

Uniform test for Dubai learner drivers due soon

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DUBAI ROADS: Learner drivers will have to pass a uniform test to improve the standard of instruction under RTA plans. (Getty Images)

Learner drivers in Dubai will soon have to pass a uniform test before being granted a licence under plans to improve the quality of instruction in the emirate.

Transport officials said on Wednesday that a process to standardise training at Dubai's five main driving schools will begin shortly.

The first learner driver training syllabus is being prepared by the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), Ahmed Hashem Bahrouzian, CEO of its Licensing Agency, said.

This will quite clearly outline the skills and experience a new driver must acquire before being granted a licence, and will include vehicles, buses, trucks and motorbikes, he said.

He said: "The objective is to improve road safety and conduct of new drivers on Dubai roads in harmony with the RTA's vision to provide safe and smooth transport for all."

The driving schools are: Belhasa Driving Institute, Emirates Driving Institute, Dubai Driving centre, Al Ahli Driving Centre and Galadari Motor Driving Centre.

The new training will be provided in stages with learners required to master certain skills before moving onto the next level.

"Each stage will involve new tasks and various types of roads with particular focus on the fundamental concepts of speed, safety boundaries and communication with other road users," Bahrouzian said.

Learner drivers from more than 120 countries take driving lessons in Dubai.

"There is a characteristic challenge in Dubai of there being wide variations among students in terms of nationalities, age, social and economic status, previous driving experiences and attitudes towards road and driving safety," Bahrouzian added.