



NEW ROAD LAWS . VICTORIA

Mobile phones

Using a mobile phone while driving is prohibited, except to make or receive a phone call or to use its audio/music functions provided the phone:

- is secured in a commercially designed holder fixed to the vehicle, or
- can be operated by the driver without touching any part of the body of the phone.
- Red platelers are not allowed to use a mobile unless the car is parked

Using a phone as a GPS while driving is prohibited unless it is secured in a commercially designed holder fixed to the vehicle.

All other functions (including video calls, texting and emailing) are prohibited.

Learner and P1 drivers, are prohibited from using a mobile phone at all while driving.

Holding the phone (whether or not engaged in a phone call) is also prohibited. Holding includes resting the mobile on the driver's lap.

Visual display units

A driver must not drive a vehicle that has a television receiver or a visual display unit operating if any part of the screen is visible to the driver or is likely to distract another driver.

A driver can use a driver's aid such as a navigation device but it must be an integrated part of the vehicle design, or secured in a commercially designed holder, which is fixed to the vehicle.

Exemptions

The rule relating to securing visual display units does not apply to motorcycles.

Road safety reasons

Using a mobile phone or a visual display unit as you drive is distracting and creates dangerous situations that could be fatal.

The risk of being involved in a crash increases by as much as four times, when using a mobile phone as you drive, and if you are texting the risk of crashing increases to 20 times.

A driver must not overtake (), or do a U-turn across a single continuous centre line (), or a single continuous line to the left of a broken line.

However a driver can cross over a centre dividing line (except a double continuous centre dividing line) when entering or leaving the road ().

The driver can also cross over a broken line to overtake or do a U-turn ().

Lane lines

A driver must not change lanes over a single continuous lane line ().

Painted islands

A driver must not drive over a painted island that is surrounded by a single continuous line. However a driver can drive over the island if they are entering or leaving the road, or entering a turning lane that begins immediately after the painted island (see diagram below).



A driver must not drive over a painted island at a freeway on-ramp. It is also illegal to drive on a painted island that is surrounded by a double line.

What you have to do

remember that you can only cross a single continuous centre line if you are entering or leaving the road or to avoid an obstruction.

You can't overtake or do a U-turn over a single continuous line or a double continuous line.

It is the responsibility of the driver to ensure that all passengers in the car are wearing a seatbelt or a child restraint

New road safety rules for drivers

Whilst all of the new road rules affect drivers, these rules are additional new road safety rules particularly for drivers. They include the following:

- At an intersection, a driver must stop at the first stop line and must not enter the area for cyclists when the traffic light is red.
- If a driver is blocking a driveway, the driver is only allowed two minutes to pick up or drop off passengers and must not leave the vehicle unattended.
- A driver must not have another person or animal on their lap.



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- If two vehicles, for example a bicycle and a car or two motorcycles, are travelling in the same single marked lane and one vehicle diverges to the left or right within the marked lane, the diverging vehicle must give way.

What you have to do

Drivers should become familiar with these new rules, as well as all other road rule changes and follow them.

In doing so, drivers will help make the road safer for themselves and other road users.

Road safety reasons

Driving is a complex task, so it is important that drivers concentrate properly and share the road responsibly with other drivers, pedestrians, motorcyclists and cyclists.

Driving with trams

When sharing the road with trams, a driver must stop before passing the rear of a stopped tram at a tram stop. Once the tram doors are closed and pedestrians have crossed between the tram and kerb, a driver may then proceed at no more than 10 km/h past the tram.

Slip lane

Stopping to park in a slip lane or on a painted island will be prohibited.

Figure 1

A slip lane is an area of road for vehicles turning left. It is separated from other parts of the road by a painted island or traffic island.

Parallel parking

Another rule relating to parking relates to parallel parking and the line marking on the road.

Unless parking signs show otherwise, and provided there is at least three metres of clear road between the car and the centre dividing line for other cars to pass (see figure 1), a driver can park opposite:

- double continuous dividing lines
- a single continuous dividing line
- a single continuous line to the left or right of a broken dividing line
- a dividing strip.

A driver is permitted to park opposite a broken line without leaving three metres clear between the parked car and the broken dividing line

Heavy vehicles

Heavy or long vehicles cannot be parked on a road in a built-up area for longer than one hour, unless parking signs show otherwise or the driver is picking up or setting down goods.

Moving parked vehicles

When moving a parked vehicle to another parking spot, the driver must move the vehicle off the length of road, or out of the area, to which the parking sign applies (see figure 2).

There is a range of signs that indicate a parking area, some examples include:



What you have to do

As a driver, don't park in a slip lane or on a painted island.

If you are parking opposite a single line, double lines or a dividing strip, keep at least three metres of road clear for traffic (unless there is a sign to show differently). **Road safety reason**

Cars stopped to park in a slip lane or on a painted island disrupt the flow of traffic.

This creates a dangerous situation for road users. *Source Vic roads web site

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