



Driver & Vehicle  
Licensing  
Agency

# Epilepsy Fact sheet

Epilepsy advice and guidelines for licence holders (INS9)



INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE

**DRIVING LICENCES – EPILEPSY**  
**BOTH GROUP 1 AND GROUP 2 LICENCES ARE ISSUED BY DVLA, SWANSEA**

**GROUP 1 (CAR AND MOTORCYCLE) DRIVING ENTITLEMENT**

Epilepsy Regulations

- 1) A person who suffers from epilepsy may qualify for a Group 1 driving licence if he or she has been free from any epileptic attack for one year. An epileptic attack includes a minor one as well as such signs as limb jerking, auras or absences and need not necessarily involve loss of consciousness.
- 2) A person who has suffered an epileptic attack whilst asleep must also refrain from driving for one year from the date of the attack, unless they have had an attack whilst asleep more than 3 years ago and have not had any awake attacks since that asleep attack.
- 3) A person may qualify for a Group 1 driving licence provided that he or she has established, over a period of **12-months** (beginning on the date of a sleep attack), a history or patterns of attacks which have only ever occurred whilst asleep.
- 4) Seizures occurring without any influence on the level of consciousness and not causing any functional impairment in those with no history of any other type of seizure may continue to be licensed despite ongoing attacks once the pattern has been established for 1 year.

In all of the above cases the applicant or licence holder suffering from epilepsy must not be regarded as likely to be a source of danger to the public as a driver. If, whilst holding a driving licence a driver suffers from any epileptic attack then driving must cease immediately (unless **3 or 4** can be met) and the DVLA must be notified. If a licence is issued under 3 or 4 and a different type of seizure occurs then the concession is lost and driving must cease and the DVLA notifies.

Isolated Seizures

A person who has suffered from a single unprovoked epileptic seizure (isolated fit) will qualify for a driving licence if he or she has been free from further attacks for a 6 month period, provided there are no further clinical factors or investigations that may suggest an unacceptably high risk of a further seizure occurring in which case it will be 12 months off driving.

Withdrawal

If a seizure occurs as a result of a physician-directed change of/or reduction of anti-epileptic medication the epilepsy regulations state that a licence is revoked FOR 12 MONTHS AS PER THE EPILEPSY REGULATIONS but re-application can be accepted EARLIER once treatment has been reinstated for 6 months and as long as there have been no further seizures in the 6 months period after recommencing

**GROUP 2 (LORRY AND BUS) DRIVING ENTITLEMENT**

Epilepsy Regulations

Drivers of these vehicles must satisfy all of the following conditions:-

- hold a full ordinary driving licence
- have been free of epileptic attacks for the last 10 years
- have not taken any anti-epileptic medication during this 10 year period
- do not have a continuing liability to epileptic seizures

Isolated Seizure

Drivers of these vehicles must satisfy all of the following conditions:-

- hold a full ordinary driving licence
- have been free of epileptic attacks for the last 5 years
- have not taken any anti-epileptic medication during this 5 year period
- have undergone a recent assessment by a Neurologist
- have satisfactory results from investigations

The following associations offer help to people with epilepsy

**Epilepsy Action**

New Anstey House  
Gate Way Drive  
Yeadon  
LEEDS, LS19 7XY  
Freephone: 0808 800 5050

**Epilepsy Society**

Chalfont St. Peter  
Gerrard Cross  
SL9 0RJ  
Telephone No: 01494 601 300

**The Epilepsy Association of Scotland**

48 Govan Road  
Glasgow  
G51 1JL  
Telephone No: 0141 427 5225