Restricted licence guide

DRIVE

The roadmap to your car licence



Booking your restricted licence test





Driving straight

Merging lanes

Traffic lights



Critical errors

A critical error is a serious driving error that doesn't result in immediate danger to any road user or property. If you make more than one critical error in stage 1 (first 10 minutes) of the test, you fail the test. If you make **more than 2 critical errors** in the whole test, you also fail.

- Too slow 10km/h under limit, or too slow to act.
- **Mounting a kerb** one wheel mounts the kerb when parking or doing a 3-point turn.
- **Too fast** 5–10km/h over the speed limit for less than 5 seconds.
- Stalling the vehicle.
- **Failing to look** at intersection, or failing to do mirror and head check.
- Incomplete stop at a stop sign.
- Failing to signal.
- Blocking a pedestrian crossing.
- **Other illegal action** for example, cutting corners, following too close.

Immediate failure errors

An immediate failure error is any driving that results in another road user having to take evasive action, or an immediate danger to any road user or property. This results in an immediate failure of the test.

- Requires testing officer intervention.
- **Excessive speed** over the speed limit by 5km/h for 5 seconds or more. Or 10km/h or more over speed limit at any time.
- Failing to carry out an instruction.
- **Stopping at dangerous position** on a railway crossing or blocking an intersection.
- Collision with kerb or object.
- Failing to stop at stop sign or lights.
- Failing to give way.
- Other dangerous action.

Before the test day – vehicle checklist 🗸

The testing officer will do a safety check of your vehicle. You must check all this off before you go for your test, even if you're borrowing someone else's. Some people fail their licence tests without even getting out on the road because their vehicles aren't fit to go.



*Note: you can apply for exemptions in some cases - see nzta.govt.nz