

April 15, 2021

Dear Stakeholder:

Re: Class A Manual Transmission Restriction

This memorandum is to advise you that the Ministry of Transportation has taken steps to enhance road safety by introducing a Class A manual transmission restriction.

Effective May 17, 2021, individuals completing the Class A road test in a vehicle with an automatic transmission, including automated-manual transmissions, will be restricted from operating a Class A vehicle with a manual transmission. 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 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 has a clutch pedal.

New Class A applicants will continue to have the option to attempt their Class A road test with any type of transmission. If individuals wish to operate manual transmission Class A vehicles or wish to remove the Class A manual transmission restriction, they must pass the Class A road test in a vehicle with a manual transmission. Once the road test is passed, these individuals will be permitted to operate Class A vehicles with manual, automated-manual or automatic transmissions and they will not have a restriction added to their driver's licence.

Individuals who hold a Class A licence prior to May 17, 2021 may continue to drive Class A automated-manual, automatic or manual transmission vehicles. However, if Class A holders are required to complete a Class A road test as of May 17, 2021 (e.g., Ministry-Required Testing) and complete the road test in an automatic transmission vehicle, the restriction will be added to their driver's record.

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 program.

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,



Beth O'Connor
Director, Safety Program Development Branch
Transportation Safety Division