

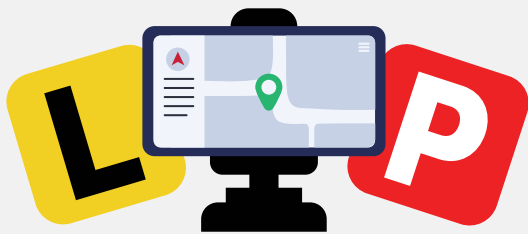
# New Victorian Road Rules

## Learner and Probationary Drivers and Riders

Factsheet

March 2023

### ! New Distracted Driver Road Rules - 31 March 2023



From 31 March 2023, there are new Road Rules, regulating the use of a range of portable, wearable, mounted and inbuilt devices while driving a vehicle or riding a motorbike.

Due to lack of experience and increased road safety risk, more restrictions apply to Learner and Probationary (L and P) drivers and riders than those who are fully licensed when it comes to distracted driving.

It is important that you know these rules and follow them while you are driving or riding. These rules replace mobile phone information included in the below publications:

- Road to Solo Driving
- Learner Kit
- Probationary Kit
- Victorian Rider Handbook

The new rules cover:

- **Portable devices** (unmounted mobile phones, tablets or laptops)
- **Mounted devices** (Heads-up displays, tablets, mobile phones, media players etc if securely mounted in or on a vehicle)
- **Inbuilt devices** (Information, navigation, and entertainment systems, heads-up displays that are an inbuilt part of the vehicle)
- **Wearable devices** (smartwatches, smart glasses, wearable heads-up displays), and
- **Motorbike helmet devices** (heads-up displays, communicators, cameras and inbuilt or secured mobile phones).

Note: For mobile phones and tablets to be considered a 'mounted device', the mounting must be commercially designed and manufactured for that purpose, and the device must be secured in the mounting according to manufacturer's instructions and attached to the vehicle.

### Rules for all devices

From 31 March 2023, when driving vehicles or riding motorbikes L and P drivers cannot:

- Operate portable devices in any way, including for phone calls and navigation
- Use voice controls to operate any devices
- Enter text, numbers or symbols
- Scroll (such as on websites, social media, playlists)
- Play videos or games or take video calls
- Display text messages, social media, emails, or photos
- Rest a device on any part of the body, or pass a device to a passenger.

## Rules for portable devices

When driving, you must not:

- Touch a portable device (regardless of whether the device is on or off)
- Look at the display of a portable device being operated by another person
- Allow a portable device to be in your lap or resting on any part of your body or clothes (unless it is in a pocket or a holding pouch attached to your clothes e.g. to your belt)
- Operate a portable device at all - not even by using voice controls
- Have any ongoing activity on a portable device while driving, such as audio or navigation.

**Important:** *If you want to operate a portable device on a motorbike or in a motor vehicle, you will need to be parked.*

## Rules for mounted devices and inbuilt navigation and entertainment systems

While driving, you must not:

- Scroll or enter information, text, numbers or symbols on mounted or inbuilt devices
- Use voice controls to operate any mounted or inbuilt devices
- Use the device for:
  - Reading or writing text messages, emails, message threads or viewing websites
  - Watching movies, TV, video games or other moving images
  - Viewing social media and photos
  - Video or audio calls.

However, you can:

- Use **mounted devices** for navigation and playing audio (such as music, podcasts or GPS directions) providing it is set up before a journey commences
  - For navigation, a safer option is to only use the GPS audio directions and avoid looking at the images on the screen
  - You must pull over and park to change a song or enter a different address
  - You are not permitted to touch a mounted device for any purpose during a drive
- Briefly touch your **inbuilt device** to adjust navigation settings, climate controls and audio functions (such as the radio).

## Rules for wearables

When driving, you must not:

- Touch a wearable device (other than by incidental contact with the device caused by the driver wearing the device)
- Operate the device using voice controls, including for phone calls
- Look at the display of a wearable device being operated by another person in the motor vehicle

However, you can:

- Play or stream audio material on a wearable device, provided it is set up before you begin driving, or by pulling over and parking first
- Only operate the wearable device by permitting ongoing activity on the device. This means you will need to park before you can touch the device or before you can use voice controls to adjust the volume or change what audio is playing.



## Rules for motorbike helmet devices

You can only use a motorbike helmet device for:

- Information or images associated with the safety or operation of the bike
- Playing or streaming audio material (music, podcasts, audio books)
- Navigation.

However, you must not:

- Touch the device or use voice controls when doing the above.

The functions need to be set up before you start riding, and you must pull over to change the settings.

## Penalties

It is important that you are aware of all the rules relating to using devices in a vehicle or on a motorbike as penalties apply to offences related to these distracted driver road rules.

## Mobile phone and seatbelt detection cameras

Mobile phone and seatbelt detection cameras are being introduced in Victoria. The cameras capture drivers who are holding mobile phones or other devices while driving as well as drivers and passengers who are not wearing seatbelts, or not wearing them properly. Where the cameras detect a passenger not wearing a seatbelt, the driver will be issued with an infringement notice for failing to ensure the passenger is wearing a seatbelt.

## Find out more

For more information, including Frequently Asked Questions, visit:

**Visit:** [vicroads.vic.gov.au/drivingdistractions](https://vicroads.vic.gov.au/drivingdistractions)