result.