



DEFENCE INSTRUCTIONS (GENERAL)

Department of Defence
CANBERRA ACT 2600

27 March 2001

Amendments to Defence Instruction (General) PERS 17-2 are issued pursuant to section 9A of the *Defence Act 1903*.

ALLAN HAWKE
Secretary

C.A. BARRIE
Admiral, RAN
Chief of the Defence Force

LIST B—ISSUE NO PERS B/3/2001

Amendment

PERS 17-2 *Defence Driving Licence Scheme*
AMDT NO 6

Single Service filing instructions

This instruction should be filed as:

1. NAVY PERS 40-6
2. ARMY PERS 34-2
3. AIR FORCE ADMIN 12-15

Amendment

DI(G) PERS 17-2 is to be amended as follows:

- a. Remove existing pages 1 to 3 and annex D (AL5) ISSUE NO PERS B/12/200 of 30 MAY 2000 and insert attached pages 1 to 3 and annex D (AL6).

DEFENCE DRIVING LICENCE SCHEME

INTRODUCTION

1. With the exception of Victoria and Northern Territory (NT), Commonwealth, State and Territory authorities have agreed to the implementation of a Defence Driving Licence Scheme (DDLS) for Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel and for eligible members of their families. Under the DDLS, personnel and their families driving licences will be recognised throughout Australia and thus no requirement will exist to change a driving licence solely because of a transfer interstate. However, on expiry, licences are to be renewed in the current State or Territory of domicile.

AIM

2. The aim of this instruction is to promulgate guidelines and administrative procedures pertaining to the DDLS.

DEFINITIONS

3. For the purpose of this instruction, the following definitions apply to those persons eligible to drive registered vehicles in Australian States and Territories:

- a. **ADF personnel.** ADF personnel are defined as persons who are on full-time permanent service with the RAN, ARA or RAAF. Reserve personnel on full-time duty who are transferred interstate are included for the purpose of this instruction.
- b. **Eligible family member.** An eligible family member is any person who resides with the member of the Permanent Military Forces or a Reserve member on full-time duty and who would be entitled to a removal at Commonwealth expense in the event of transfer of the member.
- c. **Licence Issuing Authorities.** Licence Issuing Authorities are those authorities listed in [annex A](#).
- d. **Entitled persons.** Entitled persons are ADF personnel and their eligible family members.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

4. The following general guidelines apply to the DDLS:

- a. There is common agreement on licensing requirements except for:
 - (1) **Victoria.** Eligible family members of ADF personnel are required to convert to a Victorian licence or permit if they reside in Victoria for a continuous period of more than three months. If an eligible family member holds a licence or permit issued in another Australian State or Territory it will be converted to a Victorian one at no fee and without tests.
 - (2) **NT.** Entitled persons are required to transfer any civilian drivers licence issued in any Australian State or Territory to an NT licence within three months of being posted to the NT. Interstate or Territory drivers licences will be transferred at no cost to the applicant and will carry the same expiry date and licence classifications as the licence being transferred.

- b. An entitled person will not be required to renew a driving licence until it expires. On expiry, a new licence must be sought in the current State or Territory of domicile. The expired licence and a Form AB 135—*Driver Identification* (Stock Number 7530–66–132–5232) must be produced as well as other documentary evidence normally required by State or Territory regulations.

WARNING: Entitled persons applying for a new licence in the gaining State or Territory before their current licence expires, must produce their existing licence for cancellation. Failure to do so may result in the cancellation of the newly issued licence.

- (1) Entitled persons are required to carry identification at all times to establish their right to drive on an interstate licence. This identification will be Form AB 135 which will be issued by the member's unit.
- (2) The DDLS is valid for all classes of current driving licences. Persons with cancelled or disqualified licences are not exempted from compliance with local traffic regulations.
- (3) Service units are responsible for advising Licence Issuing Authorities of all initial changes of interstate addresses. Licence holders are responsible for advising Licence Issuing Authorities of any subsequent intrastate change of address.
- (4) On discharge, entitled persons cease to be part of the DDLS.
- (5) Entitled persons who have either a Learner's Permit or a Probationary Licence must comply with the law in force in respect of those licences in the State or Territory in which that person is driving. A summary of those laws is set out in [annex D](#).

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

5. Following the arrival of ADF personnel and their families from interstate, the gaining unit is to notify the Licence Issuing Authority in writing of their change of address. Interstate changes of address will be recorded but not acknowledged by the Licensing Issuing Authorities. Addresses of all Licensing Issuing Authorities as well as a suggested text are in [annexes A](#) and [B](#) respectively.

6. The gaining unit is to issue Form AB 135 to all entitled persons and ensure that:

- a. all required details are inserted before issue;
- b. entitled persons are aware that the document is not a licence to drive and that its issue does not absolve the holder from any penalties attached to the licence by the Licence Issuing Authority; and
- c. entitled persons are made aware that their Form AB 135 must be surrendered on separation from the Defence Force.

7. Discharge units are to ensure that, as part of the discharge process, Form AB 135 is recovered from the member before discharge.

NATIONAL DRIVER LICENCE TRANSFER INITIATIVE

8. The provisions in Victoria and NT (as per sub-subparagraphs 4.a. (1) and (2) above) are the result of the National Driver Licence Transfer Initiative which allows motor vehicle drivers to transfer their licence from one State/Territory to another free of cost, with the expiry date being the same as the expiry date of the interstate licence being transferred. 'No fee' transfers of interstate licences are issued for a maximum of five years and are available to all holders of a full licence but not to holders of learner licences, provisional licences and probationary licences.

9. The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) has similar provisions but permits entitled persons (ie ADF personnel and their eligible family members) to maintain an interstate licence in the ACT until that licence expires, as per this instruction. Similar provisions may exist in other States. Given this, ADF

personnel may wish to check with local licencing authorities as to whether 'no fee' transfers are available. Where this is available, entitled persons may wish to consider this option as an alternative to participating in the DDLS. It may suit some members to transfer their licence to their new State/Territory as soon as practical after arrival.

MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION

10. State and Territory Motor Vehicle Registration Authorities have varying requirements regarding the change of motor registration following arrival in their State or Territory. ADF personnel should check with local registration authorities on their requirements.

Note

The ACT allows entitled persons to drive motor vehicles in the ACT with interstate registration until that registration expires. To ensure compliance with their requirements, the ACT Transport Regulation Authority requires details (registration number, State of registration and expiry date) to be entered upon Form AB 135 at the time of issue of that Form. Entitled persons should check with their compulsory Third Party Insurance (TPI) insurer in the State in which their vehicle is currently registered to ensure that their TPI will not be affected by ACT Transport Regulation provisions.

Annexes:

- A. [Addresses of Licence Issuing Authorities](#)
- B. [Notification of Change of Address Suggested Text](#)
- C. [Example of Form AB 135—Driver Identification](#)
- D. [Probationary Licences and Learner's Permits](#)

Sponsor: DGCMP (DMPP)

ADDRESSES OF LICENCE ISSUING AUTHORITIES

NEW SOUTH WALES	Director Driver and Vehicle Policy and Regulation Roads and Traffic Authority Centennial Plaza 260 Elizabeth Street SURREY HILLS NSW 2010
QUEENSLAND	Principal Manager Registration and Licensing Queensland Department of Transport GPO Box 2451 BRISBANE QLD 4001
VICTORIA	Manager, Driver Licensing VICROADS 60 Denmark Street KEW VIC 3101
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	Manager, Support Services Registration and Licensing Department of Transport 60 Wakefield Street ADELAIDE SA 5000
WESTERN AUSTRALIA	Director Licensing and Services Division Department of Transport PO Box R1290 PERTH WA 6000
TASMANIA	Manager, Motor Registry Department of Transport 1 Collins Street HOBART TAS 7000
NORTHERN TERRITORY	Manager Registration and Licensing Department of Transport and Works GPO Box 2520 DARWIN NT 0801
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY	Team Leader Licence Section Motor Vehicle Registry PO Box 582 DICKSON ACT 2602

NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS SUGGESTED TEXT

Manager, Defence Licensing
VICROADS
60 Denmark Street
KEW VIC 3101

DEFENCE DRIVING LICENCE SCHEME DETAILS OF PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED INTERSTATE

The following participants in the Defence Driving Licence Scheme and who hold current Victorian driving licences have been transferred from Victoria:

NAME	VIC DRIVING LICENCE NUMBER	NEW ADDRESS
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Note

- (a) **When a member joins the gaining unit and a registered vehicle has been left in the losing location the following paragraph should be inserted in this letter, if appropriate to the member's circumstances.**

'Please be advised that (insert member's name) has a motor vehicle(s) (insert registration number) remaining at (insert appropriate address) and wishes all registration renewal notices to be sent to that address.'

Unit Signature Block

EXAMPLE OF FORM AB 135—DRIVER IDENTIFICATION

 AB 135 Revised Jan 95 Australian Defence Force DRIVER IDENTIFICATION		
CIV Licence No.		Expiry Date
MV Rego No.	State of Reg.	Expiry Date
Issue Authority		
Stock No 7530-66-132-5232		Date of Issue

ADDITIONAL MOTOR VEHICLE INFORMATION		
MV Rego No.	State of Rego	Expiry Date
MV Rego No.	State of Rego	Expiry Date
MV Rego No.	State of Rego	Expiry Date
CURRENT ADDRESS TO BE SHOWN		
Address		
Address		
Address		

Colour—lemon background—green print overlay.

PROBATIONARY LICENCES AND LEARNER'S PERMITS

1. State and Territory Licence Issuing Authorities have differing compliance requirements with regard to Probationary Licences and Learner's Permits under the Defence Driving Licence Scheme (DDLS). The following provides guidance on State and Territory requirements:

- a. **Australian Capital Territory (ACT).** Learner's Permits from other States are not recognised by Licence Issuing Authorities in the ACT. It is necessary for a learner driver to pass the ACT Theory Test before obtaining an ACT Learner Driver Licence. Applicants need to have reached a minimum age of 16 years and nine months. Credit will be given for the amount of time the interstate learners licence was held. Probationary Licences are recognised as full licences until it expires, provided the licence holder has attained the minimum age of 17 years. If the licence holder is between the ages of 16 years and nine months and 17 years it is necessary to pass the ACT Theory Test, revert to a Learner Driver Licence, display 'L' plates and have a licensed driver in the passenger seat at all times whilst driving.
- b. **New South Wales (NSW).** The DDLS applies to all types of driving licences. However, holders of Provisional Licences and Learner's Permits should particularly note that there are special rules relating to speed limits, Prescribed Concentrations of Alcohol etc. Any restriction placed on an interstate licence continues to apply when driving in NSW.
- c. **Victoria (Vic).** All types of interstate driving licences, including Learner's Permits, held by entitled persons of the DDLS are recognised. However, holders must comply with any condition under which a similar permit or licence is issued in Vic. Dependants (including spouses) are to convert to a Vic licence/permit if resident in Vic for a continuous period of more than three months.
- d. **Northern Territory (NT).** The NT will recognise a photographic Learner's Permit issued anywhere in Australia provided the permit is current. The NT will either transfer the permit to an NT Learner's Licence (at no cost) or allow the individual to undergo a driving test, using the interstate Learner's Permit, and be issued with an NT Provisional Licence if successful. (**Note:** The NT refers to a Learner's Permit as a Learner's Licence.) An expired Learner's Permit will not be recognised. A holder of an expired permit will be required to sit and pass a theory test before an NT Learner's Licence will be issued. Interstate Provisional or Probationary Licences are acceptable but must be transferred to an NT licence within three months of being stationed in the NT.
- e. **Western Australia (WA).** Interstate Learner's Permits are not accepted or transferable to WA. Such licence holders will need to apply for a WA Learner's Permit and undergo a theory test before being permitted to drive in WA. Interstate Provisional or Probationary Licences are acceptable, and may be driven on until the expiry date of the licence.
- f. **Queensland (Qld).** Any entitled person of the DDLS holding an interstate Provisional or Probationary Licence or a Learner's Permit is permitted to drive in Qld. Any restrictions placed upon a Learner's Permit by the issuing authority continues to apply whilst driving in Qld.
- g. **South Australia (SA).** Probationary Licences are acceptable and may be driven on until the expiry date of the licence. Holders of interstate Learner's Permits must, within three months of taking up residence in SA, pass a theory test and obtain an SA Learner's Permit.

- h. **Tasmania (Tas).** Any entitled person of the DDLS holding an interstate Provisional or Probationary Licence or a Learner's Permit is permitted to drive in Tas. When driving, 'L' or 'P' plates, as appropriate, must be displayed. Special rules relating to speed limits, Prescribed Concentrations of Alcohol etc apply to 'L' and 'P' drivers in Tas.

Note

Holders of Provisional or Probationary Licences or a Learner's Permit should always check with State or Territory Licence Issuing Authorities on any special conditions which may apply before driving on an interstate issued licence or permit.