

## **Questions and answers about the new Advanced Road Test**

### **What is the Advanced Road Test?**

The advanced road test is your final step in Alberta's Graduated Driver Licensing Program. Once you pass the Advanced Road test, you become a fully licensed driver with no GDL restrictions.

The Advanced Road Test is an on-road examination that requires new drivers to consistently demonstrate safe driving skills and responsible decision-making under challenging conditions. New drivers must show they have mastered these skills to obtain a full-privilege driver's licence.

Until you successfully complete an advanced road test, you will remain subject to all the GDL conditions and restrictions. For further information on GDL conditions/restrictions, please refer to these web sites [www.saferoads.com](http://www.saferoads.com). or [www.transportation.alberta.ca](http://www.transportation.alberta.ca)

### **Do I need to take the Advanced Road Test to earn my full licence?**

Drivers who obtained a Class 5 or 6 GDL probationary licence on or after May 20, 2003 must pass the Advanced Road Test to become fully licensed. Those who obtained their GDL probationary licence before May 20, 2003 are not required to take the test to become fully licensed. The choice of whether to take an advanced road test is left to the individual driver's discretion. If the driver chooses not to take the test, they may continue to drive alone as a GDL probationary driver and are subject to all GDL probationary conditions.

### **Who is eligible to take the advanced road test?**

Drivers with GDL probationary licenses who:

- have spent at least two years in the Graduated Driver Licensing program
- are free of suspensions and cancellations for the 12 months immediately preceding the test.

### **What can I expect in my advanced road test?**

There are a large number of components to the Advanced Road Test that require a strong demonstration of individual driving skills, standards and techniques. Drivers taking the advanced road test will be required to perform the following:

- making numerous right and left turns
- handling 'through' intersections
- stopping at pedestrian crosswalks
- entering and exiting high-speed roadways
- changing lanes
- handling controlled and uncontrolled intersections
- driving in moderate and congested traffic
- handling right and left road curves

- handling controlled and uncontrolled railway crossings
- driving in various speed zones
- driving through playground and school zones
- angle parking
- hazard preparation exercises.

### **What are the benefits of taking the advanced road test?**

New drivers successfully completing an advanced road test will receive full Class 5 licensing privileges and will be issued a new licence document with no reference to GDL or probationary status. Fully-licensed drivers are no longer subject to any of the driving conditions and restrictions associated with GDL licensing. Drivers who obtain a full Class 5 licence are also then eligible to upgrade their licenses to commercial classes and can supervise Class 7 (Learner) drivers while accompanying them.

### **What happens if I fail the advanced road test?**

Your Licensed Driver Examiner will explain to you why you failed your Advanced Road Test. You will be expected to work on the errors identified and to improve your overall driving practices to a much higher standard than demonstrated during the unsuccessful test attempt. Remember that the Advanced Road Test is more demanding than the basic road test. To pass the advanced test, you must make a concentrated effort to elevate your driving skills and abilities. It is recommended you obtain a minimum of 60 hours of driving experience before taking the advanced road test.

### **If a new driver does not pass the advanced road test, why are they still permitted to drive as probationary GDL Class 5 drivers?**

These drivers have previously passed their basic Class 5 probationary road test and have demonstrated they are capable of operating a motor vehicle under GDL driving conditions. They now need to enhance their driving skills in order to meet the expectations and requirements for the advanced road test. Unless new drivers display a total lack of skill and vehicle control, or perform a dangerous action during the advanced road test, they will be permitted to retain their Class 5 probationary licence.

### **What is the cost of the advanced road test?**

In Alberta, road test fees are set by the Registry Agent network. All road test fees are uncapped and are based on demand for service, geographical location, class and type of licence requested and duration of the test. Advanced road test fees vary and may range up to \$120 or more. The test lasts about 60 minutes, including instructions and summary of test results.

### **What is the difference between a basic Class 5 and an advanced Class 5 road test?**

The basic Class 5 road test is the *first level* Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) road test. New drivers successfully completing this road test are licensed as Class 5 probationary drivers and are entitled to drive by themselves, but they are subject to all GDL licensing conditions. The basic Class 5 road test is approximately 6 to 10 kilometers in length and takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. The road test is designed to assess a new driver's basic driving skills and abilities and the test manoeuvres are not as complex as the advanced road test.

The advanced Class 5 road test is the *second level* road test for GDL and is more stringent in structure and design. New probationary drivers are required to meet and display much higher driving standards in order to successfully complete this exam. The advanced road test is approximately 20 to 30 kilometers in length and takes about 60 minutes to complete. It is administered only in larger Alberta centers that invariably have higher volumes of traffic and consistently greater numbers of vehicle and pedestrian interactions.

### **Could a new driver be placed back in the Class 7 (learners) licence category?**

Yes. This can occur in any road test situation, but such cases are rare. However, should the new driver display a major lack of skill and/or vehicle control during the road test or contribute to a dangerous traffic situation, they could be downgraded to the Class 7 licence classification.

### **I am a new resident to Alberta, having moved from a country that does not have a reciprocal licensing agreement. What do I need to do to get my Alberta Class 5 licence?**

New drivers being licensed in Alberta on or after May 20, 2005 that move from countries with no reciprocal licensing agreement and requesting full Class 5 licence privileges are subject to an advanced road test.

Drivers from non-reciprocal countries with 2 or more years of driving experience who present a valid driver's licence will need to undergo a complete driver's examination. This includes a knowledge and vision test and a practical Class 5 advanced road test. Before being issued a regular operators licence, the client will need to produce proof of 2 or more years driving experience, in the form of, an out of country driver's licence with date of first issue OR a confirmation letter from the country where licensed. If the driver chooses to take a basic Class 5 road test, the client becomes a GDL driver and must remain in this stage for a minimum of 1 year.

Drivers with less than 2 years driving experience will need to successfully pass a knowledge and vision test and a practical basic Class 5 road test. These drivers will become Class 5 GDL probationary drivers and will be subject to all GDL conditions. They become eligible for an advanced Class 5 road test and full licence only after obtaining 2 or more years driving experience. Proof of driving experience from the country they were licensed

in is required. Without the proof, they will remain in GDL for a minimum period of 2 years, in which the last 12 consecutive months are licence suspension or cancellation free.

**NOTE:** Alberta has reciprocal licensing agreements with the following countries:

- Austria for Class 5
- Belgium for Class 5
- France for Class 5
- Germany for Class 5
- Japan for Classes 5 and 6
- Republic of Korea for Class 5
- Switzerland for Classes 5 and 6
- USA for Classes 5, 6 and 7
- United Kingdom (UK) of Great Britain
- The reciprocal licensing agreement signed with the United Kingdom of Great Britain includes England, Scotland and Wales. Clients surrendering a driver's licence from Northern or the Republic of Ireland must complete full testing.

### **Where do I get more information?**

More information on testing requirements can be obtained by visiting a local Alberta Registry Agent's office or go to: [www.servicealberta.ca/617.cfm](http://www.servicealberta.ca/617.cfm)

You may also call Alberta Transportation at 780 427-8901, toll-free in Alberta at 310-0000.