

Notes	<p>VicRoads has a legal responsibility under Section 17 of the Road Safety Act and Section 114 of the Marine Act 1988 to ensure that all drivers have the appropriate skills and abilities, and are medically fit to hold a licence. To meet this responsibility, Section 27 of the Road</p>	<p>Safety Act and Section 120 of the Marine Act 1988 gives VicRoads the authority to ask any motor vehicle or boat licence holder or applicant to provide medical evidence of their suitability to drive and/or to undergo a driving assessment.</p>
To the Practitioner	<p>The examination must be conducted in accordance with the national medical standards described in:</p> <p>Assessing Fitness to Drive– Commercial and Private Vehicle Drivers.</p> <p>This publication provides medical standards for licensing and clinical management guidelines for health professionals in Australia.</p> <p>VicRoads has an expert Medical Advisory Panel which assists in determining fitness to drive when the medical standards are unclear. The medical advisors will be greatly assisted if you provide all relevant details, which will be treated with the confidentiality.</p>	<p>If you have doubts about your patient's suitability to drive, you may like to suggest a driving assessment. This does not apply to boat licence holders.</p> <p>If you have any doubts about the information required, or wish to discuss the case personally, please contact the Medical Review Section on 9854 2407 or the Marine Safety Victoria on 1800 223 022.</p> <p>Indemnity – Victorian legislation provides legal indemnity to practitioners who conduct an examination and provide VicRoads with an opinion on the basis of that examination.</p> <p>Criminal Liability & Insurance – Health professionals may be liable under civil law in cases where a court forms the opinion that they have not taken reasonable steps to ensure that impaired drivers drive only in circumstances that do not place them and other members of the community at increased risk. Professional indemnity insurers are aware of the potential liability of health professionals and may reasonably expect health professionals to comply with the national medical standards.</p>
To the Applicant	<p>You must make an appointment with your practitioner. As the examination and completion of this report may take longer than a routine consultation, you are advised to inform your doctor (or the receptionist) that you are attending for this purpose.</p> <p>You should make the doctor aware of any medical conditions you may have. If the medical report has been requested for a particular reason, you should let your practitioner know this reason.</p> <p>You are required by law to advise VicRoads of any condition that may affect your ability to drive. If you provide this information, your doctor can advise VicRoads, on your behalf, using this form.</p> <p>You should take any corrective lenses and hearing aids that you normally use, to the examination.</p>	<p>You should let your doctor know if you hold or are applying for a heavy vehicle licence, as the medical requirements for drivers of such vehicles are stricter. If you are required to provide a medical report to other agencies it is in your interest to keep a copy of this report.</p> <p>Withdrawal of Licence – If VicRoads takes away your licence on the basis of a medical report, you may be re-licensed when you provide medical evidence, which indicates that you have met the national medical standards and are qualified to be re-licensed. You also have the right of appeal to a Magistrates' court.</p> <p>Any queries regarding a boat licence should be directed to the Marine Safety Victoria on 1800 223 022.</p>
VicRoads Driving Assessment <i>(Not applicable to boat licences)</i>	<p>Where there is a concern about a person's ability to drive safely, a driving test is necessary.</p> <p>A road law knowledge test is conducted unless VicRoads is examining the person's ability to drive when using adaptive equipment. When re-testing current licence holders the drive test may commence from the</p>	<p>person's home, ensuring that the patient is tested in a familiar area and allowing a local area restriction to be imposed if appropriate. The on-road assessment is conducted in a dual controlled vehicle fitted with automatic transmission (the first 10 minutes is to allow familiarisation with the vehicle). The licence may be immediately withdrawn if the test is failed.</p>
Occupational Therapy Driving Assessment <i>(Not applicable to boat licences)</i>	<p>Victorian law gives specially trained occupational therapists the right to conduct a driver assessment where there is a medical concern about the patient's ability to drive safely. The aim of the occupational therapy assessment is to assist people with impairments to resume or continue driving. There are two components of the assessment. The first part of the assessment aims to evaluate the person's difficulties. This involves an interview, vision screen, cognitive function test, assessment of physical strength, motor skills, reaction time, road law and road craft. The need for specialist equipment or vehicle modifications is considered at this time.</p>	<p>The on-road assessment takes a standard approach but can be designed to meet individual needs. It is conducted in a dual controlled vehicle, accompanied by a driving instructor and where necessary set up with special requirements or modifications to meet the needs of the client. The assessment is structured to assess the impact of injury, illness or the ageing process on driving skills such as judgement, decision making skills, observation and vehicle handling.</p> <p>Provided the overall drive is safe, the 'bad habits' that an experienced driver might display may not result in failure.</p>
Conditions and Restrictions	<p>If appropriate, the practitioner may recommend conditions which may enhance driver competency or safety and allow their patient to continue to drive (e.g. corrective lenses, no night driving, additional mirrors).</p>	<p>If the practitioner believes that vehicle modifications are necessary (e.g. hand controls, left foot accelerator), or a prosthesis is necessary to drive safely, or that a local area driving restriction is appropriate, the patient will need to demonstrate the ability to drive safely with these restrictions. In these cases a driving assessment is necessary.</p> <p>Modifications to the boat may be necessary for boat licence applicants. Contact the Marine Safety Victoria on 1800 223 022 for further information.</p>