



drivercpc[®]
GET QUALIFIED STAY QUALIFIED



THE **NEW**
INITIAL QUALIFICATION
FOR DRIVERS OF BUSES,
COACHES AND LORRIES



DSA[®]
DRIVING STANDARDS AGENCY
SAFE DRIVING FOR LIFE

Introduction

This leaflet provides information on the initial qualification for those wishing to obtain vocational licences to drive buses or coaches professionally from 10th September 2008 and lorries from 10th September 2009.

If you already hold a C, C1, CE, C1E, D*, D1*, DE* or D1E* licence issued before these dates you will have 'acquired rights' and will not be required to take the initial qualification, however; both new and existing drivers will be required to complete periodic training (see 'Periodic Training' leaflet available on www.transportoffice.gov.uk/cpc)

***Those who have an entitlement on their licence stating 'not for hire or reward' (Code 101) will not have acquired rights and will have to take the initial qualification should they wish to drive professionally.**

When will it start?

Bus and Coach drivers – 10th September 2008

Lorry drivers – 10th September 2009.

What is Driver CPC?

Driver CPC (Certificate of Professional Competence) is being introduced across the European Union to maintain high driving standards and improve road safety. All professional bus, coach and lorry drivers must hold a Driver CPC if they want to drive for a living (there are a few exempt groups – please see 'Are there any special concessions?' at the back of this leaflet).

How will it affect me?

As a new driver from the above dates, you will need to pass the Driver CPC theory and practical tests in addition to the licence acquisition theory and practical tests if you intend to drive professionally. Once you have passed these tests you will also need to undergo ongoing periodic training to keep your Driver CPC qualification.

NB: any drivers of lorries of 3.5 tons and upwards, and minibuses with 9 seats or more must obtain a Driver CPC.

The existing 'Transport Manager's CPC' also known as the 'Operator's CPC' is a separate qualification and anyone holding one who still drives professionally as part of their job will also need to hold a Driver CPC.



How will the test change?

The initial qualification has been divided into 4 modules to give you flexibility to obtain your vocational licence only, or to gain Driver CPC at the same time.

The table below shows the different modules you will need to pass:

Module	Initial qualification for licence acquisition from Sept 08 (PCV) & Sept 09 (LGV)		
1	Theory Test - Multiple Choice questions & Hazard Perception clips	2.5 hrs	✓
2	Case Studies	1.5 hrs	✓
3	Practical Test	1.5 hrs	✓
4	Driver CPC Practical Test Vehicle Safety Demonstration	0.5 hrs	✓

If you take your test after the Driver CPC starts date and you are not going to be driving for a living, you will only need to pass Modules 1 & 3.

If, at a later date, you change your mind and want to drive for a living you would need to pass Modules 2 & 4.

Module 1 – Multiple Choice questions and Hazard Perception clips

From 4th August 2008, module 1 will consist of two separate tests. The first will be 100 multiple choice questions (of which the pass mark will be 85) and the second 19 hazard perception clips with 20 score-able hazards (of which the pass mark will be 67 out of 100). The two tests will take a total of 2 ½ hours to complete, but can be taken separately and in either order.

Module 2 – Case Studies

In addition to passing module 1, to obtain your Driver CPC you will also need to pass module 2. This module is a computer based test and uses case studies, each one based on real-life scenarios you may encounter in your working life. It aims to test your knowledge and how you put it into practice. Written by experts from the industry, questions will be based around the case study and you will be asked to answer in a number of different ways such as multiple choice answers, clicking an area on a photograph / image or by typing in a short answer.

Each test will be made up of 7 case studies, each one with 6 – 8 questions, with a possible maximum score of 50 (of which the pass mark will be 38). The test will take 1½ hours to complete and can be taken at the same test centre as module 1.

Module 3 – Practical Test

From 10th September 2008 the current practical on-road driving test is being developed to include an Eco-Safe Driving assessment. Although this will not contribute to the result of the test, during the test the examiner will assess your ability to control the vehicle and plan your drive in an eco-safe manner. If you do not do so this will be recorded on the test report form. You will be handed further information on eco-safe driving at the end of the test.

Actual on-road driving time for all rigid categories will be increased slightly to a minimum of 1 hour. This will give examiners the opportunity to assess a candidate's driving in more varied traffic conditions and on a wider variety of roads.

Module 4 – Driver CPC Practical Test

In addition to passing module 3, to obtain your Driver CPC you will also need to pass module 4 a new practical test focussing on vehicle safety which has been developed with the support and advice of the industry. In this ½ hour test you will be required to demonstrate your knowledge and ability in the areas listed below:

- Ability to load the vehicle with due regard for safety rules and proper vehicle use
- Security of the vehicle and contents
- Ability to prevent criminality and trafficking in illegal immigrants
- Ability to assess emergency situations
- Ability to prevent physical risk
- Demonstrate your ability through a physical, walk round vehicle safety check

LGV tests will also see the introduction of a new piece of equipment which will allow you to demonstrate your ability to secure loads.

The test consists of 5 topic areas which cover the Driver CPC syllabus and in order to pass the candidate has to score 15 out of a possible 20 points in each topic area (75%) and an overall score of 80%.

Can I take the modules in any order?

You must pass module 1 before you take module 3 and you must pass module 2 before you take module 4. In other words, the theory test must be passed before the practical part. However, modules 1 and 2 (theory) can be taken in either order, as can modules 3 and 4 (practical).

How will I prove I hold Driver CPC?

After you have passed all 4 modules you will be sent a Driver Qualification Card (DQC). There will be no charge for the card at the point of issue.

The DQC will be sent to the address on your driving licence. It is important that you keep your details up to date with DVLA.

You must carry your DQC whilst driving and there will be penalties if you are found to be driving professionally without one. If your DQC has been lost, stolen or damaged, you must report it to the DSA within 7 days and apply for a replacement card. There will be a fee to replace and issue new cards.

To report your DQC card lost, stolen or damaged contact:

Email customer.services@dsa.gsi.gov.uk (putting 'DQC Enquiry' in the subject field) or telephone **0300 200 1122**

Once you have reported it you will be able to drive for up to 15 days without a card while a replacement is sent to you.

NB: if your card has been lost or stolen you must inform your employer.

Once I have passed my initial qualification, is that it?

No. A Driver CPC lasts for five years. To retain your Driver CPC you will need to complete 35 hours of periodic training every five years to continue to drive professionally. Further information and a leaflet on periodic training are available from www.transportoffice.gov.uk/cpc, or call us on 0300 200 1122.

Are there any special concessions?

There are exemptions from the Driver CPC qualification for drivers of vehicles:

- used for the non-commercial carriage of passengers or goods, for personal use
- undergoing road tests for technical development, repair or maintenance purposes, or new or rebuilt vehicles not yet put into service
- used in the course of driving lessons for any person wishing to obtain a driving licence or Driver CPC
- carrying material or equipment to be used by the driver in the course of his or her work, provided that driving the vehicle does not constitute the driver's principal activity
- with a maximum authorised speed not exceeding 45km/h
- used by, or under the control of, the armed forces, civil defence, the fire service, and forces responsible for maintaining public order
- used in states of emergency or assigned to rescue missions.

Have we answered all of your questions on Driver CPC?

If not, contact the Driving Standards Agency:

Email customer.services@dsa.gsi.gov.uk (putting 'Driver CPC Enquiry' in the subject field) or telephone **0300 200 1122**

or for more detailed information write to us at:

Driver CPC enquiries
PO Box 280
Newcastle
NE99 1FP

More information on the initial qualification and Driver CPC can be found at:

www.transportoffice.gov.uk/cpc

If you are based in Northern Ireland you can contact DVA on:

www.dvani.gov.uk, or
telephone **02870346960**

or write to the DVA at:

Driver & Vehicle Agency
Driving Licensing Division
Castlerock Road
Coleraine
BT51 3TB



*An executive agency of the
Department for
Transport*