



Dangerous goods safety information sheet

Overview of dangerous goods and explosives driver licences

Requirements

The transport of dangerous goods is potentially very hazardous and therefore requires drivers who are responsible, appropriately trained and medically fit (i.e. both physically and mentally).

A completed application for a dangerous goods or explosives driver licence must be accompanied by the following information:

- current driving licence evidence (e.g. copy of current driver licence);
- competency evidence (e.g. certificate for attendance and passing an approved driver training course within six months of application);
- original medical fitness evidence (dated not more than six months prior to application);
- recent passport-size photograph of the applicant (two copies required for dangerous goods driver application, one copy for explosives driver application);
- prescribed fee;
- certified copy of traffic infringements and demerit points (not more than six months old and including from other States if required);
- certified copy of traffic convictions (not more than six months old and including from other states if applicable); and
- details of any other (dangerous goods) convictions or charges pending that could affect the ability of the individual being granted the licence.

In addition, for an explosives driver licence application, evidence is required that the applicant has a current Western Australian dangerous goods security card or equivalent.

Refusal or cancellation of license

Traffic offences that result in the suspension or cancellation of your normal driver licence may lead to the cancellation or refusal of your dangerous goods or explosives driver licence. Consequently, a six-month suspension of your normal driver licence may mean no dangerous goods or explosives driver licence for five years.

At the time of application, if the driver:

- has, in the five years before the application, been found guilty by a court in Australia of an offence that makes the applicant unsuitable to be the driver of a vehicle transporting dangerous goods, or explosives; or the applicant's driver licence has been cancelled or suspended on a ground that makes the applicant unsuitable to be the driver of a vehicle transporting dangerous goods, or explosives, or
- has not passed a relevant training course, or
- is not medically fit,

he or she will *not* be issued with a dangerous goods or explosives driver licence.

Driving history criteria that result in ineligibility for licence

Examples where the applicant would be deemed *ineligible* to be granted a dangerous goods or explosives driver licence on the basis of their traffic infringement and conviction history are given below.

1. Any driver that has had their driving licence suspended, cancelled or disqualified *two or more times* during the review period as a result of a traffic conviction such as:
 - dangerous driving
 - reckless driving;
 - driving with prescribed percentage of alcohol in the blood $\geq 0.08\%$ (0.08 grams/100 mL of blood);
or
 - driving under the influence of a drug as per the *Road Traffic Act 1974*.
2. Any driver whose driver licence has been suspended, cancelled or disqualified *once* during the review period for traffic convictions such as those mentioned above, and their driving history following the conviction contains:
 - any other serious offence (see list below); or
 - further traffic offences that total 8 or more demerit points.
3. Any driver whose driver licence has been suspended, cancelled or disqualified during the review period through the accumulation of demerit points predominantly for traffic offences and not solely non-payment of fines, and their driving history following the suspension, cancellation or disqualification:
 - contains any other serious offence (see list below); or
 - contains further traffic offences which total eight or more demerit points; or
 - identifies that they have been convicted of an offence under the *Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004*, or the Transport Regulations, or the Explosives Regulations that carries a level 1 penalty.
4. Any driver whose driver licence has been disqualified for breaching a good behaviour period.
5. Any driver whose driver licence has been disqualified for driving a vehicle licensed to transport dangerous goods in bulk while having a prescribed percentage of alcohol in the blood of $\geq 0.02\%$ (grams/100 mL of blood).

The following traffic infringements or offences are considered to be *serious*.

- exceeding speed limit by at least 20 km per hour;
- failing to stop at a red light signal;
- careless driving;
- driving with a blood alcohol content $\geq 0.05\%$ (0.05 grams/100 mL blood);
- driving a dangerous goods vehicle while having a blood alcohol content of $< 0.02\%$ (grams/100 mL blood);
- driving without a licence;
- other serious traffic offences (indicated by a demerit point value of three or more).

Additional criteria for explosives drivers

Explosives drivers must obtain a Dangerous Goods Security Card before they can apply for an explosives driver licence.

When applying for, or renewing an explosives driver licence, applicants must also declare if they have been charged with or convicted of any offences under the dangerous goods and explosives legislation of Western Australia or elsewhere.

Requirement to notify Resources Safety of changes to status of information provided with application

Holders of explosives and dangerous goods driver licences must advise Resources Safety of:

- material changes to their medical status, or
- motor driver licence disqualifications

within 14 days of becoming aware of the change.

Review of a decision by the Chief Officer

A person aggrieved by a decision to reject a dangerous goods driver licence application may apply in writing to the Chief Officer for a reconsideration of the decision. This application must be made within 28 days of being notified of the decision, or a longer period if allowed by the Chief Officer. The Chief Officer must respond to such a request within 28 days.

Note: This option is not available for an applicant refused an explosives driver licence. The applicant would need to put his or her case to the State Administrative Tribunal (see below).

Requests to the Chief Officer for reconsideration must state the grounds or reasons why the decision should be reconsidered. Appropriate grounds for reconsideration are:

- the information provided with the application was inaccurate, and the accurate information will support the granting of a licence;
- Resources Safety has made an error (e.g. used the wrong information in making its decision, or incorrectly interpreted the information provided); or
- the applicant is able to provide additional or missing information.

Reasons that are not sufficient to justify reconsideration of a decision include:

- loss of employment or related hardship;
- support from a current or prospective employer;
- letters of support or recommendations from any other person; and
- if the date of the training certificate or medical is more than six months before the application date (e.g. even by one day).

The regulations allow scope for conditions to be placed on dangerous goods driver licences. However, it is Resources Safety's general policy to not grant conditional licences on the basis that compliance is difficult to verify. Conditions are not to be used to subvert the normal licence eligibility requirements.

Review of a decision by the State Administrative Tribunal

Both dangerous goods and explosives driver applicants, if aggrieved by a decision may appeal to the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) for a review of the decision. Appeal applications must be made within 21 days of being notified of the decision and must be made in the form required by SAT.