



Driver & Vehicle  
Licensing  
Agency

Corporate  
Services

# Guidance for drivers: passenger carrying vehicles (PCV)



**INVESTORS IN PEOPLE™**  
We invest in people Gold

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA)  
Longview Road  
Morriston  
Swansea  
SA6 7JL



Department  
for Transport



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Office of the  
Traffic Commissioner



**This guidance will help you understand and comply with a few important rules and regulations around driver conduct and licensing in the bus and coach (PCV) industry.**

**It provides links to sources of more detailed information.**



## Driver conduct

**Driver conduct refers to drivers' behaviour and actions, both during work and outside of it.**

You should be aware of the role of the Traffic Commissioners. Their responsibilities include:

- considering the conduct of PCV licence holders and licence applicants to hold the entitlement
- suspending or revoking drivers' licences where appropriate

As well as motoring, drivers' hours and tachograph offences, a PCV driver's entitlement can be suspended or revoked for other, wider criminal offences.

In particular, serious convictions for assault, theft or supplying drugs will cause the Traffic Commissioner to consider whether that person is suitable to be driving a bus or coach, given the opportunities such work provides for close contact with the public.

Drink driving, drug driving, speeding and hand-held mobile phone use pose particular risks to road safety. Traffic Commissioners can suspend or revoke a driver's entitlement, and disqualify them, if they have been reported for these offences.

You should tell your employer immediately if you are found guilty of any new motoring offence. Operators have a duty to report all motoring offences committed in any vehicle to the Traffic Commissioner.

Remember: just one offence and you could lose your entitlement to drive a bus.

For more information on how Traffic Commissioners deal with vocational drivers, go to [www.gov.uk/government/publications/traffic-commissioners-vocational-driver-conduct-january-2016](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/traffic-commissioners-vocational-driver-conduct-january-2016)

**As a bus or coach driver, you should follow employer and government guidance to ensure the safety of yourself, your passengers, other road users and pedestrians.**

**35**  
**hours**  
of periodic  
training every  
**5 years**  
Digital driver  
card must be  
renewed every  
**5 years**

## Driver CPC card

**You must always carry your Driver Qualification Card or National Driver Qualification Card (for the Driver Certificate of Professional Competence) when driving a bus.**

You must complete 35 hours of periodic training every 5 years towards your Driver Certificate of Professional Competence to drive a bus. For further information, go to:

[www.gov.uk/driver-cpc-training](http://www.gov.uk/driver-cpc-training)

You must carry your driver qualification card if you've been issued with one.

## Driver tachograph card

**You must also carry your digital driver card if you've been issued with one, even if you're driving a vehicle with an analogue tachograph.**

If your work is covered by EU drivers' hours regulations and your vehicle is equipped with a digital tachograph, you have to use a driver card by law. If a vehicle fitted with a digital tachograph is being used on work covered by British domestic rules, it must be set to 'out of scope' unless it is being used as an alternative to keeping records in a driver's log book.

To find out more, visit [www.gov.uk/tachographs](http://www.gov.uk/tachographs)

For more information on how many hours you can drive and the breaks you need to take, see [www.gov.uk/drivers-hours](http://www.gov.uk/drivers-hours)



## Driver licensing and medical conditions

**If you have a restricted licence due to medical conditions or you drive abroad, you should apply to renew your driving licence entitlement as soon as possible (generally 60 days before it expires). This will ensure that DVLA has enough time to investigate any medical conditions.**

You should be aware that when you renew your vocational entitlement on your licence, the entitlement is valid from the date it is issued by DVLA. This might not correspond with the expiry date of the previous entitlement.



**You do not need to return your driver card when renewing your tachograph entitlement.**

**It is your responsibility to know when your driving licence, driver card and CPC card expire.**

You can check what vehicles you can drive, how many penalty points you have, and when your current licence expires at any time using DVLA's View Driving Licence service. You will need your driving licence number and National Insurance number to use it. This is a free service and is available at

[www.gov.uk/view-driving-licence](http://www.gov.uk/view-driving-licence)

**You must tell DVLA and your employer about a notifiable medical condition. Most drivers who tell DVLA about a medical condition still keep their entitlement.**

Those who do not tell DVLA are committing an offence and might be a danger to other road users and pedestrians.

For more information about notifiable conditions, go to [www.gov.uk/health-conditions-and-driving](http://www.gov.uk/health-conditions-and-driving) or ask your healthcare professional whether an existing or new medical condition could affect your ability to drive safely.

If you've told DVLA about a medical condition, you should maintain close contact with your healthcare professional to make sure that any request for information from DVLA is handled promptly.

Application forms are available from your nearest Post Office that deals with driving licence applications.

Go to [www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder](http://www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder) to find your nearest applicable Post Office.





PCV drivers should carry out daily checks to maintain safety standards for their vehicles, called the ‘walkaround check’.

For more information visit:

**[www.gov.uk/  
government/  
publications/heavy-  
good-vehicle-drivers-  
daily-walkaround-check](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heavy-good-vehicle-drivers-daily-walkaround-check)**

For more information on lorry, bus  
and coach driving go to:

**[www.gov.uk/browse/driving](https://www.gov.uk/browse/driving)**

and

**[www.gov.uk/browse/driving/  
drivers-lorries-buses](https://www.gov.uk/browse/driving/drivers-lorries-buses)**

## **Corporate Services**

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**[gov.uk/dvla](https://www.gov.uk/dvla)**