

June 23, 2008

Driver knowledge test now available in nine languages

Edmonton... Those seeking an Alberta Class 7 learner driver's licence can now take the knowledge test in one of nine languages.

As of June 23, the electronic driver knowledge test is available in Arabic, Chinese (Traditional), French, Hindi, Punjabi, Spanish, Tagalog (Philippines), and Vietnamese in addition to English.

"Offering the test in different languages reflects the fact that Alberta is growing and people are coming to this province from many parts of the world," said Luke Ouellette, Minister of Transportation. "The intent is to test people's knowledge of the rules of the road."

The electronic tests are available at more than 200 registry agent offices throughout the province. The \$17 test fee is the same for all nine languages. Those wishing to take the test in a language other than these nine need to supply an approved translator at their own expense.

The Alberta government chose the nine languages based on 2004 to 2006 immigration patterns to the province by first language.

Total cost to implement testing in the additional languages is approximately \$65,000, which includes translation services and computer system integration.

Visit www.transportation.alberta.ca for more information on driver licensing in Alberta.

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Backgrounder attached.

Media inquiries may be directed to:

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To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

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Facts about driver knowledge tests in Alberta

- New drivers are required to pass an electronic driver knowledge test to earn an Alberta Class 7 learner driver licence.
- The test costs \$17 and is available in English, Arabic, Chinese (Traditional), French, Hindi, Punjabi, Spanish, Tagalog (Philippines), and Vietnamese. Those taking the test in a language other than these nine need to supply an approved translator at their own expense, typically an additional \$75 to \$100.
- An audio test is available in English for a \$30 fee for those who understand spoken English or have difficulty reading.
- The test is available at over 200 registry agents across Alberta. Visit www.servicealberta.gov.ab.ca for a list of registry agents.
- To ensure test's integrity, the test system randomly selects 30 questions from a pool of questions for each individual test.
- Those taking the test must answer a minimum 25 of the 30 questions correctly in order to pass, regardless of which language they take the test in. The test has no time limit.
- Those failing the test must wait one day before taking the test again. People may take the test as many times as they required at a cost of \$17 for each test.
- All Class 7 knowledge tests are based on material from the *Basic Licence Driver's Handbook*, which is available at www.infratrans.gov.ab.ca/733.htm or at any registry agent. This same web page also has practice tests, in English, to help people prepare.
- Government provides the driver's handbook in English only. Government has worked with various groups to translate the handbook and into other languages at these groups' expense. A Chinese version is available at bookstores and a Punjabi version is in the works.

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