

Making it easier and cheaper to become a bus driver

Bus Driver Authority Changes from the 26 October 2023



Bus Industry Taskforce interim recommendations

Regulatory changes making it easier and cheaper to become a bus driver

1. Waived the \$70 application fee for 12 months.
2. No longer satisfy Transport of an applicant's 'right to work' status in Australia.
3. Medical assessments must be passed before submitting a Bus Driver Authority (BDA) application.
4. Change of driver licence tenure requirements enabling eligibility for more persons 25 years or older.
5. Send notices electronically rather than via mail or in person.

What will change for bus driver applicants from 26 October 2023?

Hard copy medical assessment no longer needed

- Applicants **must pass** a **commercial** medical assessment **before** they apply for a BDA.
- Applicants can enter their personal information into the online form to check if their medical has been recorded on Transport systems. If it has, they can automatically proceed with their application.
- If Transport has not updated a commercial medical assessment record, then the applicant will be warned that their application will be refused if they submit an application.

Remember

It can take up to **72 hours** for Transport to receive and review your medical results.

What will change for bus driver applicants from 26 October 2023?

Tips on getting your commercial medical assessment

Make sure your doctor:

1. Submits your **commercial** medical assessment **online** using **HealthLink**. They will get an instant confirmation that your assessment has been securely received by Transport for NSW.
2. Answers **'YES'** on the medical form to the question: "*Is this medical for the purpose of driving public passenger vehicles?*"

Ask your doctor for a date-stamped copy of the assessment as confirmation of the submission.

What will change from 26 October 2023?

No need to confirm lawful status to work in Australia

Bus operators will be responsible for checking that their employee can legally work in Australia.

A BDA does not give a driver the right to work if they were otherwise unable to lawfully work in Australia.


Applicant will no longer:

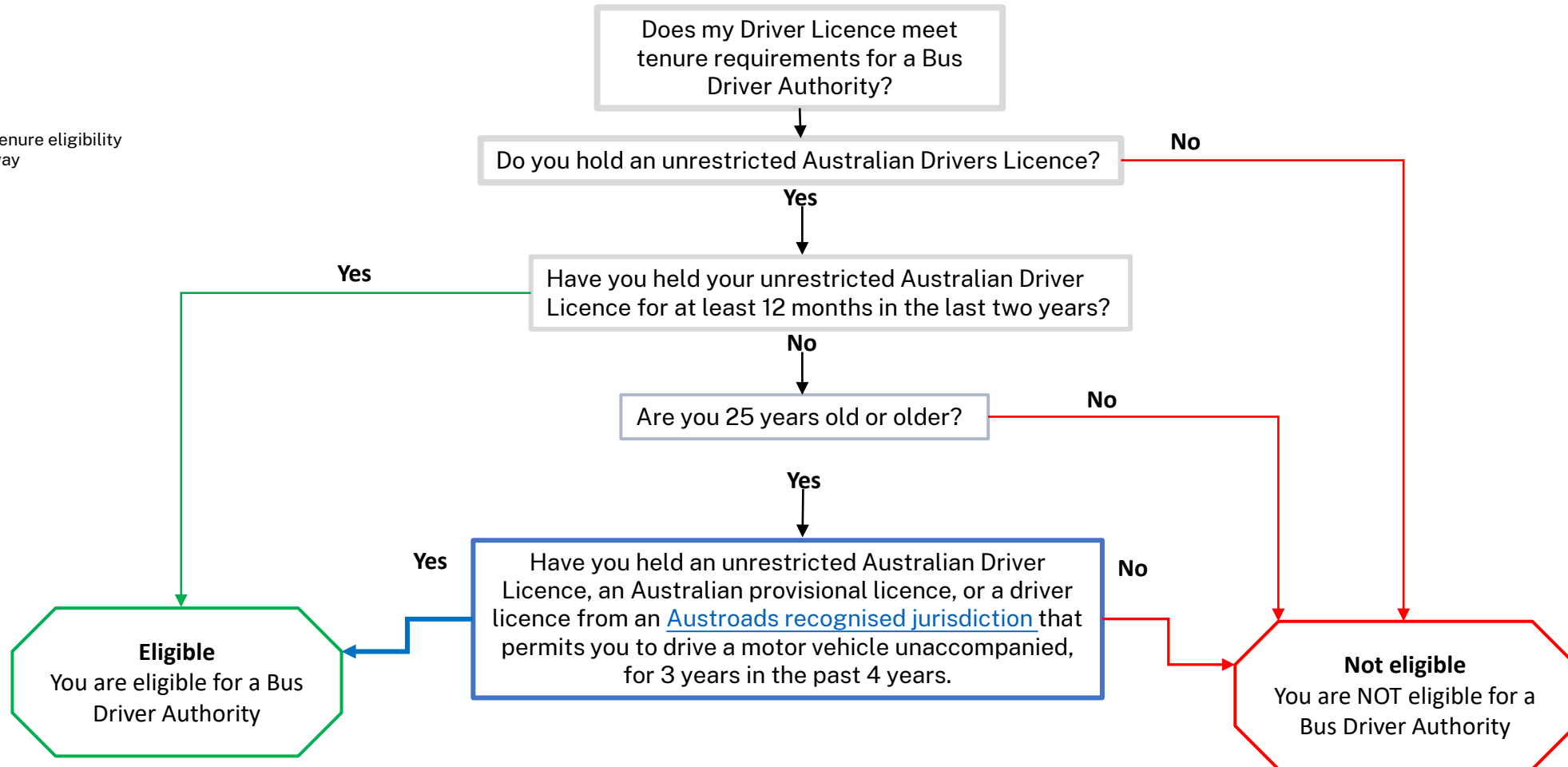
- Be asked to confirm their Australian citizenship or employment visa status.
- Need copies of passports, birth certificates, Australian citizenship certificate and/or visa details.
- Be suspended for not providing us evidence for their lawful status to work.

What will change from 26 October 2023?

Driver licence tenure requirements

KEY

 New tenure eligibility pathway



Frequently Asked Questions

Will I receive a letter from Transport advising me the outcome of my commercial medical assessment?

You will receive a letter if you do NOT meet commercial medical standards *OR* if you are required to complete additional commercial medical assessments. You can ask your doctor for a date-stamped copy of your assessment.

Can I submit my BDA application while I'm waiting for my medical appointments?

No. You must complete a commercial medical assessment with your doctor (and any necessary specialists) before you can apply for a BDA. It is a pre-requisite to be deemed medically fit to apply for a BDA.

I have submitted all my medical documentation, and the 72 hours have lapsed. What is stopping my application from proceeding?

There may be a system error. Contact 13 22 13 for additional assistance.

Does my commercial medical assessment expire?

Your commercial medical assessment is valid for 6 months from the date of completion. It can be used up until that time before you submit your BDA application.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will my BDA application affect my ability to drive a taxi, hire car or rideshare?

You will not be able to drive a point to point transport service if you are assessed and deemed not fit and proper to hold a BDA. Drivers have specific obligations and safety standards that must be met under the point to point transport law. Please see the Point to Point Transport Commissioner's website for more information:

<https://www.pointtopoint.nsw.gov.au/become-a-driver>

What notices will I be able to receive electronically?

Currently, the Regulation outlines that notices to bus drivers and operators can only be served in person and via post. Transport has supported amendments to enable notices to be served electronically where consent has been granted by the applicant.

Bus drivers will soon be able to receive important notifications in real time such as those regarding the status of their bus driver authority.

Contact Us

- For any further questions, contact BusApplications@transport.nsw.gov.au
- For more information please visit the website [Apply for a Bus Driver Authority | Transport for NSW*](#)

*Websites will be updated as of 26 October 2023