

Changes to the driver licence test system:

The reintroduced re-sit fees for Class 1 licences, along with fees for overseas licence conversions, will come into effect on 8 July 2024.

Class 1 driver licence test applicants sitting a theory or practical test will remain eligible for one free re-sit and will be required to pay for any additional test following this. Class 1 overseas licence conversions will not be eligible for any free re-sits and, if they fail the first test, will be required to pay for any additional test.

There will be a three-month transition period for drivers who have already paid an application fee under the previous system to ensure they can progress through their current licence stage before these changes give effect.

Below are the new fees for Class 1 driver licence tests (GST exclusive figures):

Current	New
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Class 1 licence fees (except overseas conversions)				
Licence stage	Fee for application, first test and unlimited re-sits	Initial fee (covering application fee, first and second test)	Theory test resit fee (covering one test, paid from the third test onwards)	Practical test resit fee (covering one test, paid from the third test onwards)
New Class 1 learner	\$83.57	\$83.57	\$47.48	N/A
New Class 1 restricted	\$145.65	\$145.65	N/A	\$89.39
New Class 1 full	\$86.00	\$86.00	N/A	\$62.52
Test reschedule fee - per test reschedule if cancellation made within 2 working days	N/A	N/A	\$14.26	\$14.26

NZTA's operational interventions to address driver licencing wait times:

Measure	Commentary
Overtime for Driver Testing Officers (DTOs)	Since March 2024, DTOs have completed an additional 10,000 practical tests during overtime hours.
Temporary surge support from NZTA staff for training driver testing officers DTOs	There are currently four NZTA staff acting as instructors to support training DTOs. An additional staff member is currently in training to be able to provide DTO training.
Increased onboarding of DTOs	The number of DTOs has been increased by 25 nationwide, since December 2023.
Additional training courses for new DTOs to enable increased onboarding of DTOs	The number of annual DTO training courses has increased from five-six (pre-fees and funding review) to eight (forecast on current numbers as of 24 May 2024).
Increased education and communications	Text reminders to applicants 24 and 48 hours before their test were implemented by VTNZ in March 2024. VTNZ is working on further improving this service, by providing test applicants with a way to cancel their test in one step (through a specific response to the reminder text).
Additional theory testing booths	Additional theory testing booths added at AA Queenstown and AA Dunedin. VTNZ is soon to add an additional booth at their Hastings site.
Increased testing operating hours at many theory testing sites	During May 2024 there were 30 sites operating outside the site's standard hours. A total of 259 theory tests were conducted outside of standard hours.
Implementation of 10 working-day stand down after two theory test fails	The 10 working-day stand down after two theory test fails was implemented in January 2024.
Prevention of 'Bots' from booking driver licence tests	At least one Bot has been prevented from accessing the test booking site since ongoing Bot monitoring was implemented following the October 2023 fee change. This Bot had been set up to charge a fee to customers in return for automated scanning and booking of test slots as they became available.