



RoadSafetyBC
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Enhanced Road Assessment Policy

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RoadSafetyBC

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1.0 Overview

The Superintendent of Motor Vehicles (the Superintendent) is responsible for assessing drivers and making driver fitness decisions. The RoadSafetyBC Driver Medical Fitness Program is program area under the Superintendent that is responsible for determining driver medical fitness to ensure the safety of all road users. The goal of the Driver Medical Fitness Program is to ensure that drivers are provided the maximum licensing privileges possible, while taking into account the effects any medical conditions may have on the functions necessary for driving.

The Enhanced Road Assessment (ERA) is a driving assessment used by the Superintendent to evaluate a driver's functional ability to drive. It consists of tasks designed to assess driving skills and behaviours in situations of increasing complexity, yet within the abilities of a healthy, experienced driver. The ERA is used to assess drivers with cognitive, motor, and/or sensory impairments that may adversely affect their ability to drive.

The ERA is conducted by the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) under delegated authority from the Superintendent. ICBC only delivers the ERA to drivers referred by the Superintendent.

2.0 Authorities:

Section 29 of the *Motor Vehicle Act* (MVA) provides the Superintendent with authority to refer a driver to ICBC to complete a road test, or to be otherwise examined as to the driver's fitness and ability to drive.

Under Section 92 of the MVA, the Superintendent may direct ICBC to cancel a driver's licence if the driver has not complied with a requirement to complete the ERA within the timeframe given in the referral letter, or if the Superintendent considers the driver unable or unfit to drive a motor vehicle. In both cases, the Superintendent may also direct ICBC to issue a different class of driver's licence.

Section 117 of the MVA provides the Superintendent authority to delegate powers, duties, or functions to staff of RoadSafetyBC and to ICBC¹.

3.0 Referrals

Referrals to the ERA are made by RoadSafetyBC adjudicators and nurse case managers as part of the process of making a driver medical fitness determination. Class 5 and Class 7 drivers with a medical condition that may affect the motor, cognitive, or sensory functions required for driving may be referred to ICBC for the ERA.

The ERA is used for all ICBC conducted Class 5 and Class 7 on-road assessments required by the Superintendent, replacing previous assessment tools used by RoadSafetyBC.

¹ Where this Policy refers to RoadSafetyBC that reference includes the Superintendent's delegates, as applicable.

RoadSafetyBC applies the principles of administrative fairness and refers to the [Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators \(CCMTA\) Medical Standards for Drivers with BC Specific Guidelines](#) to determine whether an ERA is required.

The decision to refer a person to the ERA is based on the entirety of the information on a driver's file, which may include information from medical professionals, police, and the individual's driving record. RoadSafetyBC will not refer drivers to the ERA on the basis of the driver's age.

Some of the reasons a driver may be referred to the ERA by RoadSafetyBC include:

- A doctor or medical practitioner reports a medical condition that may affect a person's fitness or ability to drive safely;
- A collision report, police report or other report indicates a driver may be unsafe;
- Results of a previous on-road assessment suggest a follow-up is necessary.

2.1 Compliance Timeframes

When RoadSafetyBC determines that a driver is required to take an ERA, the driver will be sent a referral letter by regular mail to the address on file with ICBC. Section 31 of the *Motor Vehicle Act* requires drivers to notify ICBC of a change of residential address within 10 days of the change.

The referral letter specifies the timeframe in which the ERA must be completed. Drivers are typically given 60 days from the date of the referral letter to take the ERA. In cases where RoadSafetyBC has found that the driver may pose a greater public safety risk, a driver may be given 45 days to comply with the ERA request.

Under section 92 of the *Motor Vehicle Act*, the Superintendent may direct ICBC to cancel a driver's licence if the driver has not complied with a requirement to complete the ERA within the timeframe given in the referral letter. Cancellation of the driver's licence may also be initiated by ICBC as directed by the Superintendent when non-compliance is confirmed. In these circumstances, the driver will remain ineligible for a driver's licence until the requirement is met.

2.2 Extensions

In some circumstances, an extension of the timeframe given to complete the ERA may be provided. ICBC may provide a one-time 30 day extension per ERA referral to drivers requesting more time to complete the assessment. Any subsequent requests or requests greater than 30 days must be referred to RoadSafetyBC.

When requesting an extension from RoadSafetyBC, drivers must book an ERA appointment and then request an extension until the date of the appointment. RoadSafetyBC will not provide open-ended extensions.

Some of the reasons a driver may be given an extension greater than 30 days by RoadSafetyBC include:

- Out of town
- Illness
- Family emergency
- Inclement weather
- Insufficient appointment availability

3.0 The Enhanced Road Assessment

The ERA consists of a pre-trip vehicle orientation, on-road drive with a feedback component, and a post-trip review. The assessment is conducted by an ICBC driver examiner in a passenger vehicle provided by the driver.

During the pre-trip vehicle orientation, the driver examiner will inspect the vehicle to ensure it meets the safety standards required for any ICBC road test. If the vehicle does not meet safety standards, the ERA will be discontinued. The driver examiner will ask the driver to demonstrate the use of vehicle safety controls while the vehicle is in park and record observations of the driver on the ERA report form.

The table below summarizes the required components of the ERA on-road drive.

ERA Tasks	Description	
A minimum number of particular driving manoeuvres	Right turns	10
	Left turns	10
	Stops	4
	Through intersections	8
	Lane changes	6
	Change in speed zone (school, playground)	2
	Parking manoeuvre	2
Adjust Safety Controls Task (2)	The driver will be asked to adjust a secondary vehicle control identified during the pre-trip vehicle orientation while driving (e.g. windshield wipers, headlights, defroster)	
Multiple Step Directions Task (2)	The driver examiner will provide the driver a three-step direction to follow.	
Reverse Route Task (1)	From a stopped position, the driver examiner will advise the driver they will be given directions away from the current location, then asked to follow exactly the same route back to the starting location.	

Feedback Component (1)	Approximately halfway through the on-road drive and with the vehicle in park, the driver examiner provides the driver with feedback on one or two types of errors, allowing the driver an opportunity to improve their driving for the remainder of the assessment.
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Highway driving is not an essential component of the ERA, but may be included depending on location.

The driver examiner will assess functional driving skills and behaviours, and note errors made and objective observations on the ERA report form. Errors with a lower safety risk have a lower weighting and are worth fewer demerits.

The driver examiner will record any traffic violations, Dangerous Actions, or other safety concerns as defined by the Superintendent in the ICBC Driver Medical Policy. A traffic violation is a violation of traffic rules under the *Motor Vehicle Act* or its regulations. A Dangerous Action is any action, or lack of action, which results in, or could result in a collision, or loss of control of the vehicle. Examples of other safety concerns include hitting another road user, curb, or fixed object.

The driver's ability to complete tasks and respond to the feedback is also recorded by the driver examiner.

As with all road tests conducted by ICBC, the ERA on-road drive may be discontinued if the driver demonstrates dangerous and unsafe driving that is a risk to the driver examiner and/or other road users.

3.1 Licence Held After the ERA

After the ERA is completed, a post-trip review is conducted at the ICBC Driver Licensing Office. The driver is given an overview of how they performed on the assessment, and provided with a copy of the ERA report form, which identifies errors that occurred and may include notes from the driver examiner.

ICBC may place restrictions on a driver's licence under delegated authority from the Superintendent or as permitted by the MVA. Any restrictions added to a driver's licence after the ERA will be identified on the ERA report form and explained to the driver. The driver examiner will also explain the process for applying to have the restriction removed.

After the ERA is completed, the driver will hold one of the following:

- Full-privilege driver's licence (DL)
- Learner's driver's licence (LDL)

As per the Motor Vehicle Act Regulations, an LDL holder is only permitted to drive when accompanied by a licensed supervisor.

The licence held after the ERA is dependent on whether the driver committed a traffic violation, Dangerous Action, or other safety concern. This is summarized in the table below.

Licence held before taking the ERA	Traffic Violation(s), Dangerous Action(s), and/or other safety concern(s)	Licensing after the ERA, pending RoadSafetyBC decision
Class 5/7 DL	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Class 5/7 DL cancelled – Class 5/7 LDL issued – If applicable, Class 1-4 LDL cancelled
Class 5/7 LDL	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Class 5/7 LDL returned to driver
Class 5/7	NO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Class 5/7 DL returned to driver
Class 5/7 LDL	NO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Class 5/7 DL issued

A letter specifying the driver’s current licence type and advising of the next steps of the process will be issued to the driver by ICBC on behalf of the Superintendent.

ICBC will fax the ERA report form to RoadSafetyBC and submit a narrative report of the driver examiner’s observations directly into a shared information system for RoadSafetyBC review. The narrative report will include the driver examiner’s level of concern about the driver’s ability to safely drive, based on objective observations. This will be recorded as low, moderate, or high.

In some circumstances, the driver examiner may have significant safety concerns based on observations made during an ERA. In these cases, the driver examiner will indicate “For Immediate Review” (FIR) on the ERA report form and the report will be prioritized during the RoadSafetyBC triage process and result in an expedited review of the driver’s file.

4.0 RoadSafetyBC Licensing Decision

All ERA results are reviewed by RoadSafetyBC, along with all other information in a driver’s file, to make a licensing decision.

ERA results are received electronically and are prioritized relative to other documents received by RoadSafetyBC. Results are typically reviewed in order of date received, however if an ERA report form has been marked FIR, it will be prioritized over regular ERA results. All ERA results will be reviewed by RoadSafetyBC within 14 days of the date the ERA is completed.

RoadSafetyBC will make a licensing decision by determining whether the driver is medically fit and functionally able to safely drive.

The type of information considered by RoadSafetyBC when making a licensing decision includes:

- Medical information
- Police reports (if applicable)
- Unsolicited reports from concerned family members or citizens (if applicable)
- File history
- Driving record
- Number and types of errors made during the ERA as indicated on the ERA report form
- Narrative report of the ERA
- Response to Feedback given during the ERA

The possible licensing outcomes of a RoadSafetyBC licensing decision are:

- Full-privilege driver's licence
- Restricted driver's licence
- Cancelled driver's licence

In some cases, RoadSafetyBC may determine that further information is required in order to make a licensing decision, and may request an additional ERA or medical assessment.

Once the licensing decision has been made, RoadSafetyBC will send a decision letter to the driver by regular mail notifying of the licensing decision or if further assessment is required.

4.1 Full-Privilege Driver's Licence

Where RoadSafetyBC finds that a driver is medically fit and functionally able to safely drive, the licensing outcome will be a full-privilege driver's licence, subject to any other prohibitions, suspensions or restrictions not related to medical fitness that may apply. If the driver holds a full-privilege driver's licence, no further action is required from the driver. If the driver holds an LDL, they must return to an ICBC Driver Licensing Office to obtain a full-privilege driver's licence. The driver will be informed of any required action by RoadSafetyBC in writing.

RoadSafetyBC may schedule a re-assessment of the driver's medical fitness to drive for a later date. The re-assessment interval is based on the driver's medical condition and the results of the ERA.

4.2 Restricted Driver's Licence

RoadSafetyBC may determine that a restriction should be added to a driver's licence. For example, a driver may require the use of a device or technology to enable safe operation of a motor vehicle. Any restrictions placed on a driver's licence by RoadSafetyBC are in addition to restrictions, conditions or endorsements that may already be on the driver's licence. The driver

will be informed of any restrictions added by RoadSafetyBC in writing, and must return to an ICBC Driver Licensing Office to be issued a driver's licence with the applicable restrictions

4.3 Cancelled Driver's Licence

Where RoadSafetyBC finds that a driver is not medically fit and functionally able to safely drive, the licensing decision will be to cancel the driver's licence. RoadSafetyBC will direct ICBC to cancel the driver's licence.

4.4 Request for further assessment

Where RoadSafetyBC does not have sufficient information to support any of the above findings, an additional ERA or medical assessment may be requested.

5.0 Review of an ERA Licensing Decision

A referral to the ERA is a mandatory requirement from the Superintendent, under Section 29 of the *Motor Vehicle Act*. If new medical information is submitted to RoadSafetyBC from a driver's medical professional, it will be reviewed and considered along with all other information in the driver's file. In some circumstances, this may result in the cancellation of an ERA requirement.

If a driver's licence is cancelled as a result of the ERA process, the driver may request a review of the cancellation decision. Reviews must be submitted to RoadSafetyBC by mail or fax from the driver or their medical professional. The driver's cancellation decision letter will specify medical information that may be required for the review.

If a driver's licence is restricted as a result of the ERA process, the driver may request a reconsideration of the decision to apply the following Driver Medical Fitness Restrictions:

- R25 – Fitted prosthesis/leg brace required
- R26 – Specified vehicle modification required
- R28 – Restricted to automatic transmission
- R51 – Visible Low Air Warning Device
- R51 – Hand controls only

There is no fee or timeframe associated with a review or reconsideration. Reviews and reconsiderations are not conducted by the adjudicator or nurse case manager that made the original decision. The status of the driver's licence will remain unchanged while the review or reconsideration process is underway. The review and reconsideration processes are outlined on the [RoadSafetyBC website](#).