

Identification

for driver licensing

To get or renew a driver licence or endorsement, you'll need to show us some acceptable identification (ID) to confirm your identity.

You can present:

- your **New Zealand driver licence** which can be current or expired up to 2 years, or
- your **current New Zealand passport**.

If you don't have either of these, you'll need to provide:

- one document from table 1, AND
- one document from table 2.

One of those documents should have your photo on it, otherwise you'll need to get a declaration from an identity referee. See the *Photo required* section on page 2.

All documents must be originals. Photocopied, scanned or certified documents aren't acceptable.

If your ID isn't in the name currently on your driver licence

You may need additional documentation to show the link between those names (for example a birth certificate and/or a marriage certificate). See *Name change* on page 2.

Table 1: Primary ID

New Zealand full birth certificate issued on or after 1 January 1998, carrying a unique identification number
New Zealand passport*
New Zealand firearms licence*
Overseas passport (may include New Zealand visa/permit)*
New Zealand citizenship certificate
New Zealand emergency travel document
New Zealand refugee travel document
New Zealand certificate of identity (issued under the Passports Act 1992)
New Zealand certificate of identity (issued under the Immigration Act 2009)
*These documents can be current or expired up to 2 years. All other documents in this table must be current.

The primary ID must be issued by the relevant authority listed in the Land Transport (Driver Licensing) Rule 1999.

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/1999/0100/latest/whole.html#DLM6358120>

Table 2: Supporting ID

Kiwi Access card or 18+ card
Community services card
SuperGold card
Veteran SuperGold card
New Zealand student photo ID card ^{1 3}
New Zealand employee photo ID card
New Zealand electoral roll record ³
Inland Revenue number ³
New Zealand-issued utility bill or bank statement ^{2 3}
Overseas driver licence
Steps to freedom form
All documents in this table must be current, except for a utility bill or bank statement (see below)

¹ To be acceptable for driver licensing purposes, your student ID should have your:

- surname
- first name or initials
- date of birth, and
- photo.

It must have your educational institution's logo or banner on it, or be on the institution's letterhead.

If it doesn't meet all of these requirements, you won't be able to use it as identification for a driver licence.

² This must show your first name (or initials) and last name, and the issuer (utility company or bank). It doesn't need to show any transaction details.

It must have been issued within the last 6 months.

³ You can show these documents to the agent in electronic format on your phone or mobile device.

The supporting ID must be issued by the relevant authority listed in the Land Transport (Driver Licensing) Rule 1999.

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/1999/0100/latest/whole.html#DLM6358122>

Photo required

If neither document has a photo, you must also provide a passport-style photo and an identity declaration signed by an identity referee. The photo must be less than 6 months old.

Download an *Identity referee declaration* form (DL26) at www.nzta.govt.nz/form-DL26

Who can be an identity referee

Your referee must:

- have a valid New Zealand passport or New Zealand driver licence, and
- have known you for at least a year, and
- be at least 16 years old, and
- not be related to you or part of your extended family group, and
- not be your spouse or partner, and
- not live at the same address as you.

Your referee must provide their:

- passport or driver licence number
- name
- date of birth
- contact details, including a daytime phone number.

Your referee must write your full name on the back of the photo and sign and date it. The image must be a good likeness and of equal standard to a driver licence or passport photo.

Note: a business that takes passport photos may supply a photo with a pre-printed label on the back.

Name change

If your name has changed from the one on your driver licence (for example due to marriage or civil union, or you've changed your name) you'll need to provide evidence of the name change.

You'll also need to provide **linking name change documents** if the names on all of your ID aren't the same.

You'll need to provide one of the following documents as proof of your name change. The documents must be originals, and be issued in New Zealand by the Department of Internal Affairs or the Ministry of Justice.

Document type
Birth certificate showing both names
Marriage or civil union certificate
Copy of particulars of marriage or civil union
Dissolution of marriage or civil union order ¹
Certificate of annulment
Deed poll certificate, change of name certificate
Statutory declaration confirming change of name which has been registered with the Registrar of Birth, Deaths and Marriages

¹Your dissolution document will only have your married name. You'll also need to provide linking documents that show your previous name as well, eg birth certificate, passport or marriage certificate.

ID for sitting a test

When you're sitting a test, you'll also need to prove your identity.

Theory tests

If you're sitting your theory test at the same time you make your application, you'll already have your ID from making your application. This is all you need.

If you're coming back at a later date to sit or re-sit your theory test, you'll need to provide valid photo ID so the agent can be sure the right person is sitting the test. This could be:

- your New Zealand passport (current or expired up to 2 years)
- a current Kiwi Access/18+ card
- current photographic student ID
- your New Zealand driver licence (current or expired up to 2 years)
- any photographic document from *Table 1: Primary documents* on page 1 of this factsheet.

Practical tests

If you're sitting a practical driving test, you must have a valid driver licence.

If you have a current New Zealand photo driver licence, then this is all you need.

If you're using a temporary driver licence, you'll also need to provide photo ID to the testing officer so they can be sure the right person is sitting the test. This could be:

- an expired New Zealand photo driver licence
- an overseas photo driver licence
- a passport
- a Kiwi Access or 18+ card
- a photographic student ID
- any other photographic document from *Table 1: Primary documents* or *Table 2: Supporting documents*
- any other form of photo ID where the testing officer can clearly see that the person recorded on the temporary licence is the same person on the photo ID.

This is the only time where the photo ID doesn't have to be valid or approved, as it's accompanying the temporary driver licence. In all other cases the ID must be valid for driver licensing purposes.

If you don't have the right ID

If you don't have any of the ID listed on this page, you'll need to get some approved ID before you can make a driver licensing application.

Check our website for links to most government agencies to apply for ID.

www.nzta.govt.nz/no-ID

If you can't get legislated ID

If you only need a replacement driver licence, and none of the details on your driver licence record need to be changed, you may be able to apply using alternative ID.

www.nzta.govt.nz/alternative-ID-replacement

If you need to make any other type of driver licence application, you'll need to contact Waka Kotahi to see what we may be able to accept. We'll assess your circumstances on a case-by-case basis.



This factsheet is a general guide only. It doesn't replace legal advice, and your exact requirements will depend on current legislation.

Make sure you have the most up-to-date version of this factsheet by checking www.nzta.govt.nz/factsheets

www.nzta.govt.nz

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