

● Stage 2 ●

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A Learner's Permit is required when trying to obtain a second-class driver's license, in the following circumstances:

- ① When a person with a quasi-medium vehicle licence, or first-class regular motor vehicle license is attempting to obtain a second-class large vehicle license or second-class medium licence.
- ② When a person with a first-class medium vehicle license is attempting to obtain a second-class large vehicle license.
- ③ When a person with a special heavy equipment license is attempting to obtain a second-class large vehicle license, second-class medium vehicle license, or second-class regular license.



Quick Hint

Never drive alone...

Even with a learner's permit, it is extremely dangerous to drive without a person in the car who is qualified to drive the car. You should never do this.

Driving alone is a "Driving illegally with a learner's permit" for which your learner's permit will be revoked.

6 Driving on a Learner's Permit

(1) When a Learner's Permit is Required

In the following circumstances, those who wish to obtain a first-class driver's license must obtain a license appropriate for the kind of automobile being driven¹:

- ① When a person is learning to drive a large vehicle, a medium vehicle, a quasi-medium vehicle, or a regular motor vehicle on a road
- ② When a person is driving a large vehicle, a medium vehicle, a quasi-medium vehicle, or a regular motor vehicle on a road in order to take a licensing test or a graduation test at a designated driving school.

(2) Term of Validity for a Learner's Permit

The term of validity for a learner's permit is six months from the date the license test was taken.

(3) Learning to Drive on a Learner's Permit

When a person with a learner's permit drives a large vehicle, a medium vehicle, a quasi-medium vehicle, or regular motor vehicle for the purpose of learning, he or she must have one of the following people **sitting next to him or her in the front seat** and must drive under this person's instruction.

- ① A driving instructor of a designated driving school (only when actually driving for practice)
- ② A person who has held a first-class license for driving the vehicle for 3 years or more
- ③ A person who holds a second-class license for driving the vehicle

(4) Displaying a "Learner Driver" Sign

When a vehicle is being driven on a learner's permit for the purpose of driving for practice, a **"learner driver" sign** must be displayed in the designated positions at the front and rear of the vehicle.



Affixed between 0.4 meters and 1.2 meters from the ground in a clearly visible spot.

2 Renewing a Driver's License, etc.

1 Submitting Notification of Changes to Information Listed on Driver's License

- ① When one's personal information changes due to a change of address, marriage, or other reason, it is important to report the change as early as possible to one's local public safety commission.
- ② If one's driver's license is lost, stolen, damaged or going to be renewed for personal informations change, it is possible to apply to one's local public safety commission for the license to be reissued.

2 When an Infraction is Committed

A driver who has committed an infraction is given a **traffic violation notice** (blue ticket) and **payment slip** by the policeman or traffic warden.

If there is no objection to the content of the notice, the person has **eight days including the day of the incident** to pay the specified amount of the fine listed on the notice and payment slip at a bank or post office or into the penalty payment account at the prefectural police headquarters, which will complete the procedures.



3 If the Fine is Not Paid



Quick Hint

How the Fine is Spent

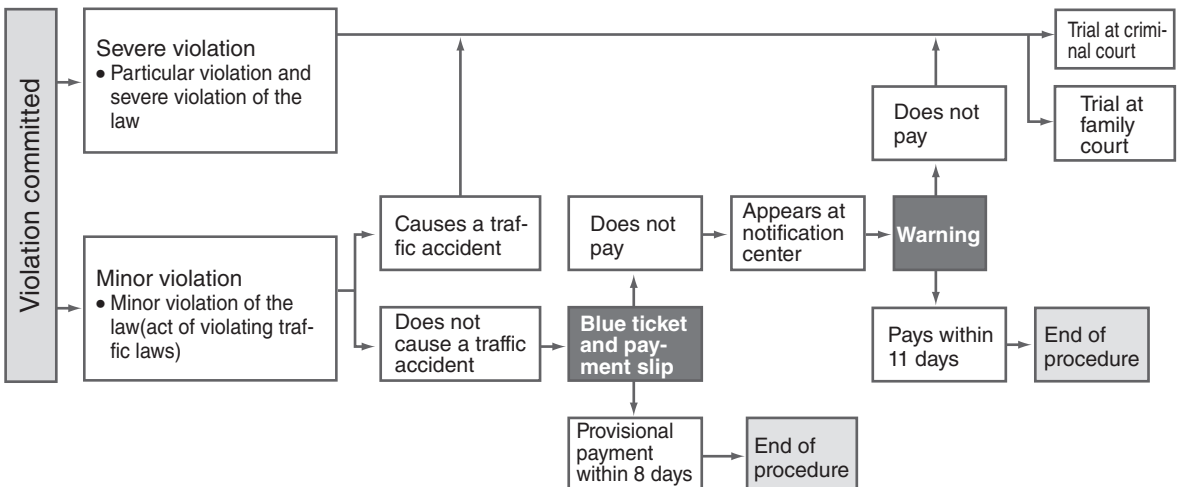
Fines are paid to the national government via a bank or post office. These funds are later issued to prefectures, cities, towns, and villages as special grants for traffic safety measures. The funds are then used for traffic safety facilities such as traffic signals, road signs, and pedestrian overpasses.

After being given a traffic violation notice and payment slip, if a driver does not pay the fine within eight days, he or she must appear at the designated notification center to receive a **written warning** to pay the fine.

A person who receives this warning has **11 days including that day** to pay the fine at a bank or post office, which will complete the procedure. Those who cannot appear at the notification center because they live too far away or for other reasons will be sent the warning by postal mail. In this case, the person must pay the costs of mailing the warning along with the fine.

If the fine is not paid, the person must appear for **trial at a criminal court or family court**.

Traffic Violation Notification System Process



3 Consideration Towards Pedestrians

More than a driver may realize, rainy days are unpleasant for pedestrians and bicyclists. When passing a pedestrian or bicyclist, take them into consideration and drive so as not to splash them with mud or water.



Review

Mark each of the following statements true or false to check your comprehension of the preceding section.

1. At night it is better to turn on the interior lights to illuminate the driver's seat.
2. When driving at night, even if an oncoming vehicle is approaching, lowering your lights would make it more difficult to see in front, so there is no need to do so.
3. On rainy days, the road becomes slippery, making it difficult to stop, so it is better to step hard on the brakes.

▶ ▶ ▶ The correct answers are listed on the last page of the book.

5 Driving in the Fog, etc.

Driving in the fog, snowstorms, or similar conditions, reduces one's field of vision. Therefore, it is important to use headlights, fog lamps and horns, to reduce speed and to drive with discretion.

1 Using Lights

When driving in mist, fog, snowstorms, or similar conditions, it is a good idea to switch on headlights or fog lamps early and drive slowly while using the center line, guard rails, and the tail lamps of the vehicle ahead as rough guides to ensure a safe distance between vehicles.

Light from the high beams will reflect back off the fog, reducing visibility. Therefore, it is best to use the **low beams**.

2 Using the Horn

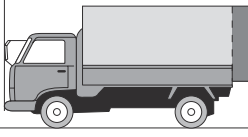
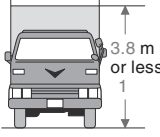
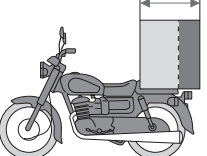
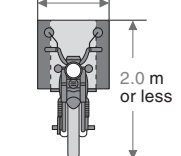
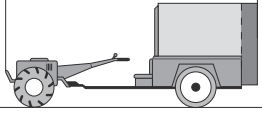
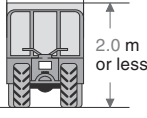
When it is necessary to plan for the prevention of danger, the horn can be used to signal others of your presence. For four-wheeled vehicles, open the window and listen for the movement of other vehicles.

3 Restrictions on Passengers and Vehicle Loading

1 Seating Capacities and Loading Restrictions

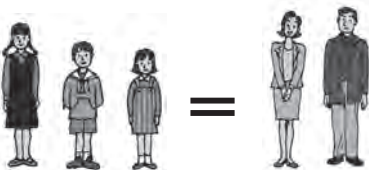
The driver of a vehicle must not attempt to carry more than the established seating capacity (including the driver) or more than the restrictions on cargo allow.

● Seating Capacities and Loading Restrictions

Type of Vehicle	Seating Capacity	Loading Capacity	Size and Carrying Method of Cargo	
Regular motor vehicles, quasi-medium vehicles, medium vehicles, large vehicles, and special heavy equipment	As noted on the automobile inspection certificate or the compact car registration certificate. (Minicars seat one person.)	As noted on the automobile inspection certificate or the compact car registration certificate. (Minicars can carry 90 kg.)	Length of automobile × 1.1 or less (length + 1/10 of length) 	Width of automobile or less 
Regular motorcycles and large-size motorcycles (excluding motorcycles with side cars)	1 (2 people may ride if there is a seat other than the driver's seat.)	60 kg	Length of the carrying device + 0.3 m or less 	Width of the carrying device + 0.15 m or less left and right sides 
Mopeds	1	30 kg		
Special light equipment	1 (2 people may ride if there is a seat other than the driver's seat.)	700 kg	Length of automobile × 1.1 or less (length + 1/10 of length) 	Width of automobile or less 

How to Calculate Seating Capacity When Carrying Children

Count three children under 12 years of age as two adults.



Calculation of seating capacity

(Seating capacity – number of adults riding) × 1.5 = number of children who can ride

Note: Discard the portion after the decimal point.

Practice example

If 2 adults are riding in an automobile having a seating capacity of 5 people, how many children can ride?

Answer

children

RT Law 57 I
Enforcement
Ordinance 22, 23
Safety Standard
53 II

* 1

Height Restrictions of Loading Methods

Depending upon the road and driving conditions, there are special circumstances in which the Public Safety Commission has determined that a vehicle height not exceeding 4.1m is acceptable, if it is determined that there are no road obstructions.



Quick Hint

What are the restrictions regarding special-type regular motor vehicles and special heavy equipment?

The seating capacity and the maximum load of the following vehicles is as follows:

- Regular agricultural-use vehicles used for spraying pesticides that cannot travel at speeds greater than 35 km/hr:
Seating capacity: 1 Person
Loading capacity: 1,500 kg
- Special heavy equipment used for agricultural work that cannot travel at speeds greater than 35km/hr
Seating capacity: 1 Person
- Special heavy equipment 4.7m or less in length, 1.7m or less in width and 2.8m or less in height that cannot travel at speeds greater than 15km/hr
Seating capacity: 1 Person
Loading capacity: 1,000 kg

Note: See answer on following page.