

Information Bulletin

PT 01 (09.17)

Mutual recognition of interstate, territory and New Zealand Public Passenger Driver Authorities

What is mutual recognition?

Under the *Mutual Recognition (Qld) Act 1992* and *Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition (Qld) Act 2003*, holders of an authority to drive a public passenger vehicle issued in another state, territory or in New Zealand can be issued with an equivalent driver authorisation in Queensland by the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR), subject to requirements being met.

Who needs to hold driver authorisation?

Drivers of motor vehicles providing public passenger services in Queensland are required to hold driver authorisation unless an exemption applies.

Separate information bulletins provide information on driver authorisation for drivers of booked hire/taxi services (includes limousine services), tourist motorcycle, scheduled services and general services. These should be read in conjunction with this bulletin.

Criteria for granting driver authorisation under mutual recognition

To be granted driver authorisation under mutual recognition in Queensland, an applicant must:

- Have a satisfactory criminal history. TMR will conduct a criminal history check before driver authorisation can be issued. TMR may refuse an application if an applicant has been convicted or charged with a driver disqualifying offence. For more information refer to information bulletin [PT 17 Driver Authorisation – Effect of a Driver Disqualifying Offence](#).
- Hold a current Australian open driver licence or a restricted (work) driver licence of the appropriate class.
- Have a satisfactory driving history (history of traffic offences). TMR will review the applicant's driving history. For further information refer to information bulletin [PT16 Driver Authorisation - Effect of a Driving History](#).
- Have a current medical certificate assessed to a commercial vehicle driver standard. If an equivalent medical certificate is held as part of the interstate, territory or New Zealand public passenger authority a new medical certificate does not need to be provided if TMR is able to verify the details.
- Have an entitlement to work in Australia.

Period of Issue

In Queensland, driver authorisation can be issued for a maximum of five (5) years. Driver authorisation issued under mutual recognition is granted for the period of time remaining on the interstate, territory or New Zealand authority. In addition, driver authorisation cannot be issued past the Australian work entitlement or medical certificate expiry date.

Applying for Queensland driver authorisation

1. Obtain an Application for [Equivalent Occupation Registration Notice \(Form F2762\)](#) and a [Driver Authorisation Application \(Form F2978\)](#) and the relevant information bulletin/s.
2. Complete the application forms, include any attachments and lodge them in person at a TMR [customer service centre](#). At lodgement applicants must also provide evidence of their entitlement to work in Australia before their application can be accepted.
3. Pay the required fees. Applicants for driver authorisation are required to pay an application fee when lodging their application. This fee includes the cost of conducting a criminal history check. Applicants for booked hire/taxi driver authorisation are also required to pay an annual fee when lodging their application.
4. TMR will verify the currency of the interstate, territory or New Zealand driver authority and medical certificate details with the relevant jurisdiction.
5. Applicants will be notified if their application is approved or refused.

Refuse to issue driver authorisation

Grounds for refusal include, but are not limited, to the following:

- False or misleading statements in any required documentation.
- The circumstances of the applicant changing since completion or lodgement of an Equivalent Occupation Registration Notice.
- TMR determining that the authorisation held in another jurisdiction is not equivalent to driver authorisation issued in Queensland.

Additional information

This bulletin has been produced as a guideline and is not a reference to a point of law. Clarification of any information in this bulletin may be obtained by contacting a regional passenger transport office. Contact details can be found at translink.com.au/contact-us

Customer service centre locations can be accessed at qld.gov.au

The *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994*, *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Regulation 2005* and *Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Standard 2010* can be accessed on the internet at legislation.qld.gov.au

Additional information about public passenger services is available on the Department of Transport and Main Roads internet site at tmr.qld.gov.au/information_bulletins.