

Initial responses to the consultation on further European changes to driving licences and the driving test

The consultation on further EU changes to driving licences and the driving test took place between 15 July and 26 August 2013 and is now closed. The detailed responses are currently being analysed, but in the meantime, initial responses are set out below:

Background

The further changes which were consulted on are being made to the 3rd EU Directive on driving licences (Directive 2006/126/EC) which was implemented on 19 January 2013. The 3rd Directive affects driving licences, driving tests and the vehicles that can be used to take the driving tests.

The further changes are in an Amending Directive (Directive 2012/36/EU) and include:

- changes to driver licensing to take account of new vehicle categories introduced in the 3rd Directive and the codes that are put onto driving licences to show any restrictions on driving that a driver has, due to medical reasons, or because of when they passed their driving test
- the standards that must be met for different types of vehicles that can be used to take a motorcycle, lorry or bus test

The majority of the changes must be implemented by 31 December 2013, apart from the changes that relate to large motorcycles which do not have to be implemented until 31 December 2018.

Not all of the changes within the amending Directive were consulted on as the UK has no choice but to implement them such as the changes to restriction codes on driving licences and the changes to large motorcycles (increase in engine power and minimum weight requirement); or, they offered benefits that the UK wanted to introduce such as the 5cc tolerance in cylinder capacity for all motorcycles. The changes that were consulted on were:

- changes to the category C1 test (medium sized lorries). Option to introduce a new test for non-professional C1 drivers as shown on the licence by a new restriction code
- removing the need for 8-forward gear ratios for large lorries used for the driving test (category C)

- allowing persons who hold a manual entitlement in either category B, BE, C, CE, C1, C1E, D, D1E, to be allowed to take their large vehicle test (categories C and D) on an automatic vehicle but gain a manual driving licence entitlement – by virtue of already holding a manual entitlement in another category

Three-wheeled vehicles

The consultation also asked a question on behalf of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) about allowing persons to drive three-wheeled vehicles with an unlimited power rating, as long as they held a category B (car) driving licence and were at least 21 years of age. This option was offered in the Third Directive and was taken up in some of the other Member States, but was not taken up by the UK.

Before the 3rd Directive was implemented, three-wheeled vehicles were in category B1. In the 3rd Directive, the EU removed three-wheeled vehicles from category B1 and put them into the motorcycle categories, which means that a motorcycle test must be taken in order to drive a three-wheeled vehicle. T

The UK did not agree this, but we were not supported by other EU colleagues when we argued against this move. Recently, many enthusiasts have lobbied for three-wheeled vehicles to be returned to category B1. The UK is unable to do this without the agreement of the EU and other Member States. In the meantime, we are able to make the small legislative change as stated above, subject to the change being wanted.

A question was therefore asked about this in the consultation paper and the response is given below. Longer-term, the UK continues to push the EU for a return for three-wheeled vehicles to category B1.

Responses

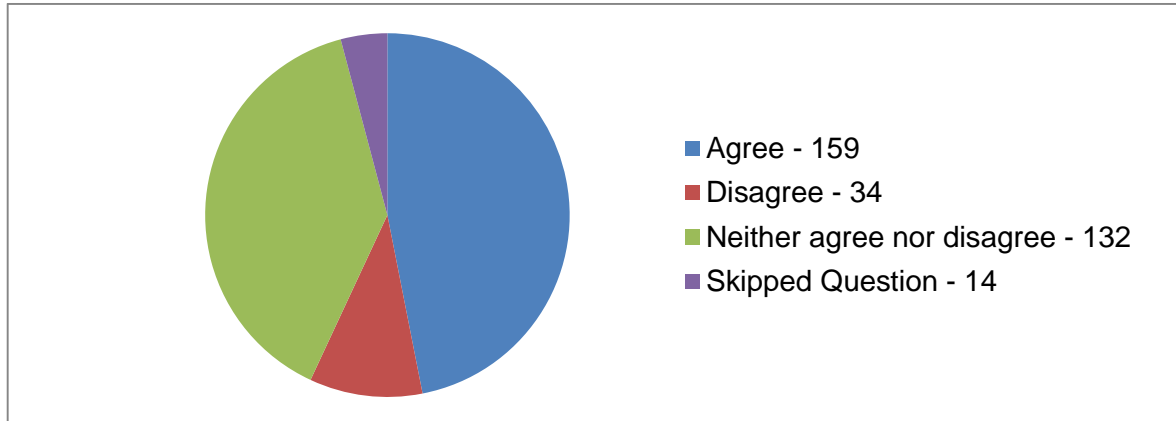
Thank you to everyone who responded. **339 responses were received.** DSA is currently looking at your comments and will publish a report once it has finished.

In the meantime, each question asked has been published below, along with the number of responses received to that question.

Questions and responses

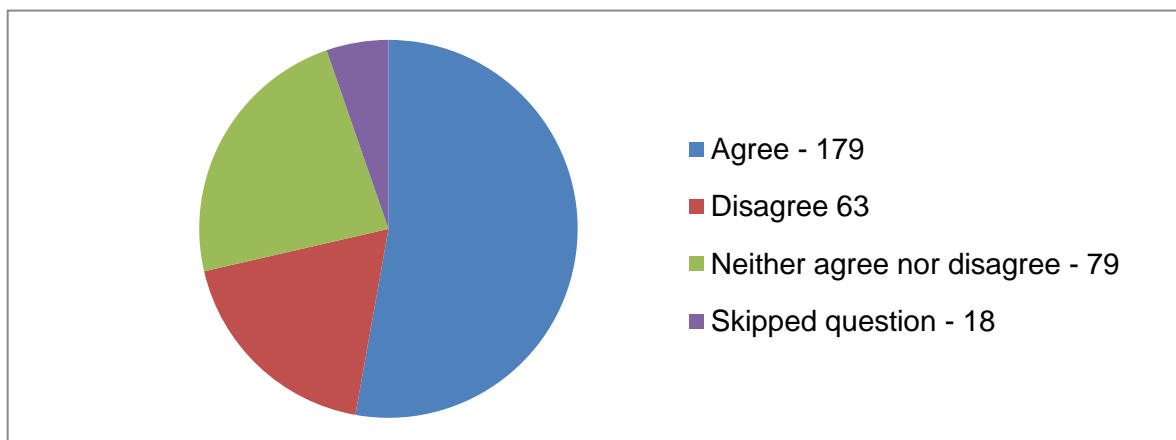
The introduction of a new type of test for non-professional medium sized lorry drivers (category C1) as shown on the licence by a new restriction code.

DSA does not intend to make this change, but wants to know if you agree?



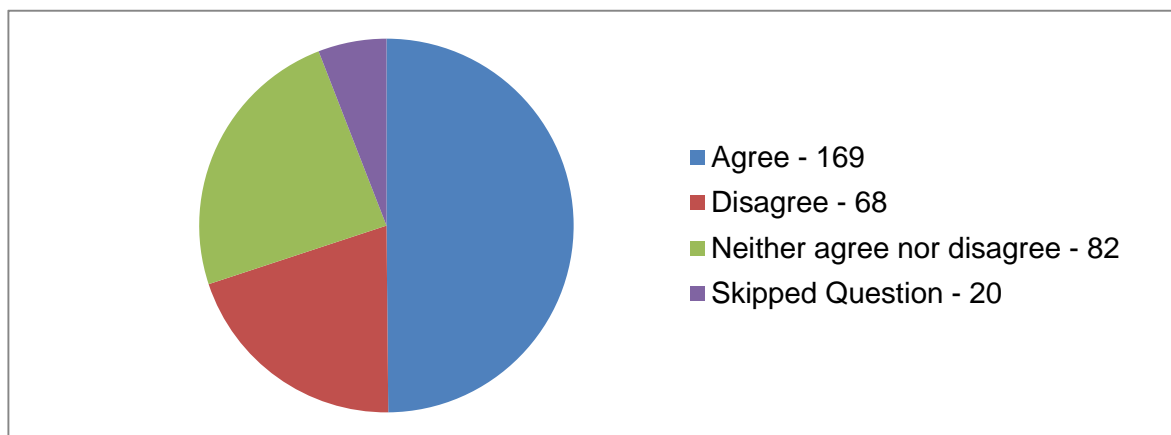
The Amending Directive allows that drivers who have passed their lorry or bus test in an automatic vehicle, to be given a manual licence instead of an automatic one, if they already hold a manual entitlement in any of the following categories: B, B+E, C, C+E, C+1, C1+E, D, D+E, D1+E.

DSA intends to make this change. Do you agree or disagree that DSA should make this change?



We would also like to extend this relaxation to current holders of automatic large vehicle licences, as long as they also hold a manual entitlement in another category, except motorcycles.

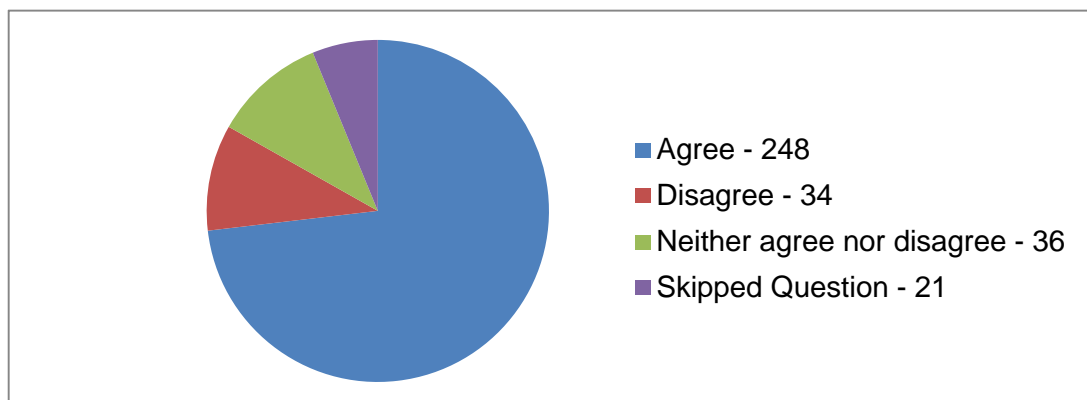
Do you agree or disagree that existing automatic licence holders should also be given a manual entitlement when they exchange their licence for any reason?



Additional question from the 3rd Directive – Three-wheeled Vehicle

The European 3rd Directive on driving licences allows for drivers, of at least 21 years of age, to be able to drive three-wheeled vehicles on a full car licence.

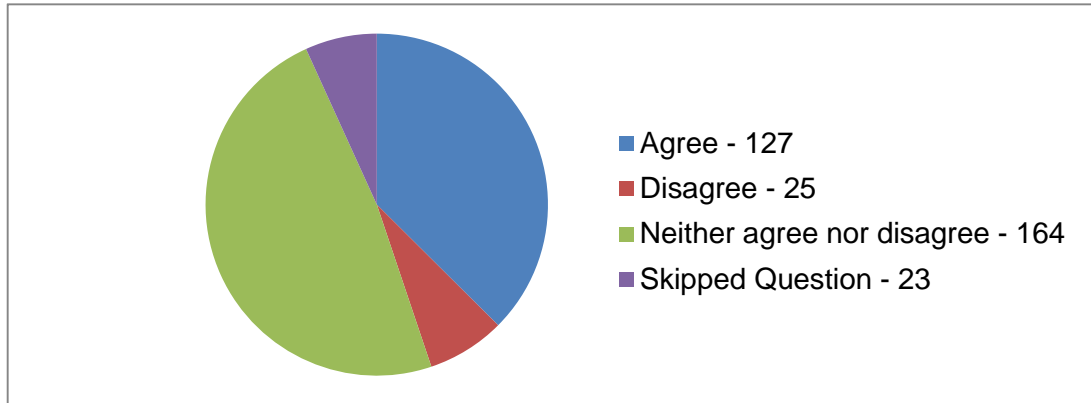
Do you agree or disagree that DSA allows this change?



Miscellaneous questions

Impact assessment

Do you agree or disagree that the costs, benefits and assumptions set out for each option in the impact assessment present an accurate picture?



Consultation principles

Do you agree that the consultation paper met the [Consultation Principles](#).

