

June 8, 2021

Dear Stakeholder:

Re: Class A Manual Transmission Restriction

This memorandum is an update to the follow-up letter you received on April 27, 2021, regarding the proposed changes to the regulatory definition of a manual transmission and new implementation date for the Class A Manual Transmission Restriction. The Ministry of Transportation is pleased to advise that these changes will be implemented.

Effective July 19, 2021, individuals completing the Class A or Class A restricted (AR) road test in a vehicle with an automatic transmission, including semi-automatic and automated-manual transmissions, will be restricted from operating Class A/AR vehicles with a manual transmission and only permitted to operate automatic, semi-automatic and automated-manual transmission Class A/AR vehicles. This restriction will be added to their driver record and will appear on the front of the driver's licence card as "REST/COND G" and "Restr Class/Categ. Avec restr" on the back of the card. The restriction applies to Class A/AR only and will not apply when operating lower-class vehicles (e.g., Class G/D).

For regulatory and enforcement purposes, a motor vehicle has a manual transmission if it is equipped with,

- (a) a driver-operated clutch that is activated by a pedal or lever; and
- (b) a driver-operated gear-shift mechanism that is operated by hand or foot and does not use the assistance of automation.

For greater certainty, a semi-automatic transmission or an automated-manual transmission is not considered to be a manual transmission.

New Class A/AR applicants will continue to have the option to attempt their Class A /AR road test with any type of transmission. If individuals wish to operate manual transmission Class A/AR vehicles or wish to remove the Class A/AR manual transmission restriction, they must pass the Class A/AR road test in a vehicle with a manual transmission. For road test purposes, a manual transmission must consist of at least eight forward gears with a high-low range.

Once the road test is passed, these individuals will be permitted to operate Class A/AR vehicles with manual, automatic, semi-automatic or automated-manual transmissions and they will not have a restriction added to their driver's licence.

Individuals who hold a Class A /AR licence prior to July 19, 2021 may continue to drive Class A/AR automatic, semi-automatic, automated-manual or manual transmission vehicles. However, if Class A/AR holders are required to complete a Class A /AR road test as of July 19, 2021 (e.g., Ministry-Required Testing) and complete the road test in an automatic, semi-automatic or automated-manual transmission vehicle, the restriction will be added to their driver's record and driver's licence.

Individuals that fail to comply with the Class A manual transmission restriction will be in contravention of section 32(9) of the *Highway Traffic Act*, which makes it an offence for a driver to fail to comply with a licence condition. Section 32(10.1) makes it an offence for an owner to permit a driver to drive a vehicle contrary to a licence condition.

Training providers continue to have the option to deliver training using their existing vehicles and are not required to alter their current training programs.

I would ask that you please bring this memorandum to the attention of the appropriate members of your organization. If anyone would like to discuss this change, they may contact Kim MacCarl, Manager, Driver Program Development Office at (416) 459-4044 or email Kim.MacCarl@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Derek Lett', written in a cursive style.

Derek Lett
A/Director, Safety Program Development Branch
Transportation Safety Division