Driver & Vehicle Licensing Agency

Driver Services

# D4 medical examination report for a Group 2, lorry or bus licence

## Information and useful notes

CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE CSE

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE™ We invest in people Gold

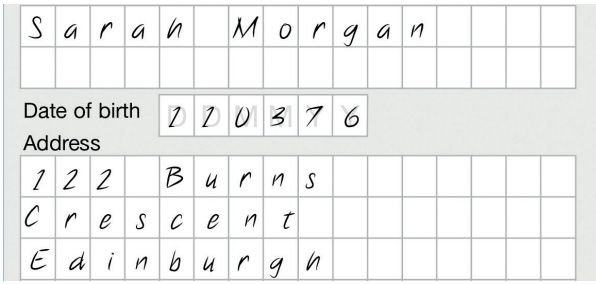
INF4D
4/26

## Contents


How to fill in D4 ..... 2
When do you need a D4 medical examination report? ..... 2
Who can fill in the D4? ..... 3
A. What you need to do ..... 3
About your appointment ..... 4
What to do with the filled in report ..... 4
What you need to know ..... 4
B. Group 2 medical standards ..... 5
Vision assessment ..... 5
1. Neurological disorders ..... 7
2. Diabetes mellitus ..... 8
3. Cardiac ..... 9
4. Psychiatric illness ..... 9
5. Substance misuse ..... 9
6. Sleep disorders ..... 10
7. Other medical conditions ..... 10
C. Information for the doctor ..... 10
D. Information for the optician or optometrist ..... 11
Help for medical professionals ..... 12


## How to fill in D4

Please make sure you write within the white boxes and leave a space between each word. See example below.




## When do you need a D4 medical examination report?

**You will need a D4 medical examination report if:**

- this is your first application for a Group 2 lorry or bus licence
- you are applying to renew your Group 2 entitlement at 45
- you are 45 or over (a D4 will be needed every 5 years until you are 65 when you will need one annually)

- you are under 70, hold a medically restricted car or motorcycle licence and held this licence before 1 January 1997, and wish to apply for C1 or C1/D1 entitlement (vehicles between 3500kg and 7500kg and/or a maximum of 16 passenger seats)
- you are applying for a new Group 2 provisional entitlement and a D4 has not been submitted in the last 12 months
- you are a NI, EU or EEA driving licence holder whose authority to drive Group 2 in Great Britain has run out
- you are 70 and still need C1 and D1 entitlement (you will need to have a D4 every 3 years).

**Please note**

You do not need to send in a D4 when you renew a medically restricted licence until you are 45. If you are over 45 and have a medically restricted licence, a D4 will be required every 5 years.

Further information is available at **www.gov.uk/driving-medical-conditions**

## Who can fill in the D4?

The medical examination includes a vision assessment which must be filled in by a doctor, optician or optometrist. Some doctors will be able to fill in both the vision and medical assessment.

If your doctor is unable to fully answer all the questions on the vision assessment you must have it filled in by an optician or optometrist. Please note that the doctor must be GMC registered and licensed to practice in the United Kingdom or registered within the EU.

If you use a different doctor, or a company providing this service, then all their details must be provided including their email address and contact number.

## A. What you need to do

**To check you meet the Group 2 medical standards:**

Read section B of this booklet to find out if you can meet the medical standards needed for driving **before** you make an appointment. If you have any doubts about whether you can meet the standards or not, ask a doctor, optician or get further advice at **www.gov.uk**

You should check when you make the appointment that the medical professional is able to measure your visual acuity to the 6/7.5 line of a Snellen chart. If you wear glasses to drive, the medical professional must be able to confirm the strength of your glasses (dioptres) from your prescription.

**If the doctor is unable to fully and accurately fill in the vision assessment you must arrange for it to be filled in by an optician or optometrist.**

# About your appointment

**When you go to your appointment you should take:**

- identification documents – a combination of 2 or more of the following can be accepted as identification: birth certificate, marriage certificate, medical card, driving licence, passport, paid utility bills, bank or building society cards or statements, National Insurance number card, payslip, letter from Benefits Agency, papers from Home Office
- your driving glasses and your glasses prescription if you wear glasses (not contact lenses) to meet the eyesight standard needed for driving
- a copy of your prescription if the medical is being filled in by a doctor other than your own GP
- this information booklet as it contains important information for the doctor, optician or optometrist

**At the appointment you should:**

Fill in the grey section on page 1 (left hand side) 'Your details' and page 8 (authorisation and declaration) along with your name and date of birth at the foot of all other pages on the D4 when you are with the doctor carrying out the medical examination.

**Check all sections of the medical report have been fully filled in. If you send us an incomplete report your application will be returned.**

# What to do with the filled in report

Send the filled in D4 (vision and medical assessment) with your application form and driving licence to DVLA, Swansea, SA99 1BR. If you do not send all the forms together, the processing of your application will be delayed.

# What you need to know

- The D4 is valid for a period of 4 months from the date the doctor and optician or optometrist signs and dates it.
- The eyesight examination must be undertaken using the prescription currently worn for driving.
- DVLA is not responsible for any fees you have paid to a doctor, optician or optometrist. This also applies if you are unable to meet the medical standards of fitness to drive Group 2 vehicles and your application has to be refused.

**If you develop a condition that could affect your ability to drive safely and you hold any type of driving licence, you MUST tell DVLA immediately. Please see section B.**

# B. Group 2 medical standards

**Medical standards required for drivers of Group 2 vehicles (lorries, buses and minibuses) are higher than those required for Group 1 (car and motorcycle) drivers.**

These standards also apply when renewing categories C1 (small or medium lorries between 3500–7500kg) and D1 (minibuses not for hire or reward) which were given when a car driving test was passed before 1 January 1997.

You can get more information about the medical standards from:

Drivers Medical Group
DVLA
Swansea
SA99 1TU
Or, phone 0300 790 6806.

# Vision assessment

### Visual acuity

All drivers must be able to read in good light, with glasses or contact lenses if worn, a car number plate from 20 metres (post 1 September 2001 font) and have eyesight (visual acuity) of 6/12 (decimal Snellen equivalent 0.5) or better.

**Applicants for Group 2 entitlements must also have, as measured by the 6 metre Snellen chart:**

- a visual acuity of at least 6/7.5 (decimal Snellen equivalent 0.8) in the better eye
- a visual acuity of at least 6/60 (decimal Snellen equivalent 0.1) in the worse eye

This may be achieved with or without glasses or contact lenses. Snellen readings with a plus (+) or minus (-) are not acceptable, for example, 6/6-2 or 6/9+3.

If **glasses** (not contact lenses) are worn for driving, the spectacle prescription of either lens used must not be of a corrective power greater than **plus 8 (+8)** dioptres in any meridian.

If you cannot meet the above standard we may still be able to issue a Group 2 licence in the below circumstances.

If a Group 2 licence was held on 31 December 1996 and you have:

- a corrected visual acuity of at least 6/9 (decimal Snellen equivalent 0.6) in the better eye and 6/12 (decimal Snellen equivalent 0.5) in the worse eye
- an uncorrected visual acuity of 3/60 (decimal Snellen equivalent 0.05) in at least one eye

If a Group 2 licence was held on 1 March 1992 and you have:

- a corrected visual acuity of at least 6/12 (decimal Snellen equivalent 0.5) using both eyes together
- an uncorrected visual acuity of at least 3/60 (decimal Snellen equivalent 0.05) in at least one eye

You will also need to fill in a certificate about your recent Group 2 driving experience, DVLA will send this certificate for you to fill in once they get a valid application.

You will not be able to apply for any new lorry or bus entitlements that you have not previously held.

Car driving licence holders who are renewing category C1 (small or medium lorries between 3500 – 7500kg) need to:

- meet the number plate test
- have eyesight (visual acuity) of 6/12 (decimal Snellen equivalent 0.5) or better

Car driving licence holders who are renewing category D1 (minibuses not for hire or reward) must meet the eyesight standard for Group 2 drivers.

### Monocular vision

Drivers who have sight in one eye only or their sight in one eye has deteriorated to a corrected acuity of less than 3/60 (decimal Snellen equivalent 0.05) cannot normally be licensed to drive Group 2 vehicles. The exceptions are:

1. You were licensed to drive Group 2 vehicles before 1 April 1991 and the Traffic Commissioner who issued the licence knew that you had sight in only one eye before 1 January 1991, you must have:
   - a visual acuity of at least 6/12 (decimal Snellen equivalent 0.5) if you held a Group 2 licence on 1 April 1983
   - 6/9 (decimal Snellen equivalent 0.6) if you were licensed after that date

DVLA will send you a certificate of experience for you to fill in once they get a valid application.

You cannot apply for new vehicle category entitlements – only those you had previously held.

2. You are applying to renew entitlement to drive category C1 (vehicles between 3500kg and 7500kg) that was granted with your Group 1 (car and motorcycle) licence if you had passed a car driving test before 1 January 1997.

### Uncontrolled symptoms of double vision

If you have uncontrolled symptoms of double vision, or you have double vision treated with a patch, you will not be allowed to hold a Group 2 licence.

### Intolerance to glare

If you have symptoms of intolerance to glare you will not be allowed to hold a Group 2 licence. Intolerance refers to a situation whereby the glare impairs or distorts vision, rather than those situations where it results in discomfort only.

### Visual field

- The horizontal visual field should be at least 160 degrees.
- The extension should be at least 70 degrees left and right and 30 degrees up and down.
- No defect should be present within a radius of the central 30 degrees.

# 1. Neurological disorders

### Epilepsy or liability to seizures

If you have been diagnosed as having epilepsy, (this includes all events: major, minor and auras), you will need to remain free of seizures without taking anti-seizure medication for 10 years.

If you have a condition that causes an increased liability to seizures, for example a serious head injury, the risk of you having a seizure must have fallen to no greater than 2% per annum prior to application.

If you have had only an isolated seizure, you may be entitled to drive lorries and buses 5 years from the date of the seizure, provided that you are able to satisfy the following criteria:

- no relevant structural abnormality has been found in the brain on imaging
- no definite epileptic activity has been found on EEG (record of the brain waves)
- you have not been prescribed medication to treat the seizure for at least 5 years since the seizure
- you have the support of your neurologist
- your risk of a further seizure is considered to be 2% or less per annum (each year)

DVLA must refuse an application or revoke (cancel) your licence if you cannot meet these conditions.

You are strongly advised to discuss your eligibility to apply for your driving licence with your doctor before getting a D4 report filled in. See following conditions:

- a stroke or transient ischemic attack (TIA) within the last 12 months
- any episode of loss of consciousness
- Meniere's disease, or any other sudden and disabling dizziness or vertigo within the past year, with a liability to recurrence
- major brain surgery or recent severe head injury
- Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis or other chronic neurological disorder

DVLA must refuse an application or revoke (cancel) your licence if you cannot meet these conditions.

# 2. Diabetes mellitus

### Insulin treated diabetes

If you have insulin-treated diabetes you may apply for a Group 2 licence if you can meet the strict criteria for controlling and monitoring diabetes. This includes:

Checking your glucose (sugar) levels:

- at least twice a day, even on non-driving days
- just before you start driving
- at least every 2 hours during your journey

There must be no more than 2 hours between glucose checks at any time during your journey. **Pull over safely** before testing or checking your device.

Having at least 4 continuous weeks of glucose (sugar) readings available for inspection on a glucose meter(s) with a memory function – these readings must have been taken whilst treated with insulin.

If using continuous glucose monitoring (CGM), use a medically approved CGM device, that's non-adjunctive (approved for treatment decisions based on CGM readings alone). You must always carry your monitor. If using a CGM alarm, it should be set to 4.0 mmol/L or higher, ensure the alarm is accessible to you when driving, and remember alarms support, not replace, your awareness or regular self-checks.

You must keep a finger-prick monitor as backup and use it to confirm your glucose level if your CGM device or sensor is not working, or if your CGM reading does not match how you feel.

If you can meet all the criteria (see leaflet INS186) you will be required to undertake an annual assessment by a hospital consultant specialising in the treatment of diabetes. This will be arranged by DVLA.

Leaflet INS186 (a guide for drivers with diabetes who wish to apply for vocational entitlement) is available to download from **www.gov.uk/diabetes-driving**

### Sulphonylurea or Glinide treated diabetes

If you have diabetes treated with a sulphonylurea or Glinide, for example Gliclazide, you must.

Check your glucose (sugar) levels:

- at least twice a day, even on non-driving days
- just before you start driving
- at least every 2 hours during your journey

There must be no more than 2 hours between glucose checks at any time during your journey. **Pull over safely** before testing or checking your device.

If using CGM, use a medically approved CGM device, that's non-adjunctive (approved for treatment decisions based on CGM readings alone). You must always carry your monitor. If using a CGM alarm, it should be set to 4.0 mmol/L or higher, ensure the alarm is accessible to you when driving,

and remember alarms support, not replace, your awareness or regular self-checks.

You must keep a finger-prick monitor as backup and use it to confirm your glucose level if your CGM device or sensor is not working, or if your CGM reading does not match how you feel.

## 3. Cardiac

### Other medical conditions

An applicant or existing licence holder is likely to be refused a Group 2 licence if they cannot meet the recommended medical guidelines for any of the following:

- within 3 months of a coronary artery bypass graft (CABG)
- angina, heart failure or cardiac arrhythmia which remains uncontrolled
- implanted cardiac defibrillator
- hypertension where the resting blood pressure is consistently 180 mm/Hg systolic or more or 100 mm/Hg diastolic or more

## 4. Psychiatric illness

An applicant or existing licence holder is likely to be refused a Group 2 licence if they cannot meet the recommended medical guidelines for any of the following:

- psychotic illness in the past 12 months
- serious psychiatric illness
- if treated with Clozapine, assessment of blood levels will be required
- dementia
- cognitive impairment likely to affect safe driving

## 5. Substance misuse

An applicant or existing licence holder is likely to be refused a Group 2 licence if they cannot meet the recommended medical guidelines for the following:

- persistent alcohol misuse within the past 3 years without a minimum of 1 year of controlled drinking or abstinence
- alcohol dependence within the past 5 years without minimum of 3 years' abstinence from alcohol consumption
- drug misuse in the past 3 years without a minimum of 1 year of being free of misuse or dependence
- drug dependence in the past 5 years without a minimum of 3 years of being free of misuse or dependence

Further guidance can be found at:
**www.gov.uk/alcohol-problems-and-driving**
**www.gov.uk/drug-use-and-driving**

## 6. Sleep disorders

### Medical conditions causing sleepiness

All drivers are subject to the pressures of modern life, but many drivers are unaware that some medical conditions also cause excessive sleepiness or tiredness. These, alone or in combination with the factors mentioned previously, may be sufficient to make driving unsafe. A road traffic accident may be the first clear indication of such a sleep disorder.

For further information about sleeping disorders and driving, INF159 is available online at:
**www.gov.uk/government/publications/tiredness-can-kill-advice-for-drivers**

**If you know you have uncontrolled sleepiness you MUST not drive.**

## 7. Other medical conditions

An applicant or existing licence holder is likely to be refused a Group 2 licence if they cannot meet the recommended medical guidelines for any of the following:

- any malignant condition which has metastasised (spread) to the brain
- any other serious medical condition likely to affect the safe driving of a Group 2 vehicle

# C. Information for the doctor

- The applicant is liable for any costs involved.
- Ensure you confirm the applicant's identity before the examination. You will find a list of acceptable identification documents on page 3 of this booklet.
- Ensure you fill in your details and GMC number on page 1 and sign and date section 11 on page 7 of the D4.
- Only fill in the vision assessment if you are able to fully and accurately fill in all the questions. If you are unable to do this you must tell the applicant to have this part of the assessment filled in by an optician or optometrist.
- The applicant has been advised that if glasses are worn to meet the current eyesight standard for driving, they must bring their current prescription to the examination.
- The eyesight examination must be undertaken using the prescription currently worn for driving.
- If the applicant does not need glasses for driving, uses contact lenses or has a minus (-) dioptre prescription, question 2(d) of the vision assessment can be answered No.
- If you're carrying out an examination on behalf of a company or the examination was arranged through another company, then you must provide the details of that company.

- You should only provide a practice address if you are the applicant's GP or you are not acting on behalf of a company.

**You must be able to:**

- confirm the strength of glasses (dioptres) from a prescription
- measure the applicant's visual acuity to at least 6/7.5 (decimal 0.8) of a Snellen chart (you may need to purchase a new chart to do this)

We will not accept a Snellen reading shown with a plus (+) or minus (-) e.g. 6/6-2 or 6/9+3.

**Examining the applicant**

- The eyesight standards are explained in section B, 'Vision assessment' in this booklet.
- You must examine the applicant fully and fill in sections 1-11 of the medical examination report D4.
- Please obtain details of the applicant's medical history.
- Section 2 – please note that if diabetes is managed by treatments other than insulin or S&G medication, questions 2 a-d do not need to be answered.
- Any amendments must be signed and dated.
- Details of any condition not covered by the report should be provided in section 9 of the D4.
- If the applicant has a medical condition affecting their visual field, DVLA will commission formal visual field testing at a later date.

## D. Information for the optician or optometrist

Anyone applying for a Group 2 licence must now provide a vision assessment as part of their D4 medical examination report. The vision assessment can be filled in by a doctor, optician or optometrist.

In some cases the doctor may not be able to fully fill in the report and will have advised the applicant to arrange an appointment with an optician or optometrist. The applicant is liable for any costs involved.

Please ensure you confirm the applicant's identity before the examination. You will find a list of acceptable identification documents on page 3 of this booklet.

**Examining the applicant**

- The eyesight standards are explained in section B, 'Vision Assessment' in this booklet.
- You must examine the applicant fully and fill in questions 1-7 of the vision assessment and provide any additional information in the box provided for details, this must not be done from patient records.
- If glasses are worn to meet the current eyesight standard for driving, the eyesight examination must be undertaken using the prescription currently worn for driving.

- The applicant's visual acuity should be measured in terms of the 6 metre Snellen chart but we will also accept the LogMAR equivalent. We cannot accept a Snellen reading shown with a plus (+) or minus (-).
- If the applicant has a medical condition affecting their visual field, DVLA will commission formal visual field testing at a later date.

## Help for medical professionals

You may find it helpful to read DVLA's 'Assessing fitness to drive' guidance at **www.gov.uk/dvla/fitnesstodrive** Alternatively, you can email one of the DVLA doctors on **medadviser@dvla.gov.uk**
Unless you have the applicant's consent, we will only be able to discuss the medical standards in general.

**You can now choose to receive vehicle tax reminders by text or email.**

**Go to: gov.uk/dvla/account**

Driver Services

**D4 Medical Examination Report for a Group 2, lorry or bus licence – Information and useful notes**

DVLA
Longview Road
Morriston
Swansea
SA99 1BR

**www.gov.uk/driving-medical-conditions**