

## **Driving, Medical Conditions, and Road Safety**

RoadSafetyBC is responsible for assessing and determining driver medical fitness to ensure the safety of all road users. The goal of RoadSafetyBC's 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.

RoadSafetyBC understands that driving provides mobility and independence for British Columbians, and can have a great impact on quality of life. We want British Columbians to retain their driving privileges as long as possible, while ensuring our roads remain safe for all users.

## **What is the Enhanced Road Assessment (ERA)?**

The ERA is a driving assessment that evaluates a driver's ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. Drivers with a medical condition that may affect the motor, cognitive, or sensory functions required for driving may be referred to the ERA.

The ERA is administered by the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) on behalf of RoadSafetyBC, and is conducted in a vehicle you provide. Your ERA appointment can take up to 90 minutes and consists of a pre-trip vehicle orientation, 45 minute on-road drive, and a post-trip review.

RoadSafetyBC wants you to be successful on the ERA. The ERA is different from an ICBC road test or previous tools used by RoadSafetyBC to assess driver medical fitness. It is not a test that can be passed or failed. The ERA assesses driving skills and behaviours in a real-world driving environment, where a driver must self-navigate and adapt to changes. The results of the ERA are reviewed by RoadSafetyBC, along with all other relevant information in a driver's file, in order to make a licensing decision.

## **Booking your ERA**

To book your ERA appointment, please call ICBC at one of the following:

**Metro Vancouver - 604-661-2255**

**Rest of BC - 1-888-715-7775**

As wait times can vary, please call ICBC to book your appointment as soon as you receive your referral letter to ensure you are able to take the ERA within the timeframe given.

## **ERA Checklist (What to bring)**

- Your current driver's licence
- One other piece of identification (e.g. credit card or bank card with your name and signature; visit [icbc.com](http://icbc.com) for information on acceptable ID)
- A vehicle in good working order
- Proof of valid vehicle registration
- A companion who holds a valid driver's licence (in the event you are issued a learner's driver's licence after the ERA)
- Your glasses or contact lenses if you need them to drive or read
- This letter

## **What to expect from your ERA**

RoadSafetyBC wants you to be successful on the ERA. We recognize that drivers may feel nervous about taking the ERA, and that driving skills and habits can change over time. The following information is intended to give you a basic understanding of what to expect and to provide tips on how to prepare for your ERA so that you may perform your best.

**Before your ERA:**

- **Assess your own driving.** Have you found yourself in situations that suggest you may need to make adjustments to improve your driving abilities? For example, excessive braking, getting lost in familiar places, misjudged left turns, near misses with other vehicles or pedestrians, confusing the gas and brake pedals, or hitting curbs? Everyone's driving skills and habits change over time, and you may need to make adjustments to your driving to ensure your safety and the safety of other road users.
- **Practice!** We encourage you to practice your driving skills before your ERA. Ask a family member or friend with a valid driver's licence to sit in the passenger seat to observe your driving, then provide feedback. Having another perspective can help identify areas for improvement that you can practice before your ERA. Remember to be open to receiving feedback and to consider it as constructive, rather than personal criticism.
- **Read ICBC's study guides.** Read the "Learn to Drive Smart" and "Tuning up for Drivers" study guides to refresh your knowledge and driving skills. Both of these manuals are available online at [www.icbc.com/driver-licensing/driving-guides](http://www.icbc.com/driver-licensing/driving-guides) and at any ICBC Driver Licensing Office. These comprehensive guides provide detailed steps and helpful tips on how to safely perform basic driving maneuvers that will be assessed on the ERA.
- **Take a refresher course from a driving school.** For a list of local driving schools, visit [www.dtcbc.com](http://www.dtcbc.com).
- **Use a familiar vehicle in good working order.** The ERA is conducted in a vehicle you provide. Using a familiar vehicle may ease nerves and make you feel more comfortable. Ensure your seat is in a comfortable position and your mirrors are appropriately adjusted when you arrive for your ERA. You should be familiar with the vehicle's secondary controls, including the defrost controls, windshield wipers and high-beam lights. The vehicle used must be safe and reliable. If the Driver Examiner finds the vehicle unsafe, your ERA will be discontinued. For more information on vehicle safety requirements, please visit ICBC's website [www.icbc.com](http://www.icbc.com).

- **The day of your ERA**, arrive approximately 15 minutes before your appointment time. Allow yourself time to check in and avoid feeling rushed. Try to relax and feel confident in the practice and preparation you have done.

### During your ERA:

- The ERA consists of a pre-trip vehicle orientation, 45 minute on-road drive, and post-trip review. The total appointment time may be up to 90 minutes.
- During the pre-trip, your driver examiner will inspect your vehicle to ensure it is safe, and ask you to use various vehicle controls including signals, headlights, and the gas and brake pedals.
- During the on-road driving assessment, your driver examiner will ask you to demonstrate your ability to safely:
  - **Conduct basic driving maneuvers** – you will be asked to make right and left turns, navigate through intersections and traffic lights, and make lane changes. Remember to use your mirrors, shoulder check, keep to the posted speed limit, come to a complete stop at stop signs and red lights, and only proceed when safe.
  - **Adjust vehicle controls** – you will be asked to adjust a safety feature in the vehicle, such as the windshield wipers or high-beam lights, while the vehicle is in motion.
  - **Follow multi-step directions** – you will be given a three-step driving direction to remember and follow. For example, turn right at the next intersection, then turn left at the traffic light, and then left at the stop sign.
  - **Reverse a driving route** – you will be asked to drive a few blocks away from a specific location, then turn around and follow the exact same route back to the starting place.

- Halfway through the on-road driving portion, there will be a five minute break in which your driver examiner will provide feedback, giving you an opportunity to make changes and improve your driving for the remainder of the assessment.
- Once you are back at the Driver Licensing Office you will have your post-trip review. Your Driver Examiner will discuss the results of your ERA with you, outlining any errors, traffic violations, Dangerous Actions, or other safety concerns that may have occurred. A Dangerous Action is an action, or lack of action, that results in, or could result in, a collision or loss of vehicle control.

**After your ERA:**

- ICBC will send the results of your ERA to RoadSafetyBC, where a licensing decision will be made. Based on all of the information in your file, RoadSafetyBC will decide whether to maintain, re-issue, restrict or cancel your driver's licence. In some cases, further medical information or an additional ERA may be required in order to make a licensing decision.
- If there were no traffic violations, Dangerous Actions, or other safety concerns during your ERA, you will hold a full-privilege driver's licence while your file is reviewed by RoadSafetyBC.
- If there were any traffic violations, Dangerous Actions, or other safety concerns during your ERA, you will hold a learner's driver's licence (LDL) while your file is reviewed by RoadSafetyBC. If you hold an LDL, you will be required to have a licensed supervisor in the vehicle when you drive.
- You will be notified in writing of the licensing decision, or if further information is required to determine your medical fitness to drive. You will receive a letter from RoadSafetyBC outlining the licensing decision.

## **Restrictions**

If appropriate, RoadSafetyBC or ICBC may place a restriction on your driver's licence to ensure you can safely operate your motor vehicle and drive within your ability.

Restrictions are commonly added when a driver has a medical condition or functional difficulty, or uses a device or technology to drive. For example, a driver with limited vision may have a restriction which requires them to wear corrective lenses when they drive.

## **Retiring from driving**

If you decide not to take the ERA, you can retire from driving, by exchanging your driver's licence for a free British Columbia Identification Card (BCID). This can be done at an ICBC Driver Licensing Office.

Information on driving resources and alternatives to driving are available on our website at [www.gov.bc.ca/roadsafetybc/seniors](http://www.gov.bc.ca/roadsafetybc/seniors).

## **For More Information**

To find out more on general licensing requirements, visit [icbc.com](http://icbc.com) or call ICBC driver licensing at **1-800-950-1498** (toll-free in BC) / **250-978-8300** (in Victoria).

Visit [icbc.com/locators](http://icbc.com/locators) for a list of local Driver Licensing Offices.

For more information on the ERA and medical requirements for driving, visit [www.gov.bc.ca/roadsafetybc/driver-medical-fitness](http://www.gov.bc.ca/roadsafetybc/driver-medical-fitness), or call RoadSafetyBC (toll-free in BC) at **1-855-387-7747**.