

Compliance, Investigations and Prosecutions Driver Training Information Bulletin



July 2018

Brenton Rowe

The sudden passing of Brenton Rowe has deeply touched the members of the Standards team. Brenton was always a gentleman who passionately argued for the benefit of learner drivers and the driver training industry generally. He will be sadly missed. Our sympathies are extended to his family and friends.

Registrar of Motor Vehicles

Recently the Governor announced Emma Kokar has been appointed as the Registrar of Motor Vehicles while Clare Heathcote joins Stuart Gilbert as a Deputy Registrar of Motor Vehicles.

Review of Driver Training

The Registrar of Motor Vehicles has commenced a review of driver training and assessment for the issue of a drivers licence. Please see the attached letter outlining details on the project.

The Driving Companion

The Driving Companion has been updated. The updated version has 07/18 on the back cover, top right hand corner. Major changes include:

- Definition of an Authorised Examiner and Motor Driving Instructor
- Clarification of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)
- Additional information on the Rules of Observation and checking for cyclists
- Information on making an enquiry or complaint
- Updated Task pages, amendments to the number of assessment boxes and range statements.

Complaints from the public

The department receives many complaints from members of the public and from people within the driver training industry. Some call into question the safety and business practices of some industry members. The below are a sample of some of the types of complaints.

Loose objects in vehicles

MDIs and Authorised Examiners who have loose objects including bookwork and rubbish in the vehicle

(on the back seat). Loose objects in vehicles can turn into dangerous projectiles when a car brakes heavily or is involved in a crash. Loose objects in vehicles are a well-known cause of people dying or suffering a serious injury. When cornering unsecured items may slide around and reduce the driver's ability to use the pedals and are a distraction for learner drivers.

Keep your car clutter free. Secure all items in a cargo area with ropes, tethers, cords, and safety nets. Place heavy items in your boot such as toolkits as close to the front (towards the front of the car) as possible.

Heating and Cooling

Students being forced to drive in vehicles without heating and cooling despite these options clearly being available in the vehicle. One complaint stated that students are being forced to undertake assessments in winter with the vehicles windows fully open and no heating turned on.

Please ensure a safe environment and the comfort of your clients including winding up windows or using the air conditioning or heating as appropriate to the temperature on the day.

Use of Mirrors

Clients not being permitted to adjust the mirrors to see behind them. Using mirrors is an essential part of a person's training to drive safely on the road. Please encourage all students to make sure the mirrors are adjusted to that individual's particular needs.

Authorised Examiner Manual, VORT (Rigid Heavy Vehicles)

The draft LR, MR and HR manuals will be sent out for consultation and comment in the near future. You are encouraged to provide feedback on these manuals.

Standard for Last Training Session

Recently a greater focus on weekend audits has resulted in the identification of poor performance by some industry participants, presenting students for the Last Training Session despite them being grossly incompetent. The Rules Governing state
an Authorised Examiner:

4.1 must not issue a Certificate of Competency to a person unless that person has been assessed and has demonstrated competency in accordance with the VORT Operator's Manual or the CBT&A Operator's Manual;

6.1.1 must ensure that the applicant has achieved the required driving standard prior to undertaking the CBT&A-LTS;

6.1.6 must conduct the CBT&A in accordance with the procedures and standards as set out in the applicable CBT&A Operator's Manual;

Please ensure that before you book a Last Training Session, the applicant is adequately trained to meet the requirements of the Last Training Session. It is also opportune to remind everybody that an Authorised Person may request a manoeuvre during the Task 30 as outlined in the Rules Governing, an Authorised Examiner:

5.2 must comply with any reasonable direction requested by an authorised person during an audit; Examples of reasonable direction include but are not limited to:

- request manoeuvre, or
- change route;

In addition all assessments **must** be conducted in English.

Respectful Behaviour

A reminder to the driver training industry to be respectful in their dealings with an Authorised Person during the audit process. Authorised Examiners are appointed by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to conduct practical driving assessments on the Registrar's behalf. Assessment Officers conduct audits to ensure that the standards set by the Registrar are being met during practical driving assessments. The use of abusive language or threatening behaviour and gestures is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action being taken.

Camera Trial

Recently DPTI has undertaken a trial of body worn cameras in the Compliance and Marine Safety teams. The trial of the cameras was very well received. The cameras effectively provide a third independent view of the activities of the wearer and those they come into contact with. As a result of the trial the department has invested in a number of body worn

cameras. In the coming months Assessment Officers will be trialling the use of body worn cameras when conducting audits. These will be either located on the body or via a camera attached to a pair of glasses. The vision and audio from the recordings are fully tamper proof and meet the highest standards of security and provide an audit trail of the recording including those who access or attempt to access the data.

The cameras will be highly visible and the Assessment Officer will notify you and the applicant the camera is activated. These cameras are being worn as part of the audit conducted by the Assessment Officer and do not present grounds on which to refuse an audit.

Insurance

Reminder: Certificates of Currency for Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance should in future be forwarded to DPTI.LicensingBookings@sa.gov.au

Eligibility for Heavy Vehicle Licences

It is and always has been the responsibility of the Authorised Examiner to verify the eligibility of the licence applicant to undertake any assessment. While EzyReg provides a check of eligibility against data held on the department's database, to confirm eligibility, you can request the applicant produce a Driver's Licence Report which provides details of the driving history including the following:

- Current licence status
- Issue date
- Classes
- Demerit points and offences
- Licence enforcements, disqualifications or suspensions

A South Australian licence history report can be requested via their EzyReg account or from a Service SA Customer Centre for a cost of \$17.00. If the applicant is from interstate or overseas they will need to obtain a report from the licensing regulator in that jurisdiction.

MDI/AE contact details

Help us communicate with you by providing your email via DPTI.DriverTrainerEnquiries@sa.gov.au

with your Name: _____

Client or MDI number: _____

Email: _____

Contact number: _____