

# Application for a driver licence

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Applying for dangerous  
goods or explosives driver  
licences including:

- new applications
- amendments to  
licence details
- mutual recognition  
arrangements



# Applying for a licence

Handled incorrectly, dangerous goods and explosives can endanger people, property and the environment. To prevent this occurring, laws have been developed for the safe handling and transport of these products. Resources Safety wants to ensure that people licensed to drive bulk dangerous goods vehicles and explosives vehicles are fit, competent and responsible to do so without creating risks to the community.

Under the *Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004* and regulations, there are stringent criteria applied to the granting of driver licences and to qualify applicants must be:

- at least 21 years of age;
- able to demonstrate competency (i.e. training, knowledge and skills) in the activities required of the licence;
- able to demonstrate a responsible attitude to driving (i.e. a good driving record);
- assessed as medically fit to drive dangerous goods vehicles, explosives vehicles, or both; and
- in the case of explosives drivers able to pass a high level security clearance.

Applicants will also need to provide a copy of both sides of their motor driver's licence or heavy haulage licence, and a recent, colour, passport size photograph.

Failure to meet any of these criteria will prevent the granting of a licence. If you have any doubts about your medical fitness or driving record, you should resolve them prior to enrolling in any training course.

## Do I actually need one (or both) of these licences?

In order to determine if you actually need a dangerous goods or explosives driver licence the following information looks

at each licence type in detail as there are distinct differences between the two.

### Dangerous goods drivers

A Dangerous Goods Driver Licence **is required** if you drive a vehicle conveying dangerous goods in bulk, which normally refers to a receptacle with a capacity of **more** than 500 litres or kilograms.

For example, persons who drive bulk tankers transporting fuel or LPG Gas will require such a licence.

This type of licence **is not** required if the dangerous goods are transported in an Intermediate Bulk Container (IBC); and

- the IBC is not filled or emptied on the vehicle; and
- the total capacity of all IBCs containing dangerous goods on the vehicle is not more than 3000 litres.

A dangerous goods driver licence **is not** required if the vehicle is transporting dangerous goods in **packages**.

### Explosives drivers

The regulations only allow the holder of an Explosives Driver Licence to drive for a prime contractor with an Explosives Transport Licence and under an explosives management plan.

### Category loads of explosives

The transport of explosives in Western Australia is to be in accordance with provisions of the Australian Explosives Code, 2nd edition and Resources Safety policy, as detailed in the following table. An Explosives Driver Licence is required if the explosives vehicle being driven is transporting a Category 2 or Category 3 load.

Explosives Class	Examples	Quantity (NEQ) per vehicle		
		Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
1.1 (other than 1.1A* & 1.1B dets)	blasting explosives	5 kg or less	from 5 kg to 250 kg	greater than 250 kg
1.1B dets	detonators	125 items or less	from 125 to 5000 items	greater than 5000 items
1.2	military explosives	5 kg or less	from 5 kg to 250 kg	greater than 250 kg
1.3	propellant powders & some fireworks	50 kg or less	from 50 kg to 1000 kg	greater than 1000 kg
1.4 (except 1.4B dets & 1.4S)	marine distress flares	not greater than 250 kg	greater than 250 kg	N/A
1.4B dets	detonators	125 items or less	N/A	N/A
1.4S**	most fireworks	N/A	N/A	N/A
1.5	some bulk emulsions	25 kg or less	25 to 250 kg	N/A
1.6	very insensitive explosives	25 kg or less	greater than 25 kg	N/A
Mixed loads	mixed loads	see section 7.3.2 of the Code	see section 7.3.2 of the Code	see section 7.3.2 of the Code
Black powder (small arms) UN 0027 & UN 0028		N/A	N/A	greater than 250 kg
Smokeless powder (small arms) UN 0160		N/A	N/A	greater than 250 kg

\* Transport of Division 1.1A to be specifically approved by Resources Safety \*\* Shaped charges of Class 1.4S have special security arrangements  
N/A means Not Applicable, NEQ means Net Explosives Quantity

## Are there any exemptions from the need for a person to hold a WA Explosives Driver Licence?

A number of other types of explosives licences issued under the WA explosives regulations allow licence holders to transport explosives of the class and quantity allowed for under authority of the particular licence:

### a **Shotfiring Licence where:**

- the holder is authorised to possess the explosives under the licence;
- the explosive is for use by the holder; and
- not more than a Category 2 load is transported.

### a **Pyrotechnics (Special Use) Licence where:**

- the holder is authorised to possess the explosive under the licence;
- the explosive is for use by the holder; and
- not more than a Category 2 load is transported.

### a **Fireworks Contractor Licence where:**

- the holder is authorised to possess the firework under the licence;
- the firework is for use by the holder or an employee of the holder acting in the course of his or her duties as such an employee; and
- not more than a Category 2 load is transported.

### a **Fireworks Operator Licence where:**

- the holder is authorised to possess the firework under the licence;
- the firework is for use by the holder; and
- not more than a Category 2 load is transported.

or

- the holder is an employee of the holder of a Fireworks Contractor Licence; and
- the fireworks contractor is authorised to possess the firework under that licence; and
- the firework is for use by the fireworks contractor or an employee of the fireworks contractor acting in the course of his or her duties as such an employee; and
- not more than a Category 2 load is transported.

Accordingly, a person who drives a road vehicle on a public road transporting an authorised explosive must hold an Explosives Driver Licence that authorises the person to do so **unless:**

- the explosive is part of a Category 1 load of explosives on the vehicle and the person:
  - holds an Explosives Transport Licence; or
  - is a secure employee of a person who holds an Explosives Transport Licence.

## Secure employee

To qualify as a secure employee of a licence holder an employee must have:

- obtained a security clearance; and

- been authorised by the licence holder for unsupervised access to explosives in the licence holder's possession.

## Renewing your licence

Under current legislation, a driver's licence can be renewed within three months before the expiry date. Licences are renewed from the expiry date so that there is no break in continuity. The main difference between a new licence and the renewal is that the renewal only requires attending and passing a one-day driver refresher training course. Where a licence has expired, it cannot be renewed and affected persons must submit documentation as for a new licence.

## Upgrading your licence

If you are only licensed to drive vehicles transporting dangerous goods of classes 3 and 9, and you wish to have your licence upgraded to allow you to transport classes 2 through to 6, 8 and 9, you must complete the two-day driver training course for those classes. It is not sufficient to do only the one-day refresher course for the additional dangerous goods classes.

## Reference material

Further information can be found in the following publications:

- Australian Dangerous Goods Code 7th edition
- Australian Explosives Code 2nd edition (available from [www.canprint.com.au](http://www.canprint.com.au) or Can Print, tel: 1300 889 873)
- *Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004*
- Dangerous Goods Safety (Explosives) Regulations 2007
- Dangerous Goods Safety (Road and Rail Transport of Non-explosives) Regulations 2007
- Dangerous Goods Safety (Security Risk Substances) Regulations 2007 (download copies of Act and regulations free on the State Law Publisher's website at [www.slp.wa.gov.au](http://www.slp.wa.gov.au))
- A User's Guide to the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement (TTMRA) (copies available from [www.dfat.gov.au/geo/new\\_zealand/ttmra\\_users\\_guide](http://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/new_zealand/ttmra_users_guide))
- Assessing Fitness to Drive - Medical Standards for Licensing and Clinical Management Guidelines (September 2003) (copies available from [www.austroads.com.au](http://www.austroads.com.au))
- Schedule of prescribed fees and charges for dangerous goods licences (available from [www.docep.wa.gov.au/ResourcesSafety](http://www.docep.wa.gov.au/ResourcesSafety))

## Integrity information (for explosives drivers only)

The regulations require that all individuals who apply for any type of explosives licence must disclose to the Chief Officer:

- details of any relevant offence against the person has been convicted;
- details of any charge of a relevant offence against the person that is pending.

The term relevant offence' means any of the following:

- an offence against the *Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004* and regulations;

- an offence against a law of another place that substantially corresponds to the *Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004* and regulations; or
- an offence against a law of this State or another place. an element of which is the handling, storage or transport of explosives.

Two questions on this matter are contained in the application form and if you answer in the affirmative to either you must attach a separate sheet briefly describing details of the offence and/or charge including places, dates and penalties.

## Traffic infringements/driving record

A history of serious driving offences may make you ineligible for a dangerous goods or explosives driver licence. In order for your driving record to be assessed, you must provide certified copies (original Police endorsement), not more than six months old of the documents indicated below. These documents are still required **even if you have no convictions or infringements** recorded. Failure to provide these documents will result in your application being returned.

The assessment process will also take account of those applicants that may have held a Motor Driver's Licence (MDL) in another State or Territory of Australia during the past **five** years. For this reason, those applicants who are affected must also provide the same documentation from the places in which their previous MDL was issued **even if there were no convictions or infringements** recorded.

The granting of a licence will not occur if the applicant has been prohibited by a court from involvement in the transport of dangerous goods or explosives by road.

### Driving record

Documents to be provided by applicants for a dangerous goods or explosives driver licence:

- certified copy of traffic convictions
- certified copy of traffic infringements

In Western Australia these are available from your local Police Station and charges will apply. For other States/Territories of Australia consult with the relevant licensing authority or Police Service. (charges may apply)

## Security clearances (explosives drivers only)

Access to explosives and security risk substances (SRS), such as most formulations of ammonium nitrate with more than 45% ammonium nitrate content, is now strictly controlled in Western Australia. The Dangerous Goods Safety (Explosives) Regulations 2007 are rigorous across all aspects of explosives use, storage, handling and transport and incorporate the security provisions negotiated under the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreement of 25 June 2004 on counter-terrorism measures.

It is now a requirement that explosives related licence holders and people with unsupervised access to explosives or SRS possess a security clearance (and where necessary be a secure employee of their employer). Key features of the assessment process are identity checks to confirm the status of applicants as well as national criminal history record checks including an ASIO clearance.

As a means of proof of a valid security clearance, individuals will be issued with a photographic security card valid for 5 years, and it will be subject to renewal. The security card will allow portability of the security clearance between employers.

**Persons who wish to apply for a new Explosives Driver Licence must first obtain a WA Dangerous Goods Security Card. Training providers will need to see your security card before they can train you.** Details for a security card are available on the Resources Safety website and application forms can be obtained from and lodged at participating Post Offices around Western Australia.

**An Explosives Driver Licence is only valid while the holder's WA Dangerous Goods Security Card remains current.**

### Mutually recognised security clearances

Western Australian explosives regulations have mutually recognised various current explosives and Security Sensitive Ammonium Nitrate (SSAN) licences/permits issued by another State/Territory of Australia as being valid security clearances in this State. This does not apply for permanent residents of WA with more than 3 months residency. These are detailed in the following table:

State/Territory	Legislation
New South Wales	Explosives Regulations 2005
Queensland	Explosives Act 1999
South Australia	Explosives (Security Sensitive Substances) Regulations 2006
Tasmania	Security Sensitive Dangerous Substances Act 2005
Victoria	Dangerous Goods (Explosives) Regulations 2000 Dangerous Goods (HCDG) Regulations 2005
Northern Territory	None applicable
Australian Capital Territory	None applicable

Applicants from interstate, who do not possess a mutually recognised security clearance will be required to obtain a WA Dangerous Goods Security Card in order for their application for licence to proceed.

## Are similar licences from elsewhere recognised?

Persons who hold a current Dangerous Goods Driver Licence issued in another State or Territory of Australia may drive dangerous goods vehicles (only for the classes of dangerous goods endorsed thereon) within Western Australia without the need to hold a similar WA licence. If you are in this category it is **not necessary** for you to submit an application, or contact Resources Safety, but you are required to carry such licence when driving a licensed dangerous goods vehicle in this State.

### What about explosives transport?

An Explosives Driver Licence is not required, where a person is an employee of a prime contractor who holds an interstate licence that corresponds with an Explosives

Transport Licence that authorises transport of explosives in the State or Territory that issued the licence.

However, once you take up residency in WA (after 3 months) you will need to be licensed under this State's explosives transport regulations.

Under the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement, dangerous goods are exempt from recognition. Therefore, Western Australia does not recognise dangerous goods or explosives driver licences issued in New Zealand.

Dangerous goods or explosives driver licences issued in other countries are also not accepted.

## Assessment of medical fitness to drive

To prove your medical fitness to drive a vehicle transporting dangerous goods or explosives, you must have a medical examination conducted by a doctor in accordance with the criteria set out in the guideline *Assessing fitness to drive - Medical Standards for Licensing and Clinical Management Guidelines* (September 2003), issued by Austroads Incorporated. Details on availability of this document are explained in the references section to this application. Your doctor should be aware of this document.

If you wear items such as spectacles or hearing aids, take them to the examination. **The doctor must complete and sign the attached medical certificate (section 4 of application) no more than six months prior to your application.**

The format of the medical certificate is a legal requirement. Medical certificates not compliant with the guidelines *Assessing fitness to drive - Medical Standards for Licensing and Clinical Management Guidelines* cannot be accepted.

The medical examination process cannot be circumvented as the final decision to issue/not issue a licence, will be based on your doctor's recommendation in the medical certificate. If you believe that you have a medical condition that may have the potential to prevent you from obtaining a Dangerous Goods Driver Licence or Explosives Driver Licence, the matter should be discussed first with your doctor, and if necessary outlined in a separate letter with your application.

## Approved driver safety training

Applicants for new licences are required to attend and pass an approved driver training course within six months of date of application. Courses are conducted throughout the State and at various times during the year. It is important, particularly for drivers in regional and remote areas, to contact a number of training providers to determine the availability of a course that best suits their needs and time schedule.

	New licences	Renewals
Dangerous goods drivers	a 2-day dangerous goods driver training course	a 1 day refresher training course
Explosives drivers	a 2-day explosives driver training course or; a 1-day explosives driver training course (if applicant holds a current WA dangerous goods driver licence)	a 1 day refresher training course

Driver licences come up for renewal every three years, and renewal notices are sent out by Resources Safety some six months in advance to allow drivers ample time to attend and pass a relevant one-day refresher training course.

The Resources Safety approved driver safety training providers are listed below.

### Transport Forum WA Inc\*

37 Cohn Street  
CARLISLE WA 6101  
Tel: (08) 9361 6666

### CPB Group Pty Ltd

Unit 2, 16 Chilver Street  
KEWDALE WA 6105  
Tel: (08) 9353 3311

### Transport Training Centre

71 Dowd Street  
WELSHPOOL WA 6106  
Tel: (08) 9350 9711

### Nationwide Transport Training\*

13 Collingwood Street  
OSBORNE PARK WA 6017  
Tel: (08) 9445 7766

### BP Australia Limited

18 Meadows Way  
OAKFORD WA 6113  
Tel: 0438 561 262  
(Classes 3 and 9 only)

### Twomey's Mining and Engineering Pty Ltd

86 Flores Road  
GERALDTON WA 6530  
Tel: (08) 9921 3166

\* Also provide explosives driver training course

## Transitional provisions

### Dangerous goods drivers

At the commencement date a Dangerous Goods Driver Licence issued under the repealed Dangerous Goods (Transport (Road and Rail) Regulations 1999 is taken to be a Dangerous Goods Driver Licence, with similar endorsements, issued under the new regulations until such time as the licence expires.

### Explosives drivers

There is a transition phase of 12 months from the commencement date of the Dangerous Goods Safety (Explosives) Regulations 2007. During this period, the following matters take effect:

- at commencement date the holder of a Explosives Driver Licence (issued under the repealed Dangerous Goods (Transport) (Explosives by Road and Rail) Regulations 1999) is taken to hold a Explosives Driver Licence, with similar endorsements, under the new regulations until such time as the licence expires.
- an Explosives Driver Licence can be renewed without the need for a security clearance however, if a security clearance is not obtained by the end of the 12 month transition period the licence will cease to have effect.

## Application form

Complete the application form, including the checklist and attach all the required information. **Lodgement of an incomplete application may increase the time it takes to issue you with a licence and deficient applications may be returned to the applicant.**

**NOTE: Please refer to the schedule of fees on the Resources Safety website for the current fee applicable to this licence application.**

### Contact details

Tel: (08) 9358 8001  
Fax: (08) 9358 8000  
Email: [rsdclientservices@docep.wa.gov.au](mailto:rsdclientservices@docep.wa.gov.au)  
Website: [www.docep.wa.gov.au/ResourcesSafety](http://www.docep.wa.gov.au/ResourcesSafety) for fees, forms, FAQs, guidance material and publications.





Department of Consumer and Employment Protection  
Government of Western Australia

Resources Safety

# Application for a driver licence

**Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004**  
**Dangerous Goods Safety (Explosives) Regulations 2007**  
**Dangerous Goods Safety (Road and Rail Transport of Non-explosives) Regulations 2007**

ABN: 91 329 800 417

Application no. *(office use only)*



## 1. What licence type are you applying for? (please tick one)

- Dangerous goods driver licence  
 Explosives driver licence (risk Category 2 and 3 loads of packaged explosives)

## 2. This is for a: (please tick one)

New application       Upgrade - Licence no.

Common expiry date required  Yes  No      Date required / /

## 3. Applicant details (please print)

Family name       Given names

Date of birth / /       Email

Phone (day)  (evening)       Mobile

Motor Driver's Licence (MDL) no.       State where MDL issued

MDL expiry date / /

### Residential address

Unit no.       Street no.       Lot no.       Street

Town/suburb       State       Postcode

### Postal address (only complete if different from above)

Unit no.       Street no.       Lot no.       Street

PO Box no.       Town/suburb       State       Postcode

Have you lived at a place for a period greater than 3 months in another State/Territory of Australia within the last 5 years?  Yes  No

Have you been convicted of a driving offence in anywhere Australia within the last 5 years? If yes, please provide certified copies of traffic convictions from those States/Territories.  Yes  No

Do you have traffic charges pending in anywhere in Australia? If yes, please provide details on a separate sheet.  Yes  No

Have you been issued with any infringements relating to dangerous goods and/or explosives anywhere in Australia within the last 5 years? If yes, please provide certified copies of traffic infringements from those States/Territories.  Yes  No

Are you the subject of a court order anywhere in Australia prohibiting the involvement in the transport of dangerous goods by road? If yes, please provide details on a separate sheet.  Yes  No

## 4. Medical examiner

# Dangerous goods safety – drivers medical examiner's certificate

**Assessment of fitness to drive — to be completed by health professional**

Family name  Given names

Date of birth  /  /

Were you familiar with the patient's medical history prior to this examination?  Yes  No

Patient examined according to commercial vehicle standards

**I certify that I have examined the above-mentioned patient in accordance with the relevant national medical standards (private or commercial) as set out in the guideline *Assessing Fitness to Drive - Medical Standard for Licensing and Clinical Management Guidelines* (September 2003). In my opinion the person the subject of this report:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Meets the criteria as set out in the guideline <i>Assessing Fitness to Drive - Medical Standard for Licensing and Clinical Management Guidelines</i>	No further information required
<input type="checkbox"/> Does not meet the criteria as set out in the guideline <i>Assessing Fitness to Drive - Medical Standard for Licensing and Clinical Management Guidelines</i>	Examining health professional to note: 1. Criteria not met and other relevant medical details 2. Proposed restrictions to licence (if appropriate) 3. Suggestions for management and periodic review interval (conditional licence)
<input type="checkbox"/> Does not meet the medical criteria for an unconditional licence but may be suitable for a conditional licence based on opinion opposite (and additional details attached as required)  <i>Note that a conditional licence will not be issued unless adequate supporting information is provided by the examining health professional.</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Requires appropriate specialist assessment	Examining health professional to note type of specialist recommended/referred or type of practical driver assessment required
<input type="checkbox"/> Requires practical driving test	
<input type="checkbox"/> Requires occupational therapist assessment	
<input type="checkbox"/> Previously unlicensed or on conditional licence but condition has now improved so as to meet criteria for a conditional or unconditional licence.	Examining health professional to note: criteria previously not met; response to treatment and prognosis, duration of improvement; other relevant information including consideration of the driving task

Comments

**Health professional's details** (please print)

Provider number  Date of examination  /  /

Reporting professional's name

Practice address

Phone  Email

Facsimile  Signature

**All health professionals details must be completed in full. Incomplete certificates will result in application being returned.**

### 5. Integrity information (explosives drivers only)

Have you been convicted of any offence(s) under any explosives or dangerous goods legislation in Australia?  Yes  No

Do you have a charge(s) pending in relation to any offences under any explosives or dangerous goods legislation in Australia?  Yes  No

If you answered 'yes' to either of the above questions please attach a separate sheet with details of your full name, date of birth, description of offence and/or charge, places, dates, penalties etc.

### 6. Security clearance details (explosives drivers only)

Explosives drivers must complete only ONE of the following:

**A** For holders of a WA Dangerous Goods Security Card

Card number  Expiry date / /

**OR**

**B** The name of the mutually recognised interstate security clearance held  
(e.g. Blasting Explosives Users Licence - NSW Explosives Regulations 2005)



Licence/Permit number  State where issued

Expiry date / /

### 7. Training course details

Date/s of course attended / /  to / /

Location (i.e. suburb, town)

Name of course provider

### 8. Applicant's declaration

**I certify that the above criteria have been met and the details contained in this application are true and correct.**

Signature of applicant  Date / /

**9. Checklist** (please tick the boxes to ensure your application is complete)

- Application form completed and signed
- The **original or certified copy** of the completed and signed dangerous goods safety medical examiner's certificate of this application form (not more than six months old)
- Certified copy of traffic infringements (not more than six months old and including from places outside Western Australia if required) (all drivers)
- Certified copy of traffic convictions (not more than six months old and including from places outside Western Australia if required) (all drivers)
- Details of a court order prohibiting the involvement in the transport of dangerous goods or explosives (if applicable)
- Details of any convictions, findings of guilt and/or pending charges against you for offences in Australia relating to dangerous goods or explosives within the last five years (explosives drivers only as per part 5)
- A copy of your training course certificate (not more than six months old)  
**New applications require a two-day course certificate**
- A legible copy of both sides of your driver's licence issued in any State or Territory of Australia
- Two clear, passport-size photographs not more than 6 months old with your name printed on the back. **Please staple (through edge of photo) to the application to ensure it is not misplaced**
- Payment of licence fee

**Incomplete applications cannot be processed and will be returned.**

**Licences cannot be issued over the counter. Please post applications to the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection — Resources Safety. Application processing takes approximately ten working days.**

