



Fact sheet: P-Platers and Mobile Phones

It's great to help young people set out on their working life. However, if for any reason, they're going to be 'working behind the wheel' then you need to get to grips with the specific rules that apply to them during their probationary driving period. Appreciating these rules, and why road safety authorities put them into place, will help protect your worker's safety.

Why are there special rules in place for probationary drivers?

Probationary drivers are typically 25-years of age and under. Generally speaking, the human brain doesn't mature until the mid-to-late twenties. One of the last regions of the brain to develop controls the ability to focus on what's important; which means that young people are typically more vulnerable to distractions.

Eyes, and mind, on the road!

Any activity that takes your eyes off the road is not good and it's the same for anything that takes your mind off the road too.



"Motor-On, Mobile-Off" is the message

Reviewing the strict rules and harsh consequences for breaking them, it's pretty clear what the road safety authorities and regulators want young drivers to do - turn the phone off!



Are you aware?

Depending on the state you're in, the laws around mobile phone use and probationary drivers can impact across:



GPS and Bluetooth services



SmartWatches



Passengers taking calls on speakerphone

Summary of rules by state

Click on each state on the map (right) to find out more about legislation on probationary drivers and mobile phone use. Read the rest of this fact sheet for a quick summary.

Key

- applies to P1 drivers only
- applies to P2 drivers only
- applies to both P1 & P2 drivers

Disclaimer

Current as at August 2019, this information has been gleaned from the reference sources, and whilst great care has been taken, it does not constitute legal advice; we do not warrant that the information is up-to-date and it cannot be relied upon in a court of law.



Note that double-demerits can also apply!

QLD

Summary of legislation

- No use of hands-free, wireless headsets or loudspeaker function on phone while driving
- Passenger not allowed to use mobile phone on speaker setting
- No hand-held mobile phone use while driving
- Can use GPS and Bluetooth if device is mounted to vehicle

Consequences

\$1000 fine

4 Demerit points

NT

Summary of legislation

- No mobile phone use (hand-held or hands-free) while driving

Consequences

\$500 fine

3 Demerit points

SA

Summary of legislation

- No mobile phone use (hand-held or hands-free) while driving
- No hand-held mobile phone use
- Can use GPS and Bluetooth if device is mounted to vehicle
*GPS location must be set before starting journey

Consequences

\$534 fine

3 Demerit points

WA

Summary of legislation

- No hand-held mobile phone use
- Can use GPS and Bluetooth if device is mounted to vehicle

Consequences

\$400 fine

3 Demerit points

NSW

Summary of legislation

- No mobile phone use (hand-held or hands-free) while driving
- No hand-held mobile phone use while driving

Consequences

\$344 fine
\$457 if in school zone

5 Demerit points

Loss of licence

TAS

Summary of legislation

- No hand-held mobile phone use while driving
- Can use GPS and Bluetooth if device is mounted to vehicle

Consequences

\$336 fine

3 Demerit points

VIC

Summary of legislation

- No mobile phone use (hand-held or hands-free) for any function while driving, including when stationary but not parked

Consequences

\$496 standard fine, fines can go up to \$1,517

4 Demerit points

ACT

Summary of legislation

- No mobile phone use (hand-held or hands-free) while driving

Consequences

Talking

\$480 fine

3 Demerit points

Messaging & Apps

\$589 fine

4 Demerit points