

Driver Improvement Program

The Program

Drivers with a history of violations on their driving record are at a high risk of being involved in a crash and are a risk to public safety. The Driver Improvement Program (DIP) is one of several intervention-based programs aimed at improving public safety on all British Columbia highways. DIP identifies and intervenes with high-risk drivers and encourages them to improve their driving habits through various interventions ranging from early warning letters to prohibition from driving. High-risk drivers are identified by driver penalty points, criminal code convictions, and through action taken by the police.

When deciding which intervention is appropriate, a number of factors are considered including the number of separate or repeat violations, as well as the type, timing and the severity of the offences on the driver's driving record. A prohibition from driving is the most severe intervention in the DIP.

Novice drivers – (those in the Graduated Licensing Program), regardless of age, are at a higher risk of causing a crash than experienced drivers. Interventions begin at lower penalty point levels for new drivers.

Warning Notice

This is usually the first stage in the Driver Improvement Program. Driving violations

demonstrate a fundamental disregard for public safety. The warning notice is intended to let drivers know that driving records are monitored. Further driving offences typically result in more severe, escalating interventions, including a driving prohibition.

Notice of Driver Probation

When drivers are placed on probation, they maintain driving privileges. However, if the driver receives any further violations in this stage they are subject to a driving prohibition. The driving record remains under close scrutiny even after the probation ends, and the driver may be subject to a driving prohibition if they receive further traffic convictions.

Notice of Intent to Prohibit

At this stage a prohibition from driving is in the public interest due to the driver's unsatisfactory driving record. The driver has 21 days to do one of the following options:

Option 1: Begin the driving prohibition immediately by returning the signed Notice of Intent to Prohibit; or

Option 2: The driver can make a written submission explaining why they should not lose their driving privileges (see 'Making a Submission to Review Driving Prohibition' below).

If the driver chooses 'option 1' and acknowledges the prohibition immediately they

still have the opportunity to make a review submission but may not drive unless otherwise notified in writing.

If the driver does not respond to the Notice of Intent to Prohibit, a Notice of Prohibition will be sent out.

NOTE: This step will usually be bypassed and a Notice of Prohibition will be sent, when a driver receives an offence during a driving probation, or when an offence follows a driving prohibition.

Notice of Prohibition

The driver must acknowledge the receipt of the Notice of Prohibition and surrender their driver's licence to ICBC immediately. If the driver has signed the delivery receipt for the Notice, then the driver is immediately prohibited from driving. The driver must not drive after receiving a Notice of Prohibition.

The driver can make a submission to review the driving prohibition – see 'Making a Submission to Review a Decision' below.

Before the driver can resume driving when the prohibition is over, the driver will need to attend a Driver Licensing Centre to apply for a new driver's licence and pay any licensing fees and any outstanding fee that may be owing to the Province of British Columbia or the Court for failure to pay a fine. The driver will be advised if there are any other requirements not directly related to the driving prohibition.

Novice drivers – cannot exit the Graduated Licensing Program until they have been prohibition-free for 24 consecutive months.

Making a Submission to Review Driving Prohibition

When a driving prohibition action is started, whether by **Notice of Intent** or **Notice of Prohibition**, the driver has an opportunity to make a written submission providing reasons why the prohibition should not be ordered or should be for a shorter term.

To make a submission, use the Application for Review form available on the OSMV website – www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/osmv/publications/ Attach the written submission to the application form.

The submission accompanying the application must be in writing and must be accompanied by a \$100 review fee. The driver should ensure that the submission contains all the information that should be considered, because if the driver thinks it is necessary to make a further submission the driver will need to submit a further \$100 fee. Please note that where the fee has not been paid in full, the request for review will not be responded to.

If the driver disagrees with the final decision, section 94 of the Motor Vehicle Act allows thirty (30) days to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court of British Columbia. The driver is responsible for the cost of making an appeal to the Court.

For more information, visit:

Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles website at www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/osmv
ICBC website at www.icbc.com