

ASSESSING FITNESS TO DRIVE 2016: CORRIGENDUM 1

PURPOSE

This corrigendum sets out corrections to *Assessing Fitness to Drive* which came into effect on 1 October 2016 and was published by the National Transport Commission and Austroads on 1 September 2016.

Two errors have been identified in *Assessing Fitness to Drive* relating to:

- a) repaired abdominal and thoracic aneurysms; and
- b) use of visual aids, specifically telescopic lenses (bioptic lenses) and electronic aids.

This Corrigendum corrects those errors and updates contact details for the Driver Licensing authorities listed in Appendix 9.

CORRECTED VERSION OF ASSESSING FITNESS TO DRIVE

A hard-copy version of the guidelines that incorporates these amendments will not be published. The document published in September 2016 should be read in conjunction with this corrigendum. However, the electronic document available on the Austroads website includes these amendments. It can be downloaded from www.onlinepublications.austroads.com.au/items/AP-G56-17.

CHANGES

Amendment 1: Correction to criteria relating to aneurysms – abdominal and thoracic

In Part B.2, in the final row of the table on page 51, OMIT:

Condition	Private standards	Commercial standards
Aneurysms – abdominal and thoracic	<p>The person should not drive for at least four weeks post repair.</p> <p>A person is not fit to hold an unconditional licence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if the person has an unrepaired aortic aneurysm, thoracic or abdominal. <p>A conditional licence may be considered by the driver licensing authority subject to periodic review, taking into account the nature of the driving task and information provided by the treating specialist as to whether the following criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the aneurysm (repaired or unrepaired) is less than 50mm for aneurysm associated with genetic aortopathy; or • the aneurysm (repaired or unrepaired) is less than 55mm for atherosclerotic aneurysm or aneurysm associated with the bicuspid aortic valve; and • in the case of a repaired aneurysm, it is at least four weeks after repair. 	<p>The person should not drive for at least three months post repair.</p> <p>A person is not fit to hold an unconditional licence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if the person has an unrepaired aortic aneurysm, thoracic or abdominal. <p>A conditional licence may be considered by the driver licensing authority subject to annual review, taking into account the nature of the driving task and information provided by the treating specialist as to whether the following criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the aneurysm (repaired or unrepaired) is less than 50mm for aneurysm associated with genetic aortopathy; or • the aneurysm (repaired or unrepaired) is less than 55mm for atherosclerotic aneurysm or aneurysm associated with the bicuspid aortic valve; and • in the case of a repaired aneurysm, it is at least three months after repair.

INSERT:

Condition	Private standards	Commercial standards
Aneurysms – abdominal and thoracic	<p>The person should not drive for at least four weeks post repair.</p> <p>A person is not fit to hold an unconditional licence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if the person has an unrepaired aortic aneurysm, thoracic or abdominal. <p>A conditional licence may be considered by the driver licensing authority subject to periodic review, taking into account the nature of the driving task and information provided by the treating specialist as to whether the following criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it is at least four weeks after repair; and - the response to treatment is satisfactory, according to the treating vascular surgeon; or • in the case of atherosclerotic aneurysm or aneurysm associated with the bicuspid aortic valve, the aneurysm diameter is less than 55mm; or • the aneurysm diameter is less than 50mm. 	<p>The person should not drive for at least three months post repair.</p> <p>A person is not fit to hold an unconditional licence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if the person has an unrepaired aortic aneurysm, thoracic or abdominal. <p>A conditional licence may be considered by the driver licensing authority subject to annual review, taking into account the nature of the driving task and information provided by the treating specialist as to whether the following criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it is at least three months after repair; and - the response to treatment is satisfactory, according to the treating vascular surgeon; or • in the case of atherosclerotic aneurysm or aneurysm associated with the bicuspid aortic valve, the aneurysm diameter is less than 55mm; or • the aneurysm diameter is less than 50mm.

Amendment 2: Correction relating to use of telescopic lenses for driving

In Part B.10, on page 127, **OMIT:**

10.2.7 Telescopic lenses (bioptic telescopes) and electronic aids

These devices may improve acuity at the cost of visual field. They are not an acceptable aid to meet the standards.

INSERT:

10.2.7 Telescopic lenses (bioptic telescopes) and electronic aids

These devices are becoming available in Australia. At present there is little information on the safety or otherwise of drivers using these devices. In particular, their use may reduce visual perception in the periphery. No standards are set but it is recommended that drivers who wish to use these devices be individually assessed by an ophthalmologist/optometrist with expertise in the use of these devices.

Amendment 3: Updates to contact details for Driver Licensing authorities

In the first table in Appendix 9 on page 163, please update the contact details bolded below.

State/Territory	General contact details of driver licensing authority including heavy vehicle licensing	Health professional enquiries
Australian Capital Territory	Road Transport Access Canberra PO Box 582 Dickson ACT 2602 Phone: 13 22 81 Email: lara@act.gov.au Web: www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au	Road Transport Access Canberra PO Box 582 Dickson ACT 2602 Phone: (02) 6205 1577
Queensland	Department of Transport and Main Roads Locked Bag 2000 Red Hill Rockhampton QLD 4701 Phone: 13 23 80 Web: www.tmr.qld.gov.au	Department of Transport and Main Roads GPO Box 2451 Brisbane QLD 4001 Phone: (07) 3066 2129 Web: www.tmr.qld.gov.au
South Australia	Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure GPO Box 1533 Adelaide SA 5001 Phone: 13 10 84 Fax: (08) 8207 1040 Email: DPTI.enquiriesadministrator@sa.gov.au Web: www.sa.gov.au	Manager – Licence Regulation Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure Locked Bag 700 GPO Adelaide SA 5001 Phone: (08) 8402 1946 Fax: (08) 8402 1977
Tasmania	Department of State Growth GPO Box 1002 Hobart TAS 7001 Phone: 1300 135 513 Fax: (03) 6233 5240 Email: dlu@stategrowth.tas.gov.au Web: www.transport.tas.gov.au	Medical Review Officer Registration and Licensing Services Department of State Growth GPO Box 1002 Hobart TAS 7001 Phone: (03) 6166 4887