



INS57P  
(NI)

# Information on driving licences

For more information go to [www.nidirect.gov.uk/motoring](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/motoring)



Please check your photocard and counterpart carefully and keep this leaflet safe.

CUSTOMER  
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An Agency within the Department of the  
**Environment**  
[www.doeni.gov.uk](http://www.doeni.gov.uk)

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## Your driving licence

Your driving licence is made up of two parts: a plastic photocard and a paper counterpart.

Please check both parts of your driving licence carefully. This is especially important if there is a mistake in your name, address, date of birth or vehicle categories. **The address shown is in the format preferred by Royal Mail and may not be identical to the one you gave on your application form.**

If there is anything wrong with either part of your driving licence, send both parts back to us at DVA Driver Licensing, County Hall, Coleraine, BT51 3TB. Include a letter explaining what is wrong.

Give your full name and date of birth or driver number whenever you contact us about your licence. This helps us to find your details.

We will send your licence and identity documents separately. If you do not get your identity documents back within 10 working days of receiving your photocard licence, please phone us on **0845 402 4000**.

## What to do if you lose your photocard and/or paper counterpart

You can apply for a replacement driving licence using form DL1(NI) Application for a driving licence, which is available from main Post Office® branches, Local Vehicle Licence Offices or MOT Centres.

If you lose either part of your driving licence, you must return any part you still hold to us. We will issue a replacement of both parts. If either part of your driving licence has been lost or stolen, you should also tell the police.

## How to renew your driving licence

Driving licences are normally valid for up to 10 years. We will send you a reminder when your licence is due to be renewed. You can also apply for renewal of your licence using form DL1(NI).

## Changing your personal details

**You must immediately tell us about any change to your personal details.**

To notify us of a change to your address you must complete the section provided on the paper counterpart and sign your name inside the white box on the front of the counterpart. The address must be one in Northern Ireland where we can contact you at any time (we do not accept PO box addresses).

**If your name has changed** you will need to complete form DL1(NI) which is available from main Post Office® branches, Local Vehicle Licence Offices or MOT centres. Send the completed form, a colour passport sized photograph, both parts of your driving licence and the relevant documentary evidence to support your name change to DVA Driver Licensing, County Hall, Coleraine, BT51 3TB. The documentary evidence you must provide is detailed in application form DL1(NI).

**Failure to notify any changes as described above is a criminal offence punishable by a fine up to £1000.**

## What to do when a licence holder dies

If you are responsible for dealing with the estate of the person who has died, send both parts of their driving licence to us at DVA Driver Licensing, County Hall, Coleraine, BT51 3TB.

To prevent any unnecessary correspondence which may cause distress, please send a covering letter that includes the full name, address and date of birth or driver number of the person who has died and the date they died. **You do not need to send in the death certificate.** If the licence is not available, a letter giving the driver number or full name and date of birth will be sufficient.

## When a licence is no longer needed

If you no longer want to drive you should return your licence to us at DVA Driver Licensing, County Hall, Coleraine, BT51 3TB. Include a letter explaining that you no longer want a licence.

## Your health

You must let us know if you have ever had, or currently suffer from, any medical condition that could affect your ability to drive. If you are not sure whether to tell us about a medical condition, your doctor should be able to give you advice.

You can find information about relevant health conditions on our website at [www.nidirect.gov.uk/motoring](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/motoring) under the Driver Licensing heading.

## Eyesight

A new format for number plates was introduced on 1 September 2001. This means that the characters displayed on all new and replacement number plates must be 50mm wide instead of 57mm wide.

To drive you must be able to read a number plate, in good daylight, from 20.5 metres (67 feet) for old-style characters or 20 metres (65 feet) for new-style characters.

If you need to wear glasses or corrective lenses to do this, you must wear them every time you drive.

There are higher eyesight standards for those who drive medium-sized and large goods, minibuses or buses.

Bioptics (telescope) are not currently acceptable for use while driving in the United Kingdom and it is not acceptable to use a Bioptic device to meet the prescribed eyesight standard. A Bioptic device cannot be used to pass the number plate test.

Further information is available on our website at [www.nidirect.gov.uk/motoring](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/motoring) under the Driver Licensing heading.

**If you have any questions about standards for eyesight, or any other medical condition, you can contact us in the following ways:**

**By phoning** 0845 402 4000 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday.

Minicom users should call 028 70341380

**By sending an email to** [dvlni@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:dvlni@doeni.gov.uk)

**By writing to** DVA Medical Section, Castlerock Road, Coleraine, BT51 3TB.

**By sending a fax to** 028 70341385

When you contact us, please give your full name and address, and your date of birth or driver number. Also give us as much information as possible about your medical condition.

## General information

### Your new, more secure driving licence

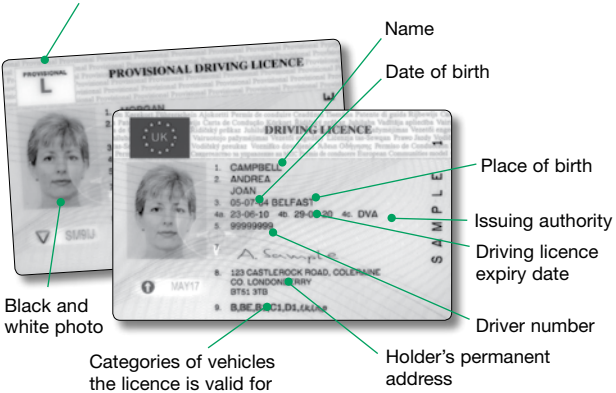
Your new licence is made up of a photocard and a paper counterpart. The photocard will show your photo, signature and the categories of vehicle you are entitled to drive. The paper counterpart will show the vehicles you are entitled to drive as a learner, driving offences and other relevant information.

The new licence has improved security features not available on the older licence. **One of the main differences between the two is the new version has a black and white photo while the older version had a colour one.**

**If you have to show your licence to the police you should show them the photocard and the paper counterpart.** You should not deface your driving licence in any way.

## An example of the front of a photocard licence

A letter L on the provisional photocard confirms that the holder is a learner driver. The symbol is shown on all provisional photocard driving licences.



## An example of the back of a full photocard licence

The steering wheel is a security feature. It changes colour when viewed at a different angle.



The date your entitlement to drive a category of vehicle starts.

The '<' = 'earlier than' symbol (if shown) means that the date shown has been worked out using the earliest information available.

Information codes. A description of the codes is shown on page 11.

The date your entitlement to drive each category of vehicle ends. The last two figures refer to the year. Categories you have provisional entitlement to drive are shown on the paper counterpart document.

Unique card identifier, used to link the photocard and the counterpart document.

## An example of a counterpart document

**(Front)**

Barcode.

Your driver number.

Categories of vehicle you are entitled to drive provisionally (that is, before you pass the relevant driving test).

Entitlement history (that is, previous entitlement which has been replaced by a higher category).

Information regarding convictions, penalty points or periods of restriction will be shown here.

The counterpart also has an area for you to tell us about a change of address. (Both the photocard and counterpart must be returned in this case).

**(Back)**

Signature box for confirming change of address.

**We no longer issue plastic wallets with photocard driving licences.**

**We cannot return old plastic wallets sent in to us.**






## The categories of vehicle








### Maximum weights

Except for category B1, all weights quoted in the table on pages 8, 9 and 10 relate to **'maximum authorised mass' (MAM)**. This is the total weight of the vehicle when loaded. It may also be described as the 'gross vehicle weight'.

This is normally shown on a plate fitted to the vehicle.

## Descriptions of vehicle categories

Category	Description	Minimum age	Notes
<b>A1</b>	<b>Motorcycles</b>  Light motorcycles with an engine size of up to 125cc and a power output of up to 11kW (14.6bhp).	17	See note 1
<b>A</b>	Medium-sized motorcycles up to 25kW (33bhp) and a power to weight ratio of up to 0.16kW/kg. Motorcycles with a sidecar and a power to weight ratio of up to 0.16kW/kg.	17	See note 1
<b>B1</b>	<b>Three or four-wheeled light vehicles</b>  Motor tricycles, quadricycles and three or four wheeled vehicles with an unladen weight no more than 550kg.	17	See note 2
<b>B</b>	<b>Cars</b>  Motor vehicle with a MAM of up to 3,500kg, no more than eight passenger seats with or without a trailer – weighing no more than 750kg.  As category B but with a trailer weighing more than 750kg. The total weight of the vehicle and trailer together can't weigh more than 3,500kg. The weight of the trailer, when fully loaded, can't weigh more than the unladen weight of the vehicle.	17	See note 2
<b>B auto</b>	<b>Automatic cars</b> As category B with automatic transmission.	17	See note 2
<b>B+E</b>	<b>Cars with trailers</b>  As category B but with a heavier trailer that isn't covered in the descriptions for category B.	17	See note 9
<b>C1</b>	<b>Medium-sized goods vehicles</b>  Vehicles weighing between 3,500kg and 7,500kg, with or without a trailer, weighing no more than 750kg.	18	See notes 3 and 9

Category	Description	Minimum age	Notes
<b>C1+E</b>	<b>Medium-sized goods vehicles with trailers</b>  As category C1 but with a trailer weighing more than 750kg. The total weight of the vehicle and the trailer can't weigh more than 12,000kg. The weight of the trailer, when fully loaded, can't weigh more than the unladen weight of the vehicle.	21	See notes 3, 4 and 9
<b>C</b>	<b>Large goods vehicles</b>  Vehicles over 3,500kg, with a trailer up to 750kg.	21	See note 4
<b>C+E</b>	<b>Large goods vehicles with trailers</b>  As category C but with a trailer over 750kg.	21	See note 4
<b>D1</b>	<b>Minibuses</b>  Vehicles with more than 8 seats but no more than 16 seats in addition to the driver's seat, with or without a trailer of no more than 750kgs.	21	See notes 5 and 9
<b>D1+E</b>	<b>Minibuses with trailers</b>  As category D1 but with a trailer over 750kg. The total weight of the vehicle and the trailer together can't weigh more than 12,000kg. The weight of the trailer, when fully loaded, can't weigh more than the unladen weight of the vehicle.	21	See notes 5 and 9
<b>D</b>	<b>Buses</b>  Any bus with more than eight passenger seats, with a trailer up to 750kg.	21	See notes 5 and 8
<b>D+E</b>	<b>Buses with trailers</b>  As category D but with a trailer over 750kg.	21	See notes 5 and 8

Category	Description	Minimum age	Notes
<b>f</b>	Agricultural tractors	17	See note 6
<b>g</b>	Roadrollers	21	See note 7
<b>h</b>	Tracked vehicles	21	See note 10
<b>k</b>	Mowing machines or vehicles controlled by someone on foot	16	
<b>p</b>	Mopeds with an engine size of up to 50cc and a maximum speed of up to 50km/h.	16	

### Note 1

After a period of two years following the test pass of a motorbike of over 120cc you may drive any size of motorbike.

### Note 2

Age 16 if you are currently getting Disability Living Allowance at the higher rate (mobility component).

### Note 3

You can drive at age 17 if you are a member of the armed services. You can drive at age 18 if you got your driving licence before 10 September 2009 and the weight of the vehicle and trailer together is under 7,500kg.

### Note 4

You can drive at age 17 if a member of the armed services. You can drive at 18 if one of the following apply:

- you passed your driving test and Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (Driver CPC) Initial Qualification
- you are learning to drive or taking a driving test for this category or Driver CPC Initial Qualification
- you are taking a national vocational training course to get a Driver CPC Initial Qualification, or
- you had your driving licence before 10 September 2009, you must take the CPC periodic training within 5 years of this date.

### Note 5

You can drive at 17 if member of armed forces.

You can drive at 18:

- (i) while learning to drive or taking your passenger carrying vehicle (PCV) test or Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) Initial Qualification, or
- (ii) after passing a PCV test and CPC Initial Qualification when:
  - driving on a regular service where the route does not exceed 50km, or
  - not engaged in the carriage of passengers, or
  - while undergoing a national vocational training course to obtain a CPC Initial Qualification; or

- (iii) If the PCV licence was obtained before 10 September 2008, when:
- driving on a regular service where the route does not exceed 50km, or
  - not engaged in the carriage of passengers, or
  - driving a vehicle of a class included in sub-category D1, and
  - driving under a bus operator's licence, minibus permit or community bus permit.

**For categories D & D+E** – age 20 after passing a PCV Driving Test and Driver CPC Initial Qualification when driving a regular service on a route which can exceed 50km.

For further advice you will need to contact DVA at [dvlni@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:dvlni@doeni.gov.uk) or telephone 028 70346960 or write to DVA Driver Licensing, County Hall, Coleraine, BT51 3TB.

### Note 6

At 16 you can drive tractors not exceeding 2.45m wide. It must only pull trailers not exceeding 2.45m wide with two wheels, or four wheels that are close-coupled.

### Note 7

At 17 you can drive small roadrollers with metal or hard rollers. They must not be steam powered, weigh more than 11.69 tonnes or be made for carrying loads.

### Note 8

You need category D entitlement to drive an articulated bus (for example, a 'bendibus'). You can get more details from us.

### Note 9

If you passed your test for category B before 1 January 1997 your licence will already show C1, C1E (8.25 tonnes), D1(not for hire or reward), D1E (not for hire or reward) as entitlement.

### Note 10

You can drive at 17 if the maximum authorised mass of the tracked vehicle is not more than 3,500kg.

## Information codes

Listed below are descriptions of the information codes on your driving licence. These tell you any restrictions on your driving entitlement.

- 01** eyesight correction
- 02** hearing/communication aid
- 10** modified transmission
- 15** modified clutch
- 20** modified braking systems
- 25** modified accelerator systems
- 30** combined braking and accelerator systems

- 35** modified control layouts
- 40** modified steering
- 42** modified rear-view mirror(s)
- 43** modified driving seats
- 44** modifications to motorcycles
  - (1) single operated brake
  - (2) (adjusted) hand operated brake (front wheel)
  - (3) (adjusted) foot operated brake (back wheel)
  - (4) (adjusted) accelerator handle
  - (5) (adjusted) manual transmission and manual clutch
  - (6) (adjusted) rear-view mirror(s)
  - (7) (adjusted) commands (direction indicators, braking light, etc.)
  - (8) seat height allowing the driver, in sitting position, to have two feet on the road at the same time
- 45** motorcycle only with sidecar
- 70** exchange of licence
- 71** duplicate of licence
- 78** restricted to vehicles with automatic transmission
- 79** restricted to vehicles in conformity with the specifications stated in brackets
- 101** not for hire or reward
- 102** drawbar trailers only
- 105** not more than 5.5m long
- 106** restricted to vehicles with automatic transmissions
- 107** not more than 8250kg
- 108** subject to minimum age requirements
- 110** limited to invalid carriages
- 111** limited to 16 passenger seats
- 113** limited to 16 passenger seats except for automatics
- 114** with any special controls required for safe driving
- 115** organ donor
- 118** start date is for earliest entitlement
- 119** weight limit does not apply
- 120** complies with health standard for category D1
- 121** restricted to conditions specified in the Secretary of State's notice
- 122** valid on successful completion: Basic Moped Training Course (CBT)

## Foreign country codes

The relevant codes will appear in the 'Information codes' section of the driving licence if you have exchanged your licence from any of these countries for a NI licence.

<b>Australia</b> .....	AUS	<b>Italy</b> .....	I
<b>Austria</b> .....	A	<b>Japan</b> .....	J
<b>Barbados</b> .....	BDS	<b>Jersey</b> .....	GBJ
<b>Belgium</b> .....	B	<b>Latvia</b> .....	LV
<b>British Virgin Islands</b> .....	VGB	<b>Liechtenstein</b> .....	FL
<b>Bulgaria</b> .....	BG	<b>Lithuania</b> .....	LT
<b>Canada</b> .....	CDN	<b>Luxembourg</b> .....	L
<b>Cyprus</b> .....	CY	<b>Malta</b> .....	M
<b>Czech Republic</b> .....	CZ	<b>Monaco</b> .....	MC
<b>Denmark</b> .....	DK	<b>Netherlands</b> .....	NL
<b>Estonia</b> .....	EST	<b>New Zealand</b> .....	NZ
<b>Falkland Islands</b> .....	FK	<b>Norway</b> .....	N
<b>Faroe Islands</b> .....	FO	<b>Poland</b> .....	PL
<b>Finland</b> .....	FIN	<b>Portugal</b> .....	P
<b>France</b> .....	F	<b>Republic of Korea</b> .....	ROK
<b>Germany</b> .....	D	<b>Romania</b> .....	RO
<b>Gibraltar</b> .....	GBZ	<b>Singapore</b> .....	SGP
<b>Greece</b> .....	GR	<b>Slovakia</b> .....	SK
<b>Guernsey</b> .....	GBG	<b>Slovenia</b> .....	SLO
<b>Hong Kong</b> .....	HK	<b>South Africa</b> .....	ZA
<b>Hungary</b> .....	H	<b>Spain</b> .....	E
<b>Iceland</b> .....	IS	<b>Sweden</b> .....	S
<b>Ireland</b> .....	IRL	<b>Switzerland</b> .....	CH
<b>Isle of Man</b> .....	GBM	<b>Zimbabwe</b> .....	ZW

## Driving in other countries

### Visiting another country

Your NI licence allows you to drive in all other countries in the European Economic Area (EEA) (includes Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and all EC Member States). Check with a motoring organisation if you want to drive in a country that is not in the EEA. They will tell you whether you need an International Driving Permit (IDP). IDPs are issued by the AA, the RAC and Green Flag National Breakdown Recovery Club.

You must live in Northern Ireland, have passed a driving test, and be over 18.

### Moving to another country

If you move to another country, you should get information about driving there from the relevant authority in that country.

If you **return** here from a country that is not in the EEA and you do not have a NI licence, you may:

- drive for up to 12 months on a valid licence that is not a NI, GB or EEA licence; or
- apply for a replacement of your previous NI licence by paying the appropriate fee and surrender any GB, EEA or exchangeable licence you hold.

# Learner drivers and provisional licence holders

## Provisional licence conditions and restrictions (cars)

Learner drivers must be supervised. To supervise a learner driver you must be at least 21 and have a current full Northern Ireland (NI), Great Britain (GB) or European Economic Area (EEA) driving licence, which you must have held for at least three years.

Learner drivers must display 'L' plates on the vehicle they are driving and the plates must be clearly visible at the front and back of the vehicle.

If you have provisional entitlement to drive cars with trailers (category B+E) **and have passed a test for cars (category B)** you may drive on the motorway as long as you are supervised and are displaying 'L' plates.

If you do not meet these conditions you could be fined up to £1000, be disqualified (banned) from driving or have three to six penalty points on your licence.

## Entitlement for 16 year-olds

If you are 16, provisional category B entitlement (motorcar) will be shown on your licence but it will not be valid until your 17th birthday (age 16 if you receive a Disability Living Allowance (mobility component) at the higher rate).

## Applying for a full licence after passing your test

Once you have passed a driving test you **must** send the test pass certificate to us in order to claim your new entitlements on your driving licence.

You must return your current driving licence. If you are unable to return your driving licence please complete form DL1(NI) and tell us why in section 10.

However, if your licence was issued on or after the 1st July 2004, you may be eligible for automatic issue of your driving licence (ADLI). Your Driving Examiner will be able to advise you upon passing your driving test.

## 'R' Plate Restrictions – Cars & Motorcycles

The holder of a temporarily restricted licence shall until the date shown on their counterpart;

- (a) display R plates which are clearly visible at the front and rear of the vehicle; and
- (b) not exceed a speed of 45mph when driving a vehicle of the category or categories shown.

You must return your current driving licence. If you are unable to return your driving licence please complete form DL1(NI) and tell us why in section 10.

## **Compulsory Basic Training (CBT)**

### **Provisional licence for motorcycles**

All learner riders must complete a CBT course before riding a moped or motorcycle on the road.

You do not need to complete CBT if:

- you have already got full moped entitlement as a result of passing a moped test, or
- you have already got a full licence for one class of motorcycle entitlement and want to upgrade to another. (For example, if you are entitled to ride light motorcycles, (category A1), you do not need to repeat CBT to get a provisional category A entitlement).

However, you will need to take a further training course if your full licence limits you to riding an automatic or modified moped or motorcycle and you want to ride a machine with manual transmission or a moped or motorcycle that haven't been modified.

If you have any questions about CBT, phone the DVA on 0845 402 4000 or visit [www.nidirect.gov.uk/motoring](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/motoring)

### **Full car driving licence holders riding mopeds**

Anyone who passes a full car test and receives full moped entitlement on or after 21st February 2011 will have to complete a course of CBT once in order to validate this full moped entitlement for life.

Anyone who passed a car test prior to 21st February 2011 will retain full entitlement to a full moped licence, but we encourage them to take training.

### **Full car driving licence holders with provisional motorcycle entitlement**

From 21st February 2011, a person who passes a full car test and receives provisional motorcycle entitlement must successfully complete CBT before they can ride a motorcycle unaccompanied on public roads.

Anyone who passed a car test prior to 21st February 2011 will have 12 months from this date to obtain either a full motorcycle licence or a valid CBT certificate, if they wish to continue riding a motorcycle unaccompanied on public roads.

### **Motorcycle specification for learner riders**

Learner riders can ride motorcycles with an engine size of up to 125cc and a power output of up to 11kW (14.6bhp).

## **Types of motorcycle for tests**

A learner motorcycle rider can take two types of test.

- Category A1 light motorcycle – If you pass a motorcycle test riding a motorcycle with an engine capacity of at least 75cc and up to 120cc, you will be allowed to ride motorcycles up to 125cc (11kW/14.6bhp).

- Category A – if you pass a motorcycle test riding a motorcycle with an engine capacity greater than 120cc, you will be allowed to ride any motorcycle with a power output of up to 25kW (33bhp) and a power to weight ratio of no more than 0.16kW for every kg. You will be entitled to ride larger powered motorcycles **after two years of passing your test.**

## Minibuses, lorries and buses

### Driving a minibus

If you were entitled to drive cars before 1 January 1997 you can drive a minibus as long as:

- you are 21 or over;
- the minibus has no more than 16 passenger seats; and
- you are not using the minibus to carry fare-paying passengers for profit.

If you are 70 or over, or have a short-period licence for medical reasons you will be allowed to drive these vehicles only if you meet the higher medical standards. For further information please contact our Customer Enquiry Unit on 0845 402 4000 or visit our website at [www.nidirect.gov.uk/motoring](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/motoring).

For anyone who passed a car test after 1st January 1997; in order to drive a minibus with over eight passenger seats, or to carry fare-paying passengers, you will normally need entitlement under category D1 or D. To get this you must meet higher medical standards and take a further driving test.

### **All holders of category B driving licences may drive minibuses in the circumstances explained below.**

If your driving licence does not allow you to drive minibuses (does not show category D1), there are certain circumstances where you may still be able to do so. You may drive a minibus with up to 16 passenger seats as long as:

- you are driving for social purposes for a non-commercial body but do not make a profit;
- you are 21 or over;
- you have held a category B driving licence for at least two years;
- you are providing your services on a voluntary basis; and
- the minibus weighs no more than 3.5 tonnes (not including any specialist equipment for carrying disabled passengers) or no more than 4.25 tonnes in certain circumstances.

When driving a minibus under these conditions you:

- must not receive any payment other than your out-of-pocket expenses;
- must not tow any trailer; and
- can only drive in the United Kingdom.

**If you are 70 or over you will need to make a special application which involves meeting higher medical standards.**

## **Driving a lorry or bus**

**You must pass a driving test in a car before you take a test for either of these categories.**

If you want to drive lorries you must get category C entitlement. To drive buses you must get category D entitlement. You can apply for both. To do this you must send us form DL1(NI) together with form DLM1 a 'Medical Examination Report' which must be completed by a doctor. You must also pass a driving test in a lorry and/or bus. All applications for a Bus licence must be accompanied by a Basic Disclosure Certificate. Please see the DL1(NI) application form for further information.

## **Supervising learner lorry and bus drivers**

If you want to supervise a learner lorry or bus driver you must hold a full licence for the vehicle being driven by the learner driver, and have held that licence for a continuous period of not less than 3 years, or for periods amounting in aggregate to not less than 3 years.

## **Towing trailers**

If you want to tow a heavy trailer, you must first pass a test in the vehicle you would be using to tow the trailer.

Learner drivers in categories B, C1, C, D1 and D cannot tow any trailer of any size.

If you need more information on entitlement to tow trailers, please visit [www.nidirect.gov.uk/driver-licensing](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/driver-licensing)

## **Motorhomes**

When driving a motorhome it is the maximum authorised mass (the total weight of the vehicle plus the maximum load it can carry) which is relevant to the driving entitlement you need.

To drive a motorhome with a maximum authorised mass of between 3.5 and 7.5 tonnes, you need a category C1 licence.

To drive a motorhome with a maximum authorised mass of over 7.5 tonnes, you need a category C licence.

## **Vehicles which do not need lorry or bus entitlement**

If you passed your category B test before 1 January 1997 your licence will already show D1, D1+E which can be driven, but not for hire or reward. Your licence will also show entitlement C1 or C1+E (not more than 8250kg). There is no hire or reward restriction for C1 or C1+E. You normally need category C or D entitlement to drive a large lorry or bus on the road.

However, the following apply:

- Category D licence holders can drive bus recovery vehicles – (if automatic, automatic restriction applies).
- Category C licence holders can also drive a bus to a place of repair or to road test it following repair as long as;
  - they have held their full licence for at least two years,
  - the bus is being operated by the holder of a road service licence, and
  - it is not being used for the carriage of any person who is not connected with the holder of that licence.
- Category B licence holders can drive some large vehicles as long as they meet certain conditions.

Vehicles a person can drive without lorry or bus entitlement include:

- steam powered vehicles;
- lorries built before 1 January 1960 and used unloaded and not pulling a loaded trailer;
- road construction machines, industrial tractors, agricultural motor vehicles, engineering equipment, works trucks and digging machines;
- vehicles with an unloaded weight of up to 3.05 tonnes and fitted with equipment for raising a disabled vehicle;
- buses more than 30 years old carrying no more than eight passengers and not to make a profit;
- play buses and exhibition buses;
- any vehicle being driven away by the police; and
- vehicles used for carrying lifeboats.

## Penalty points and disqualifications

### Penalty points and disqualifications stay on the paper counterpart for the following periods

Penalty points and disqualifications are valid for three to eleven years depending on the offence, and stay on your licence for an extra year thereafter. The extra year allows any previous penalty points and disqualifications (that were valid at the time of the offence) to be taken into account by the court for any subsequent driving offence you may have to attend court for.

- **11 years** from the date of the conviction for offences relating to driving while under the influence of drink or drugs, causing death by careless driving while under the influence of drink or drugs, or causing death by careless driving and failing to provide a specimen to be tested.
- **Four years** from the date of the conviction for reckless or dangerous driving and offences resulting in disqualification.
- **Four years** from the date of the offence in all other cases.

After the appropriate period, you can apply to have your penalty points taken off your paper counterpart by filling in a DL1(NI) which is available from main Post Office® Branches, Local Vehicle Licence Offices or MOT Centres. **You will also need to send us the photocard and paper counterpart and the appropriate fee. Fees can be found at [www.nidirect.gov.uk/the-cost-of-a-driving-licence](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/the-cost-of-a-driving-licence)**

## Penalty point codes

The following is a guide to the number of penalty points a court may impose, it does not reflect the fact that some offences may incur a disqualification. The offence code and penalty points will be shown on your driving licence and must stay there for four or eleven years depending on the offence.

Code	Offence	Penalty Points
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### Accident Offences

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from the date of offence.

50 08 028	Failing to stop damage only accident	5-10
50 08 031	Failing to give particulars-damage only accident	5-10
50 08 032	Failing to stop-injury accident	5-10
50 08 035	Failing to give particulars-injury only accident	5-10

### Disqualified Driver

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from the date of offence.

50 08 312	Driving while disqualified	6
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### Careless driving

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from the date of offence.

50 08 202	Driving without due care and attention	3-9
50 08 203	Driving without reasonable consideration for other road users	3-9

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for eleven years from the date of conviction.

50 08 204	Causing death through driving carelessly when unfit	3-11
50 08 208	Causing death through driving carelessly with excess alcohol	3-11
50 08 212	Causing death by careless driving and failing to supply a specimen	3-11

Code	Offence	Penalty points
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### Construction and use offences

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from the date of offence.

50 13 022	Using a vehicle with defective braking system	3
50 13 156	Using a motor vehicle in a dangerous condition	3
50 13 049	Defective tyre	3
50 13 050	Defective tyres	3
50 13 025	Defective steering	3
50 13 265	Using a mobile phone while driving	3

### Reckless/dangerous driving

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from the date of conviction.

41 04 001	Causing death by reckless driving	3-11
50 08 201	Dangerous driving	3-11
41 04 002	Causing death by dangerous driving	3-11
50 08 018	Furious driving	3-9

### Drink or drugs

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from the date of conviction.

50 08 126	Driving with excess alcohol in breath	3-11
50 08 127	Attempting to drive with excess alcohol in breath	3-11
50 08 129	Driving with excess alcohol in blood	3-11
50 08 130	Attempting to drive with excess alcohol in blood	3-11
50 08 132	Driving with excess alcohol in urine	3-11
50 08 133	Attempting to drive with excess alcohol in urine	3-11
50 08 123	Driving while unfit through drink/drugs	3-11
50 08 124	Attempting to drive while unfit through drink/drugs	3-11
50 08 142	Failing to provide a specimen when attempting to drive unfit	3-11
50 08 125	In charge of a vehicle while unfit through drink/drugs	10
50 08 139	Failure to provide a specimen when attempting to drive unfit	3-11
50 08 136	Failing to provide a specimen of breath for analysis	3-11

Code	Offence	Penalty points
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### Insurance Offences

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from the date of offence.

50 08 019	No insurance	6-8
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### Licence Offences

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from the date of offence.

50 10 003	Failure to notify DOE of a physical disability	3-6
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### Miscellaneous Offences

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from the date of offence.

50 08 231	Leaving a vehicle in a dangerous position	3
50 08 237	Carrying unauthorised passenger on a motorcycle	3
50 08 121	Refusing to submit to an eyesight test	3
50 08 040	Failure to give information regarding a driver	3

### Speed limits

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from the date of offence.

50 08 013	Excess speed	3-6
50 08 291	Excess speed for vehicle classification	3-6

### Traffic direction signs

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from the date of offence.

50 08 268	Breach of a traffic sign	3
50 08 007	Fail to obey a signal given by a constable	3

### Special codes

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from the date of conviction.

TOT UP	To signify a disqualification under 'totting up' procedure. If the total of penalty points reaches 12 or more within three years, the driver is liable to be disqualified	
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### Theft or unauthorised taking

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from the date of offence.

50 08 295	Aggravated vehicle taking causing damage	3-11
50 08 290	Aggravated vehicle taking causing injury	3-11

## The Road Traffic (New Drivers) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998

If you reach a total of 6 penalty points or more, within a period of 2 years of passing your first category A or B driving test in NI, GB, an EEA Member State, the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands or Gibraltar, your driving licence or test pass certificate may be revoked.

Any valid penalty points you receive before the two-year period before passing your test will count towards the total of six. Points you get after the two-year period will also count if you committed the offence during that period.

You cannot appeal against this decision. The only thing you can appeal against is the conviction that led to the penalty points. The relevant court will be able to give you advice on how to appeal. Once the court tells us you have made an appeal, we will not revoke (withdraw) your licence while the appeal is continuing. If you accept a fixed penalty notice you cannot appeal.

To get your full licence back, you must:

- get a provisional licence and drive as a learner; and
- pass the theory and practical tests again.

Passing the theory and practical tests does not remove the penalty points from your licence, and if the total reaches 12 within three years you may be disqualified from driving.

### High-risk offenders

**If you have been disqualified** for having a level of alcohol in the body of:

- 87.5 microgrammes or more in every 100 millilitres of breath;
- 200 milligrammes or more in every 100 millilitres of blood; or
- 267.5 milligrammes or more in every 100 millilitres of urine;

or if you have:

- been disqualified twice within 10 years for drink-driving; or
- been disqualified for failing to provide a specimen for analysis,

we will send you a letter before the disqualification ends to explain that you will need to have a **medical examination** to get your licence back.

## Mutual Recognition of driving disqualifications between:

### Northern Ireland (NI) and Great Britain (GB)

Since 11 October 2004, the following has applied.

- Disqualifications given in Great Britain will apply in Northern Ireland.
- As a result of a change in legislation, from April 2009 Northern Ireland licence holders will no longer need to apply for a GB counterpart to take advantage of the fixed penalty system as they had to do previously.
- A GB licence can be revoked under the Road Traffic (New Drivers) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998.
- A GB licence can be revoked because of a disability.

Similar rules came into force in Great Britain at the same time as those made in Northern Ireland.

### Isle of Man

Since 23 May 2005, disqualifications recognised between Great Britain and Northern Ireland have also been recognised in the Isle of Man.

This means that drivers disqualified from holding a driving licence in Great Britain or Northern Ireland since 23 May 2005 will also be disqualified from driving, holding or getting a driving licence in the Isle of Man.

Similarly, if a court in the Isle of Man disqualifies a driver they will also be disqualified from driving in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

### **Offences recognised under Mutual Recognition for NI licence holders**

GB09 NI drivers disqualified in Great Britain

GB09 NI drivers revoked under the New Drivers Act in Great Britain

GB09 NI drivers disqualified in Isle of Man.

### **Mutual Recognition of driving disqualifications between:**

#### **United Kingdom (UK) and Ireland (IRL)**

Mutual recognition of driving disqualifications between UK (Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and IRL came into force on 28th January 2010.

- A driver normally resident in UK but disqualified in IRL may also be disqualified in UK. Likewise, a driver normally resident in IRL but disqualified in UK may also be disqualified in IRL.
- When a UK resident is disqualified on the basis of a disqualification in IRL, the licence will be endorsed for a period of 4 years from the date of the conviction.
- Disqualifications as a result of accumulating penalty points (totting-up) are not included in this scheme.

#### **Offences falling within 6 categories of driver behaviour are mutually recognised between UK and Ireland. These are:**

IRL01 Reckless or dangerous driving (whether or not resulting in death, injury or serious risk).

IRL02 Wilful failure to carry out the obligation placed on drivers after being involved in road accidents (hit and run).

IRL03 Driving a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or other substance affecting or diminishing the mental and physical abilities of the driver.

IRL04 Driving a vehicle faster than permitted speed.

IRL05 Driving a vehicle whilst disqualified.

IRL06 Other conduct constituting an offence for which a driving disqualification has been imposed by the state of offence of a duration of 6 months or more.

### **Short-period disqualifications (SPD)**

If you are disqualified for less than 56 days, the court will stamp your paper counterpart and give it back to you. The stamp will tell you how long you are disqualified for. You do not need to renew your licence when the disqualification ends. You can drive again the day after the disqualification ends.

## Further information

### The Data Protection Act (DPA) 1998 and you

The DPA gives you the right to see the information we hold about you. To see the information you should write to us, enclosing a cheque for £5 made payable to DVA at:

**DVA Coleraine  
Driver Licensing  
County Hall  
Coleraine  
BT51 3TB**

You must include your full name, address, and driver number.

DVA processes personal information in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 and associated legislation. Your personal information will not be shared with other government departments unless we are satisfied that legal powers allow this. Personal data will not be shared with private sector organisations for entitlement checking without your consent.

### Freedom of Information Act 2000 explained

Since 1 January 2005, the Freedom of Information Act (2000) has given you a general right of access to information held by public authorities.

To ask for information you should write to DVA Driver Licensing, County Hall, Coleraine, BT51 3TB or email: [DVA-FOI@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:DVA-FOI@doeni.gov.uk). We will provide the information that we hold, unless it is exempt, within 20 working days. Examples of when information cannot be released include where it would be sensitive to a business, relates to security or law enforcement or if it relates to personal information.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, public authorities have to provide a 'Publication Scheme'. DVA's Publication Scheme may be found on our website at:

**[www.dvlni.gov.uk/publications.htm](http://www.dvlni.gov.uk/publications.htm)**

### Where to get more advice on driving licences

If you have any questions about driving licences, you can find more details on our website at:

**[www.nidirect.gov.uk/driver-licensing](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/driver-licensing)**

You can also contact us in the following ways.

**Phone (Customer Enquiries):** 0845 402 4000 (lines are open Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm)

**Fax:** 02870341398 (from the UK), +44 2870341398 (from abroad)

**Email:** [dvlni@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:dvlni@doeni.gov.uk)

We cannot provide driver numbers or personal information from a driver's record by email.

If you are deaf or hard of hearing and have a textphone, you should phone **02870341380**. **This number will not respond to an ordinary phone.**

## DVA service standards

We aim to always give you the best possible service. If you are not satisfied with our service, get in touch with the person or section you have been dealing with.

If you would like a copy of Customer Service Guide INF101(NI), see the contact details shown below or download it from our website at:

**[www.nidirect.gov.uk/customerservicesguide.pdf](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/customerservicesguide.pdf)**

So we can monitor our service, please tell us:

- when we have done something well
- if we have failed to meet our service standards
- how we could improve our services, or
- if you have any comments on this or any other DVA document.

### **Please write to:**

Customer Services Manager  
DVA Coleraine  
BT51 3HS

**Email:** [dva.customerservices@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:dva.customerservices@doeni.gov.uk)

## How to become a blood donor

The Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service (NIBTS) is responsible for the collection, testing and distribution of over 64,000 blood donations each year. NIBTS exists to fully supply the needs of all hospitals and clinical units in the province.

The NIBTS depends on its donors to give blood regularly.

If you are interested in becoming a blood donor, or you want to find out more details you can contact the NIBTS in the following ways:

### **Visit the website at:**

**[www.nibts.org](http://www.nibts.org)**

**Phone:** 028 9032 1414 or textphone 028 9024 7515





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