

In the future, just holding a vocational licence will not be sufficient. A new qualification for professional bus, coach and lorry drivers – the Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (Driver CPC) – is being introduced across the European Union.

What will the Compulsory Directive require?

For new drivers, it will require them to undergo initial qualification in addition to obtaining their driving licence, before they will be able to earn money driving a vehicle in any European Union (EU) member state, including the UK.

For existing drivers it will oblige them to take 35 hours periodic training every five years in order to continue driving professionally within the UK or the EU.

For PCV drivers (D and D1 licences) these changes will be introduced in September 2008, and for LGV drivers (C and C1 licences) they will be introduced in September 2009.

What is involved in initial qualification?

Following the results of the formal consultation exercise, this training for new drivers will be combined with the current theory and practical driving tests.

New drivers will have a total of four tests to complete to get their driving licence and Driver's CPC. A driver cannot drive professionally in either the UK or the EU until all four tests are completed.

There will be a test of driving theory with 100 multiple choice and 19 hazard perception clips. This test will last for 2½ hours. There will also be a second theory test comprising case studies that will last for 1½ hours. The case studies will ask questions on a specific piece of information given during the test, for example a photo or an article.

A driver will also have two practical tests to complete. The first is the same as the current test, with a slightly increased on-road driving time. The second will involve a ½ hour non-driving test which will take place at one of the DVA test centres.

There is the option for a driver to complete their initial qualification as part of an approved National Vocational Training course. This allows them to work for up to one year within the UK while completing the qualification.

What will be involved in periodic training?

Existing drivers are exempt from initial qualification if they hold their licence prior to introduction. However, they will

have to complete re-training every five years to allow them to continue to drive professionally. This applies equally to LGV and to PCV drivers.

The 35 hours training is equivalent to one week and can be taken flexibly in courses of no less than seven hours at a time, or one day at a time.

For PCV drivers who already hold their licence in September 2008, they will have to complete the first 35 hours training by September 2013.

The system for LGV drivers is the same. For those drivers who hold their licence in September 2009, they will have to complete their training by September 2014.

All training must be taken with an approved training centre, which must be approved by DVA according to the requirements in the Directive. The training centre must follow the syllabus laid out by the Directive.

How will the training be recorded?

Once a driver has completed his/her initial qualification they will be awarded a Certificate of Professional Competence – Driver's CPC – to prove their training is up to date. This will be valid for five years.

Upon completion of periodic training the driver will be awarded a further Driver's CPC, also valid for five years. By the time of its expiry the driver must have completed another block of 35 hours training to get this renewed.

The CPC will be recorded by the issuing of a Driver Qualification Card, which the driver must carry with them whilst driving.

What happens if my training goes out of date?

If you do not hold a valid CPC from September 2008 for PCV drivers and September 2009 for LGV drivers, you will not be able to drive professionally. This not only applies to driving in other EU countries, but also to driving within the UK.

Any enforcement body within the EU will be able to ask drivers for proof that they hold a valid Driver's CPC.

Summary

- New entrants to professional driving will have to complete two theory tests and two practical tests before driving professionally.
- All professional drivers will have to complete 35 hours of periodic training every five years to maintain their Driver CPC.

- Existing professional drivers will not have to pass the initial qualification, but will be subject to the periodic training requirements (from 2008-09).
- Driver CPC will be shown by a separate driver qualification card, which must be carried at all times whilst driving.
- The penalties for non-compliance will be similar to driving without a licence and will be enforced from day one.

How can I find out more?

More information can be obtained from DVA's website:

<http://www.dvni.gov.uk/legislation/compulsorytraining.asp>

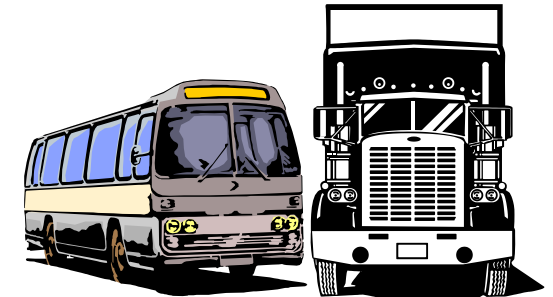
There is an opportunity on the website to add your details to a mailing list. This will allow DVA to keep you updated with implementing the Directive.

If you require further information not contained on the website please contact:

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DRIVER CPC



From 2008 all PCV drivers must complete 35 hours training every five years in order to keep their licence.

From 2009 all LGV drivers must complete similar training of 35 hours every five years in order to keep their licence.

From the same dates, new drivers will have to take further training beyond that required for obtaining their driving licence.

