



Driver & Vehicle
Licensing
Agency

INS57P

Information on driving licences



Simpler | Better | Safer

For more information go to www.gov.uk/browse/driving

Please check your Driving Licence carefully and keep this leaflet safe.

Always ensure you use the official **GOV.UK** website



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Your driving licence

Protect yourself against identity theft. Do not post images of your driving licence online.

Please check your driving licence carefully. This is especially important if there is a mistake in your name, address, date of birth, signature or vehicle categories.

How to check your driver number

A	B	C	D	E
MORGA	657054	SM	9IJ	**

- A.** This is the first five letters of your surname. If your surname has fewer than five letters, the remaining spaces will be made up using the number 9 (for example, MAN99).
- B.**
- The first and last numbers are the year of birth.
 - The second and third numbers are the month of birth. (If you are a female, '5' is added to the second number and the total used as the second digit. So if you are a woman born in October the second and third numbers would be 60.)
 - The fourth and fifth digits show the day of your birth.
- C.** The first two initials of your first names. If you have only one initial then the second character will be a '9'.
- D.** Computer check digits randomly generated as a secure measure.
- E.** This is the licence issue number which will increase by one with every licence issued. This is not part of the driver number.

If there is anything wrong with the licence, please return it to us at DVLA, Swansea, SA99 1BN. Include a letter explaining what is wrong.

Give your full name and date of birth or driver number whenever you contact us about your licence. This helps us to find your details.

The DVLA uses a Royal Mail postcode package to update address details. If you want your house name included in your address, you will need to contact your local authority for advice on how to do so.

We will send your licence and identity documents separately. If you do not get your identity documents back within two weeks of receiving your driving licence, please phone us on 0300 790 6801.

Note: The 'Application for a driving licence (D1) is available from:

- Post Office® branches that offer driver and vehicle services
- online at www.gov.uk/dvlaforms
- by phoning 0300 790 6801.

If you currently hold or are applying for a full lorry, bus or minibus licence you must fill in an 'Application for a lorry, bus or minibus licence' (D2) which is available from:

- Post Office branches that offer driver and vehicle services
- online at www.gov.uk/dvlaforms
- by phoning 0300 790 6801.

What to do if you lose your driving licence

If the details on your licence have not changed, you can apply for a replacement licence online at www.gov.uk/apply-online-to-replace-a-driving-licence or by phoning 0300 790 6801 between 8am and 7pm Monday to Friday, and between 8am and 2pm on Saturdays. We accept payment by Visa, MasterCard and Delta.

Note: always ensure you use the official GOV.UK website. You can apply for a replacement licence using forms D1 or D2, see note under section 'Your driving licence'.

If your driving licence has been lost or stolen you should also tell the police.

Changing your personal details

You must tell us immediately about any change to your personal details.

To change your address you can apply online at www.gov.uk/change-address-driving-licence (always ensure you use the official GOV.UK website) or fill in the section provided on the letter you received with your driving licence. The address must be one in GB where we can contact you at any time (we do not accept PO box addresses). Send your driving licence to us at DVLA, Swansea, SA99 1BN.

If your name has changed you will need to fill in forms D1 or D2, see note under section 'Your driving licence'. You will also need to send proof of your new name. You could be fined up to £1,000 if you do not tell us about these changes.

Please note that if you are updating details on your driving licence, you should also ensure that the information on your vehicle registration document is correct.

What to do when a licence holder dies

If you are responsible for dealing with the estate of the person who has died, send the licence to us at DVLA, Swansea, SA99 1AB.

To prevent any unnecessary correspondence which may cause distress, please send a covering letter that includes the full name, address and date of birth or driver number of the person who has died and the date they died. **You do not need to send in the death certificate.** If the licence is not available, a letter giving the driver number or full name and date of birth will be sufficient.

When a licence is no longer needed

If you no longer want to drive you should return your licence to us at DVLA, Swansea, SA99 1AB. Include a letter explaining that you no longer want a licence.

Your health

You must let us know if you have ever had, or currently suffer from, any medical condition that could affect your ability to drive safely. If you need to tell us that you have a medical condition you will need to fill in a questionnaire that you can get from www.gov.uk/health-conditions-and-driving or we can send you one by phoning 0300 790 6806.

You can find information about relevant health conditions on our website at www.gov.uk/health-conditions-and-driving

Obstructive Sleep Apnoea Syndrome (OSAS)

Obstructive Sleep Apnoea Syndrome (OSAS) is a condition which often goes undiagnosed. If it is not fully assessed and treated, this can cause sleepiness and other symptoms which can be a serious risk factor in road traffic accidents. For further details about how to recognise symptoms go to www.gov.uk/obstructive-sleep-apnoea-and-driving

Eyesight

Important – Have you had your eyesight checked recently? If you haven't, regular eyesight tests will reassure you that you still meet the legal standards.

The legal eyesight standard means that you must be able to read a car number plate from 20 metres.

You must not have been told by a doctor or optician that your eyesight is currently worse than 6/12 (decimal 0.5) on the Snellen scale. If you are in any doubt you should discuss with your optician or doctor. If required, you may wear glasses or corrective lenses to meet both of these standards.

There are higher eyesight standards for those who drive medium or large vehicles, minibuses or buses.

Bioptics (telescope) are not acceptable for use while driving in Great Britain and it is not acceptable to use a bioptic device to meet the visual acuity standard. A bioptic device cannot be used to pass the number plate test.

Further information is available on our website at www.gov.uk/driving-eyesight-rules

If you have any questions about standards for eyesight, or any other medical condition, you can contact us:

- by writing to **DVLA, Drivers Medical Unit, Swansea, SA99 1TU.**
- by phoning 0300 790 6806 between 8am and 5.30pm Monday to Friday, and between 8am and 1pm on Saturdays.

When you contact us, please give your full name and address, and your date of birth or driver number. Also give us as much information as possible about your medical condition.

General information

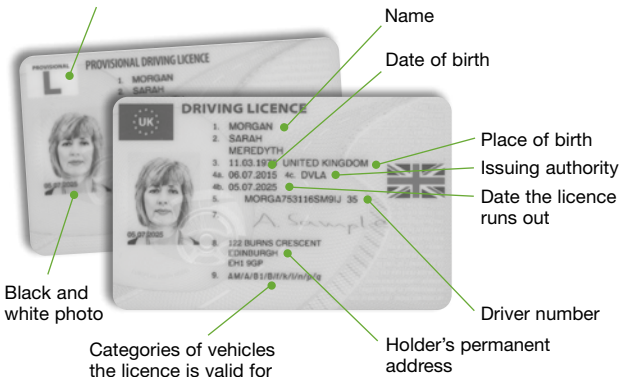
Your driving licence

Your driving licence will show your photo, signature and the categories of vehicle you are entitled to drive.

You should not cover your driving licence with any stickers.

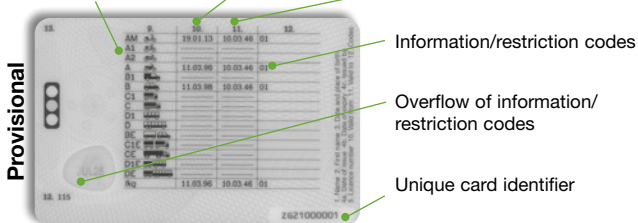
An example of the front of a driving licence

A letter L on the provisional licence confirms that the holder is a learner driver.



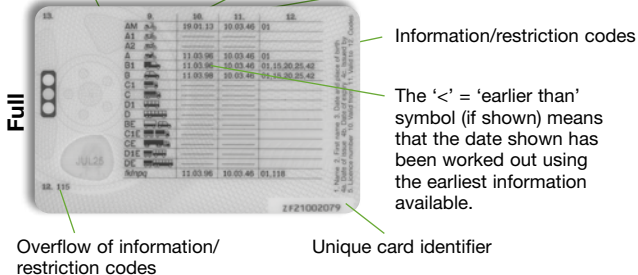
An example of the back of a driving licence

All European categories displayed in the table Category 'valid from' date Category 'valid to' date



Note: You will not be entitled to drive any category of vehicle that has lines shown instead of dates.

All European categories displayed in the table Category 'valid from' date Category 'valid to' date



Note: you will not be entitled to drive any category of vehicle that has lines shown instead of dates. However, if you have passed a test in a larger vehicle you may still be entitled to drive or ride smaller vehicles of that type which have lines shown instead of dates for example holders of full category A would be entitled to ride a category A2 vehicle. You can check categories you have provisional entitlement to drive at:

www.gov.uk/view-driving-licence

The categories of vehicle

For more information on vehicle categories go to:




www.gov.uk/driving-licence-categories






Maximum weights



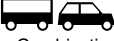



All weights quoted in the table on pages 8, 9 and 10 relate to **'Maximum Authorised Mass' (MAM)**. This is the total weight of the vehicle when loaded. It may also be described as the 'gross vehicle weight'.




This is normally shown on a plate fitted to the vehicle.

Descriptions of vehicle categories on or after 19 January 2013

Category	Description	Minimum age	Notes
AM	<p>Moped</p>  <p>Moped</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two-wheel vehicles or three-wheel vehicles with a maximum design speed of over 25km/h and not more than 45km/h. <p>Light quadricycle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With an unladen mass of not more than 350kg, not including the mass of the batteries in the case of electric vehicles, whose maximum design speed is over 25km/h and not more than 45km/h. 	16	
A1	<p>Motorcycles</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A motorcycle with a cylinder capacity not exceeding 125cc, of a power not exceeding 11kW and with a power to weight ratio not exceeding 0.1kW per kg. A motor tricycle with a power not exceeding 15kW. 	17	
A2	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A motorcycle of a power not exceeding 35kW, with a power to weight ratio not exceeding 0.2kW per kg and not derived from a vehicle of more than double its power. 	19	See note 10

Category	Description	Minimum age	Notes
A	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A motorcycle of a power exceeding 35kW or with a power to weight ratio exceeding 0.2kW per kg, • A motorcycle of a power not exceeding 35kW with a power to weight ratio not exceeding 0.2kW per kg and derived from a vehicle of more than double its power. • A motor tricycle with a power exceeding 15kW. 	24	See notes 1, 10 and 11
B1	Four wheeled light vehicles  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motor vehicles with four wheels up to 400kg unladen weight or 550kg for vehicles intended for carrying goods. 	17	
B	Cars  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motor vehicles with a MAM not exceeding 3,500kg, designed and constructed for the carriage of no more than eight passengers in addition to the driver with a trailer up to 750kg. • As category B but with a trailer weighing more than 750kg. The total weight of the vehicle and trailer can't weigh more than 3,500kg. 	17	See notes 2, 11 and 12
C1	Medium sized vehicles  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicles between 3,500kg and 7,500kg, designed and constructed for the carriage of no more than eight passengers in addition to the driver with a trailer up to 750kg. 	18	See notes 5 and 10
C	Large goods vehicles  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicles over 3,500kg with a trailer up to 750kg, designed and constructed for the carriage of no more than eight passengers in addition to the driver. 	21	See notes 3 and 10

Category	Description	Minimum age	Notes
D1	Minibuses  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicles with no more than 16 passenger seats in addition to the driver and with a maximum length not exceeding eight metres with a trailer up to 750kg. 	21	See notes 4 and 5
D	Buses  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any bus designed and constructed for the carriage of more than eight passengers in addition to the driver, with a trailer up to 750kg. 	24	See note 4
BE	Cars with trailers  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combinations of vehicles consisting of a vehicle in category B and a trailer, where the combination does not come within category B, and the MAM of the trailer or semi-trailer does not exceed 3,500kg. 	17	
C1E	Medium sized vehicles and trailers  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicles between 3,500kg and 7,500kg with a trailer over 750kg, designed and constructed for the carriage of no more than eight passengers in addition to the driver – combined weight not more than 12,000kg. 	18	See notes 3, 5 and 10
CE	Large goods vehicles with trailers  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicles over 3,500kg designed and constructed for the carriage of no more than eight passengers in addition to the driver with a trailer over 750kg. 	21	See notes 3 and 10
D1E	Minibuses with trailers  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicles with no more than 16 passenger seats in addition to the driver and with a maximum length not exceeding eight metres with a trailer over 750kg, provided that the MAM of the combination formed does not exceed 12,000kg. 	21	See notes 4 and 5

Category	Description	Minimum age	Notes
DE	Buses with trailers  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any bus designed and constructed for the carriage of more than eight passengers in addition to the driver, with a trailer over 750kg. 	24	See note 4
p	Moped  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A motor vehicle with fewer than four wheels with a maximum design speed exceeding 45km/h but not exceeding 50km/h and which, if propelled by an internal combustion engine, has a cylinder capacity not exceeding 50cc. 	16	See note 6
q	Moped  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A motor vehicle with fewer than four wheels which, if propelled by an internal combustion engine, has a cylinder capacity not exceeding 50cc and, if not equipped with pedals by means of which the vehicle is capable of being propelled, has a maximum design speed not exceeding 25km/h. 	16	See note 6
f	Agricultural tractors	17	See note 7
g	Roadrollers	21	See notes 8 and 10
h	Tracked vehicles	21	See notes 9 and 10
k	Ride on mowers and pedestrian controlled vehicles excluding pedestrian controlled mowers	16	

Note 1

Age 24 or 2 years from date of Standard A2 test pass.
Tricycle restriction code 79 (tri)/79(03).

Note 2

Age 16 if you are getting or have applied for Personal Independence Payment (PIP) (mobility component) at the enhanced rate.

Note 3

You can drive at age 17 if you are a member of the armed forces. You can drive at 18 if one of the following apply:

- you passed your driving test and Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (Driver CPC) initial qualification
- you are learning to drive or taking a driving test for this category or Driver CPC initial qualification
- you are taking a national vocational training course to get a Driver CPC initial qualification
- you had your driving licence before 10 September 2009, you must take the Driver CPC periodic training within 5 years of this date.

Note 4

You can drive at age 17 if you are a member of the armed forces.

You can drive these vehicles at age 18 if one of the following apply:

(i) If you are learning to either:

- take your Passenger Carrying Vehicle (PCV) driving test
- get your Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC)

(ii) If you have passed a PCV driving test and Driver CPC initial qualification, you can drive if:

- carrying passengers on a regular service where the route doesn't exceed 31 miles
- not engaged in the carriage of passengers
- driving a vehicle of a class included in sub-category D1
- you don't drive a bus or minibus abroad.

(iii) Since 10 September 2008, drivers passing a PCV test and driving under a bus operator's licence, or minibus permit, or community bus permit, you can drive if:

- carrying passengers on a regular service where the route doesn't exceed 31 miles
- not engaged in the carriage of passengers
- driving a vehicle of a class included in sub-category D1
- you don't drive a bus or minibus abroad.

You can drive at age 20 after passing a PCV driving test and Driver CPC initial qualification.

For further advice you can contact the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency by phoning 0300 200 1122.

Age 21 for categories D and DE if:

- the vehicle is being used by the fire service or for maintaining public order
- undergoing road tests for repair or maintenance purposes
- if you were entitled to drive the vehicle before 19 January 2013.

Note 5

If you passed your test for category B or B automatic before 1 January 1997 your licence will already show entitlement to C1, C1E (8.25 tonnes), D1 and D1E (not for hire or reward).

Note 6

National category only.

Note 7

At 16 you can drive tractors less than 2.45m wide. It must only pull trailers less than 2.45m wide with two wheels, or four wheels that are close-coupled.

Note 8

At 17 you can drive small roadrollers with metal or hard rollers. They must not be steam powered, weigh more than 11.69 tonnes or be made for carrying loads.

Note 9

You can drive at 17 if the MAM of the tracked vehicle is not more than 3,500kg.

Note 10

You can ride or drive at age 17 if you are a member of the armed forces.

Note 11

An exemption exists for the holder of category B, to drive large motor tricycles in category A if they are over 21 years of age.

Note 12

This applies to all category B licence holders regardless of the test pass date.

MAM – Maximum Authorised Mass Information codes

Listed below are descriptions of the information codes on your driving licence. These tell you any restrictions to your driving entitlement.

- 01** eyesight correction
 - 02** hearing/communication aid
 - 10** modified transmission
 - 15** modified clutch
 - 20** modified braking systems
 - 25** modified accelerator systems
 - 30** combined braking and accelerator systems
 - 31** pedal adaptations and pedal safeguards
 - 32** combined service brake and accelerator systems
 - 33** combined service brake, accelerator and steering systems
 - 35** modified control layouts
 - 40** modified steering
 - 42** modified rear-view mirror(s)
 - 43** modified driving seats
 - 44** modifications to motorcycles
 - (1) single operated brake
 - (2) adapted front wheel brake
 - (3) adapted rear wheel brake
 - (4) adapted accelerator
 - (5) (adjusted) manual transmission and manual clutch
 - (6) (adjusted) rear-view mirror(s)
 - (7) (adjusted) commands (direction indicators, braking light, etc.)
 - (8) seat height allowing the driver, in sitting position, to have two feet on the surface at the same time and balance the motorcycle during stopping and standing
 - (11) adapted foot rest
 - (12) adapted hand grip
 - 45** motorcycle only with sidecar
 - 46** tricycles only
 - 70** exchange of licence
 - 71** duplicate of licence
 - 78** restricted to vehicles with automatic transmission
 - 79** restricted to vehicles in conformity with the specifications stated in brackets
 - (02) restricted to category AM vehicles of the three-wheel or light quadricycle type
 - (03) restricted to tricycles
- These restrictions are printed whenever a driver

- retains implied C1/D1
- (NFHR) Not for hire or reward
- (<8250) not more than 8,250 kg
- 97** not authorised to drive category C1 which falls within the scope of Council Regulations (EC) NO 561/2006 on tachographs in road transport
- 101** not for hire or reward
- 102** drawbar trailers only
- 105** not more than 5.5m long
- 106** restricted to vehicles with automatic transmissions
- 107** not more than 8,250kg
- 108** subject to minimum age requirements
- 110** limited to invalid carriages
- 111** limited to 16 passenger seats
- 113** limited to 16 passenger seats except for automatics
- 114** with any special controls required for safe driving
- 115** organ donor
- 118** start date is for earliest entitlement
- 119** weight limit does not apply
- 121** restricted to conditions specified in the Secretary of State's notice
- 122** valid on successful completion: compulsory basic training (CBT)
- 123** limited to not more than 5.5m long except for automatics
- 124** limited to drawbar trailers only except for automatics
- 125** tricycle

Non-GB country codes

The relevant codes will appear in the 'Information codes' section of the driving licence if you have exchanged your licence from any of these countries for a GB licence.

Andorra.....AND	Isle of Man GBM
AustraliaAUS	Italy I
AustriaA	Japan J
Barbados.....BDS	Jersey GBJ
BelgiumB	Latvia LV
British Virgin Islands.....VGB	Liechtenstein..... FL
BulgariaBG	Lithuania..... LT
Canada CDN	Luxembourg L
Croatia..... HR	MaltaM
Cyprus CY	Monaco..... MC
Czech Republic CZ	Netherlands..... NL
Denmark..... DK	New Zealand NZ
Estonia.....EST	Norway..... N
Falkland IslandsFK	Poland.....PL
Faroe Islands..... FO	PortugalP
Finland.....FIN	Republic of Korea..... ROK
France..... F	RomaniaRO
GermanyD	SingaporeSGP
GibraltarGBZ	Slovakia SK
Greece GR	Slovenia SLO
Guernsey GBG	South AfricaZA
Hong Kong..... HK	SpainE
HungaryH	SwedenS
Iceland..... IS	Switzerland..... CH
Ireland..... IRL	Zimbabwe..... ZW

Driving in other countries

Visiting another country

You will need your UK driving licence and you may need an International Driving Permit (IDP). You can obtain an IDP from 2,500 Post Office branches across the UK. You will need a passport style photo, your original driving licence (you will also need your passport if you hold a paper driving licence) and appropriate fee for each IDP required. The Post Office will advise if you need an IDP and which version you will need depending on the country you are visiting. Further information and details on your nearest issuing branch can be found at

www.postoffice.co.uk/international-driving-permit

Moving to another country

If you move to another country, you should get information about driving there from the relevant authority in that country.

If you **return** here from a country that is not in the EU or EEA and you do not have a GB licence, you may:

- drive for up to 12 months on a valid licence that is not a GB licence
- apply for a replacement of your previous GB licence by paying the appropriate fee and giving up any non-GB licence you hold.

Learner drivers and provisional licence holders

Provisional licence conditions and restrictions (cars)

Learner drivers must be supervised. To supervise a learner driver you must be at least 21 and have a current full Great Britain (GB), Northern Ireland or European Union/European Economic Area (EU/EEA) driving licence, which you must have held for at least three years.

Learner drivers must have 'L' plates on the vehicle they are driving and the plates must be clearly visible from the front and back of the vehicle. In Wales, learner drivers can use 'D' plates on their vehicles instead of 'L' plates (in other parts of Britain all learner drivers must have 'L' plates, even if they are also using 'D' plates).

If you:

- have provisional entitlement to drive cars with trailers (category B+E) and have passed a test for car (category B)
- hold unrestricted provisional entitlement to drive a lorry or bus, and you got that entitlement on or after 1 January 1997.

you **may drive** on the motorway as long as you are supervised and are displaying 'L' plates. If you do not meet these conditions you could be fined up to £1,000, be disqualified (banned) from driving or have three to six penalty points on your driver record.

Entitlement for 16-year-olds

If you are 16, provisional category B entitlement (car) will be shown on your licence but it will not be valid until your 17th birthday (age 16 if you are getting or have applied for Personal Independence Payment (PIP) (mobility component) at the enhanced rate).

Applying for a full licence after passing your test

If your name is correct on your driving licence, you may be able to have a new licence issued automatically once you pass your driving test. Your driving examiner will tell you if you qualify for this, if not you **must** send the test pass certificate (DVSA10) to us in order to claim your new entitlements on your driving licence.

You must return your current driving licence. If you are unable to return your driving licence please fill in either a D1 or D2 (if you hold lorry or bus entitlement) application form, and tell us why in section 1.

Compulsory Basic Training (CBT)

Provisional licence for motorcycles

All learner riders must complete a CBT course before riding a moped or motorcycle on the road.

You do not need to complete CBT if:

- you have already got full moped entitlement as a result of passing a moped test on or after 1 December 1990
- you have already got a full licence for one class of motorcycle entitlement and want to upgrade to another. (For example, if you are entitled to ride light motorcycles, (category A1), you do not need to repeat CBT to get a provisional category A entitlement).

If you have any questions about CBT, phone the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency on 0115 936 6547 and ask for the CBT section.

Full car driving licence holders riding mopeds

A person who has passed a driving test for a car, since 1 February 2001, must take a CBT riding course before they can ride a moped on the road.

People who passed a car test **before 1 February 2001** do not need to take training before riding a moped on the road, but we encourage them to do so.

For a test, a moped must:

- be 50 cubic centimetres (cc) capacity or less and 4 kilowatts (kW) or less
- have a top design speed of no more than 28 miles per hour (mph).

Motorcycle specification for learner riders

Motorcycles with an engine size of up to 125cc and a power output of up to 11kW (14.6bhp) can be ridden on the road by learner riders.

Training to ride a motorcycle larger than 125cc (direct access)

Learners aged 19 or over can practice for the test on a **motorcycle larger than 125cc**, but they can only ride on the road **when accompanied (on another motorcycle) by an approved motorcycle instructor**.

Provisional licence holders riding motor tricycles

New rules on driving licences for motorcycle riders came into force on 19 January 2013. This applies to existing and new provisional licence holders. Provisional licences should show category A (motor bicycle) and category B (car).

On or after 19 January 2013 a provisional licence will only cover you to ride motor tricycles if you have a physical disability. Driving tests for three-wheeled vehicles will only be available for physically disabled drivers.

Able-bodied provisional licence holders who wish to ride motor tricycles would have to pass Compulsory Basic Training and theory and practical tests on a two wheeled motorcycle (A1) or (A).

Types of motorcycle for tests

Riders aged 17 or 18

Riders aged 17 or 18 can take a sub-category A1 light motorcycle test:

For test, a sub-category A1 solo motorcycle must:

- be between 120cc and 125cc capacity
- have an engine power no more than 11 kilowatts (kW) – 14.6 brake horse power (bhp)
- be capable of at least 55mph.

Riders aged between 19 and 23

Riders aged between 19 and 23 can choose to take either a sub-category A1 test, or a sub-category A2 test.

For test, a sub-category A2 solo motorcycle must:

- be at least 395cc capacity
- have an engine power between 25kW (33 bhp) and 35kW (46.6 bhp)
- have a power to weight ratio of no more than 0.2kW per kilogram.

Riders aged between 21 and 23 can choose to take a category A unrestricted solo motorcycle test if they have held an A2 licence for a minimum of 2 years.

Riders aged 24 and over

Riders aged 24 and over can choose to take:

- a sub-category A1 test
- a sub-category A2 test
- a category A test.

For a test a category A motorcycle must have a power of at least 50kW and a minimum kerb weight of 180kg.

Also for a test, a category A unrestricted solo motorcycle must:

- be at least 595cc capacity
- have an engine power of at least 50kW (53.6 bhp).

Training to ride a large motorcycle (direct access)

Learners can only practice for the test on either an A2 (at 19 or over) or A (at 24* or over) category motorcycle on the road (*21 if held an A2 licence for two years or more) **when accompanied (on another motorcycle) by an approved motorcycle instructor.**

Note: tests for mopeds with three or four wheels, A1 and A tricycles and sidecar combinations will only be offered to the physically disabled.

Minibuses, lorries and buses

Driving a minibus

To drive a minibus with over eight passenger seats, you will normally need entitlement under category D1 or D. To get this you must meet higher medical standards and take a further driving test.

If you need more information go to www.gov.uk/browse/driving or you can order leaflet – ‘Driving a minibus’ (INF28) from us by phoning 0300 790 6801.

Driving a lorry or bus

You must pass a driving test in a car before you take a test for either of these categories.

If you want to drive lorries you must get category C entitlement. To drive buses you must get category D entitlement. You can apply for both entitlements. To do this you must send us an ‘Application for a lorry, bus or minibus licence’ (D2) together with a ‘Medical Examination Report’ (D4) filled in by an optometrist/optician and a doctor. You must also take and pass a driving test in a lorry or bus.

Supervising learner lorry and bus drivers

If you want to supervise a learner lorry or bus driver you will need to meet **either** of the following conditions:

- you must have held a full licence for the category of vehicle you are supervising in for at least three years

- you must have held a full licence for the category of vehicle you are supervising in for at least one year **and** have held a full licence in the other category (lorry or bus as appropriate) for at least three years.

For example, a person supervising a bus learner driver must either have held a full bus licence for at least three years, or a full lorry licence for three years and a full bus licence for at least one year.

As of 6 April 2010, the supervising driver in category C1 or D1 vehicles (including trailer combinations) must:

- hold a full (post 1 January 1997) licence for the same category of vehicle being driven by the learner
- have held that right for the relevant period of time – usually three years*.

* Those who pass the relevant driving test before 6 April 2010 will also be considered to have held that right for the length of time required.

You can get more information on supervising a learner lorry or bus driver from the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA). Visit **www.gov.uk** or phone 0115 936 6666.

Towing trailers

If you want to tow a heavy trailer, you must first pass a test in the vehicle you would be using to tow the trailer.

Learner drivers in categories B, C1, C, D1 and D cannot tow any trailer of any size.

If you need more information on entitlement to tow trailers go to **www.gov.uk/towing-rules** or read leaflet 'Driving licence requirements for towing trailers in Great Britain' (INF30) which you can order from us by phoning 0300 790 6801.

Motorhomes

When driving a motorhome it is the Maximum Authorised Mass (MAM) that is relevant to the driving entitlement you need. MAM is the total weight of the vehicle plus the maximum load it can carry.

To drive a motorhome with a MAM of between 3.5 and 7.5 tonnes, you need category C1 entitlement on your licence.

To drive a motorhome with a MAM of over 7.5 tonnes, you need category C entitlement on your licence.

Vehicles which do not need lorry or bus entitlement

For more information go to **www.gov.uk/browse/driving** or read leaflet 'Large vehicles you can drive using your car or lorry licence' (INF52) which you can order from us by phoning 0300 790 6801.

Penalty points and disqualifications

You can view or share your driving licence details for free online at www.gov.uk/view-driving-licence

Note: you can check for any valid endorsements held on your driving record online at: www.gov.uk/view-driving-licence

Penalty points and disqualifications stay on your driving record for the following periods:

For further information on penalty points go to www.gov.uk/penalty-points-endorsements

Penalty points and disqualifications are valid for either three or 10 years depending on the offence, but remain on your driving licence record for an extra year. If you commit another driving offence that might have to go to court, this extra year allows any previous penalty points and disqualifications (that were valid at the time of the offence) to be taken into account by the court.

- **11 years** from the date of the conviction for offences relating to driving while under the influence of drink or drugs, causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs, or causing death by careless driving and failing to provide a specimen to be tested.
- **Four years** from the date of the conviction for reckless or dangerous driving and offences resulting in disqualification.
- **Four years** from the date of the offence in all other cases.

Penalty point codes

The following is a guide to the number of penalty points a court could give for offences. It does not reflect the fact that some offences may lead to you being disqualified from driving. These codes are recorded on your driving licence record from information supplied by the courts. If you have any questions about points you receive, contact the relevant court.

Code	Penalty points
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Accident offences

AC10	Failing to stop after an accident	5 to 10
AC20	Failing to give particulars or to report an accident within 24 hours	5 to 10
AC30	Undefined accident offences	4 to 9

Disqualified driver

BA10	Driving while disqualified by order of court	6
BA30	Attempting to drive while disqualified by order of court	6
BA40	Causing death by driving when disqualified	3 to 11
BA60	Causing serious injury by driving when disqualified	3 to 11

Code		Penalty points
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Careless driving

CD10	Driving without due care and attention	3 to 9
CD20	Driving without reasonable consideration for other road users	3 to 9
CD30	Driving without due care and attention or without reasonable consideration for other road users	3 to 9
CD40	Causing death through careless driving when unfit through drink	3 to 11
CD50	Causing death by careless driving when unfit through drugs	3 to 11
CD60	Causing death by careless driving with alcohol level above the limit	3 to 11
CD70	Causing death by careless driving then failing to supply a specimen for alcohol analysis	3 to 11
CD80	Causing death by careless, or inconsiderate driving	3 to 11
CD90	Causing death by driving: unlicensed, disqualified or uninsured drivers	3 to 11

Construction and use offences

CU10	Using a vehicle with defective brakes	3
CU20	Causing or likely to cause danger by reason of use of unsuitable vehicle or using a vehicle with parts or accessories (excluding brakes, steering or tyres) in a dangerous condition	3
CU30	Using a vehicle with defective tyres	3
CU40	Using a vehicle with defective steering	3
CU50	Causing or likely to cause danger by reason of load or passengers	3
CU80	Breach of requirements as to control of the vehicle, mobile telephones and so on	3 to 6

Reckless or dangerous driving

DD10	Causing serious injury by dangerous driving	3 to 11
DD40	Dangerous driving	3 to 11
DD60	Manslaughter or culpable homicide while driving a vehicle	3 to 11
DD80	Causing death by dangerous driving	3 to 11
DD90	Furious driving	3 to 9

Drink or drugs

DG10	Driving or attempting to drive with a drug level above the specified limit	3 to 11
DG40	In charge of a vehicle while drug level above the specified limit	10
DG60	Causing death by careless driving with drug level above the limit	3 to 11
DR10	Driving or attempting to drive with alcohol level above limit	3 to 11

Code		Penalty points
Drink or drugs		
DR20	Driving or attempting to drive while unfit through drink	3 to 11
DR30	Driving or attempting to drive then failing to supply a specimen for alcohol analysis	3 to 11
DR31	Driving or attempting to drive then refusing to give permission for analysis of a blood sample that was taken without consent due to incapacity	3 to 11
DR40	In charge of a vehicle while alcohol level above limit	10
DR50	In charge of a vehicle while unfit through drink	10
DR60	Failure to provide a specimen for analysis in circumstances other than driving or attempting to drive	10
DR61	Refusing to give permission for analysis of a blood sample that was taken without consent due to incapacity in circumstances other than driving or attempting to drive	10
DR70	Failure to co-operate with a preliminary test	4
DR80	Driving or attempting to drive when unfit through drugs	3 to 11
DR90	In charge of a vehicle when unfit through drugs	10
Insurance offences		
IN10	Using a vehicle uninsured against third party risks	6 to 8
Licence offences		
LC20	Driving otherwise than in accordance with a licence	3 to 6
LC30	Driving after making a false declaration about fitness when applying for a licence	3 to 6
LC40	Driving a vehicle having failed to notify a disability	3 to 6
LC50	Driving after a licence has been revoked or refused on medical grounds	3 to 6
Miscellaneous offences		
MS10	Leaving a vehicle in a dangerous position	3
MS20	Unlawful pillion riding	3
MS30	Play street offences (where a road has been officially closed to vehicles to allow it to be used as a 'street playground')	2
MS50	Motor racing on the highway	3 to 11
MS60	Offences not covered by other codes as appropriate	3 to 6
MS70	Driving with uncorrected defective eyesight	3
MS80	Refusing to submit to an eyesight test	3
MS90	Failure to give information as to identity of driver and so on	6

Code	Penalty points
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Motorway offences

MW10 Contravention of Special Road Regulations (excluding speed limits)	3
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Pedestrian crossings

PC10 Undefined Contravention of Pedestrian Crossing Regulations	3
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PC20 Contravention of Pedestrian Crossing Regulations with moving vehicle	3
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PC30 Contravention of Pedestrian Crossing Regulations with stationary vehicle	3
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Speed limits

SP10 Exceeding goods vehicle speed limit	3 to 6
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SP20 Exceeding speed limit for type of vehicle (excluding goods or passenger vehicles)	3 to 6
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SP30 Exceeding statutory speed limit on a public road	3 to 6
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SP40 Exceeding passenger vehicle speed limit	3 to 6
--	--------

SP50 Exceeding speed limit on a motorway	3 to 6
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Traffic directions and signs

TS10 Failing to comply with traffic light signals	3
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TS20 Failing to comply with double white lines	3
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TS30 Failing to comply with a 'Stop' sign	3
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TS40 Failing to comply with direction of a constable warden	3
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TS50 Failing to comply with a traffic sign (excluding 'Stop' signs, traffic lights or double white lines)	3
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TS60 Failing to comply with a school crossing patrol sign	3
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TS70 Undefined failure to comply with a traffic direction sign	3
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Special code

TT99 To signify a disqualification under 'totting up' procedure. If the total of penalty points reaches 12 or more within three years, the driver will be disqualified. Note: The individual offences which lead to this disqualification are removed from the drivers' record, upon issue of a new driving licence.	
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Theft or unauthorised taking

UT50 Aggravated taking of a vehicle	3 to 11
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Aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring

A person who 'aids, abets, counsels or procures' another person to commit an offence (helps or causes them to commit an offence, or gives them advice on how to do so) will be punished as if they had committed it. 'Aiding, and so on' has its own offence code and is set apart from the other offences in this leaflet.

Offences are coded as set out in section 'penalty points and disqualifications', but add 2 to the code (for example, LC20 becomes LC22). The penalty points for the conviction are the same.

Causing or allowing someone to commit an offence

Offences are coded as set out in section 'penalty points and disqualifications', but add 4 to the code (for example, DR31 becomes DR35). The penalty points for the conviction are the same.

Encouraging or persuading someone to commit an offence

Offences are coded as set out in section 'penalty points and disqualifications', but add 6 to the code (for example, DD40 becomes DD46). The penalty points for the conviction are the same.

Non-endorsable offences

No penalty points are attributed to these offences but these offences do carry a period of disqualification. At the end of the disqualification (56 days or over) you will have to apply for a renewal licence together with the appropriate fee. The offence codes detailed on this page are used by us to record the offence on the drivers' database so that the status of the individual's driving entitlement can be confirmed.

- NE96 Disqualification imposed under the Child Support, Pensions & Social Security Act 2000.
- NE97 Non-endorsable offence with a possible on-going reduction in the disqualification period. Non-endorsable offence as a result of interim disqualification not being sentenced within 6 months.
- NE98 Non-endorsable miscellaneous offences from 1 January 2004. Power under Section 146 of the Power of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 to order a defendant to be disqualified from driving – Anti-Social Behaviour.
- NE99 Replaced UT10, UT20, UT30 & UT40 after 30 June 1992.

The Road Traffic (New Drivers) Act 1995

You will lose your licence if you get six or more penalty points within two years of the following:

- Passing a first driving test in GB.
- Exchanging a licence issued in the EU, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or Gibraltar. The two-year period begins from the date you first passed a driving test in your home country.
- Exchanging a driving licence from a **designated country** and passing a GB driving test to gain **additional** driving entitlements. The two-year period begins from the date you passed a driving test in GB.

Any valid penalty points you receive before the two-year period before passing your test will count towards the total of six. Points you get after the two-year period will also count if you committed the offence during that period.

You cannot appeal against revocation under the Act. The only thing you can appeal against is the conviction that led to the penalty points. The relevant court will be able to give you advice on how to appeal. Once the court tells us you have made an appeal, we will not revoke (withdraw) your licence while the appeal is continuing. If you accept a fixed penalty notice you cannot appeal.

To get your full licence back, you must:

- get a provisional licence and drive as a learner
- pass the theory and practical tests again.

Passing the theory and practical tests does not remove the penalty points from your record, and if the total reaches 12 within three years you may be disqualified from driving.

High-risk offenders

If you have been disqualified for having a level of alcohol in the body of:

- 87.5 microgrammes or more in every 100 millilitres of breath
 - 200 milligrammes or more in every 100 millilitres of blood
 - 267.5 milligrammes or more in every 100 millilitres of urine
- or if you have:
- been disqualified twice within 10 years for drink-driving over the legal limit or for being unfit to drive because of drink
 - been disqualified for failing to provide a specimen for analysis
 - been disqualified for refusing to allow analysis of a blood sample taken without consent due to incapacity.

We will send you an application form, before the disqualification ends with a letter explaining that you will need to have a **medical examination** to get your licence back.

Drug types

If you have been disqualified for having a level of drug in the body, the following alpha characters will represent the type of drug.

Drug	Alpha Character
Amphetamine	C
Benzoyllecgonine	D
Clonazepam	E
Cocaine	F
Diazepam	G
Flunitrazepam	H
Ketamine	J
Lorazepam	K
Lysergic Acid Diethylamide	L
Methadone	M
Methamphetamine	N
Methylenedioxymethamphetamine	P
6-monoacetylmorphine	R
Morphine	S
Oxazepam	T
Temazepam	V
Delta-9-Tetrahydrocannabinol	W

Mutual recognition of driving – Disqualifications between:

Great Britain (GB) and Northern Ireland (NI)

Since 11 October 2004, the following has applied:

- Disqualifications given in Northern Ireland will apply in Great Britain.
- A NI licence can be withdrawn under the Road Traffic (New Drivers) Act 1995.
- A NI licence can be withdrawn because of a disability.

Similar rules came into force in Northern Ireland at the same time as those made in Great Britain.

Isle of Man

Since 23 May 2005, disqualifications given in the Isle of Man will apply in Great Britain.

Similar rules came into force in the Isle of Man at the same time as those made in Great Britain.

United Kingdom (Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and Republic of Ireland (ROI)

Since 01 August 2017 the following has applied.

- Disqualifications given in ROI will apply in the UK. Similarly disqualifications given in the UK will apply in ROI.
- Short period disqualifications do not come under the terms and conditions of Mutual Recognition.
- Disqualification as a result of accumulating penalty points (TT99) is not included in this scheme.
- HRO medical scheme is not mutually recognised.

Offences falling within 6 categories of driver behaviour are mutually recognised between GB and Northern Ireland/between UK and Isle Of Man. These are:

- MR09 Reckless or dangerous driving (whether or not resulting in death, injury or serious risk).
- MR19 Wilful failure to carry out the obligation placed on drivers after being involved in road accidents (hit and run).
- MR29 Driving a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or other substance affecting or diminishing the mental and physical abilities of the driver.
- MR39 Driving a vehicle faster than permitted speed.
- MR49 Driving a vehicle whilst disqualified.
- MR59 Other conduct constituting an offence for which a driving disqualification has been imposed by the state of offence of a duration of 6 months or more.

Short period disqualifications (SPD)

If you are disqualified for less than 56 days you do not need to renew your licence when the disqualification ends. You can drive again the day after the disqualification ends.

Further information

Data Protection

DVLA handles your personal data in accordance with road traffic law and data protection laws. The law allows us to release your data to the police and other enforcement bodies. We also provide data to other parties where the law allows it. For further information about how we process your data, your rights and who to contact, see our privacy notice at www.gov.uk/dvla/privacy-policy

Where to get more advice on driving licences

If you have any questions about driving licences, you can find more details on the website at:

www.gov.uk/browse/driving

You can also contact our customer enquiries on:

0300 790 6801 (lines are open between 8am and 7pm Monday to Friday, and between 8am and 2pm on Saturdays).

DVLA service standards

We aim to always give you the best possible service.

If you are not satisfied with our service, get in touch with the person or section you have been dealing with.

If you are unable to resolve your complaint with them, you may wish to visit www.gov.uk/dvla and make a complaint to us online. You can also make a complaint over the phone or in writing. The details of how to do this are available by following the same link. If you would like a copy of our 'How to contact us or make a complaint' (INS101) leaflet, you can contact us and ask for a copy to be posted to you.

So we can monitor our service, please tell us:

- when we do well
- if we fail to meet your expectations
- how we can improve our services
- if you have any comments on any of our other documents.

Please write to:

Complaints team

D9

DVLA

Swansea

SA6 7JL

Organ donation

For more information on organ donation go to:

www.organdonation.nhs.uk or phone 0300 123 2323.

Organ donation is different in Wales. For more information visit www.organdonation.nhs.uk/wales

How to become a blood donor

The National Blood Service (NBS) collects blood from nearly two million donors each year to deliver to hospitals for them to use in life-saving operations. The NBS depends on its donors to give blood regularly.

People are encouraged to become blood donors through a national campaign based on the theme '**Do something amazing today. Save a life. Give blood**'.

If you are interested in becoming a blood donor, or you want to find out more details you can contact the NBS or the Welsh Blood Service in the following ways:

Visit the website at:

www.blood.co.uk or www.welshblood.org.uk

Phone: 0300 123 2323 or 0800 25 22 66 (Welsh Blood Service)

Buying a vehicle?

The tax is no longer transferable so you must tax it before you use it.

www.gov.uk/vehicletaxrules



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