

Driving Licence Categories and CPC Training.

Licence Obtained Before 1st January 1997

What a person can drive on their standard car licence varies according to when they passed their test. Before the 1st of January 1997 they are allowed to drive the following categories without any further training.

B: Vehicles up to 3,500kg Maximum Authorised Mass (MAM) carrying no more than 8 passengers plus driver with trailer up to 750kg; trailer over 750kg if combined vehicle and trailer weight isn't more than 3,500kg MAM

C1: Vehicles between 3,500kg and 7,500kg carrying no more than 8 passengers plus driver with trailer up to 750kg

C1E (Restriction Code 79 or 107):

Vehicles between 3,500kg and 7,500kg carrying no more than 8 passengers plus driver with trailer over 750kg if combined vehicle and trailer weight isn't more than 8.250kg

D1: Vehicles with up to 16 passenger seats plus driver with trailer up to 750kg

D1E (Restriction Codes 101 (Not for hire or reward) 119 weight restriction does not apply): Vehicles with up to 16 passenger seats plus driver with trailer over 750kg if combined trailer and vehicle weight isn't over 12,000kg

Licence Obtained After 1st January 1997 but before 19th January 2013

After 1/1/97 things changed dramatically and anyone passing only their car tests were limited to

B: Vehicles up to 3,500kg Maximum Authorised Mass (MAM) and up to 8 passenger seats with trailer up to 750kg; trailers over 750kg if combined weight of vehicle and trailer isn't over 3,500kg and the fully-loaded trailer doesn't weigh more than the unladen vehicle

As of the 19th of January 2013 the towing allowances changed again to show the following

B: Small trailers weighing no more than 750kg. A trailer over 750kg as long as the combined weight of the trailer and towing vehicle is no more than 3,500kg (3.5 tonnes).

In general this now means that a person having passed their test after **1/1/97** cannot drive anything bigger than a transit style van without taking additional training and tests.

In the policy it may be worthwhile pointing out that dates and ages may impact on what a person can legally drive. In terms of training, anyone who is going to be driving a vehicle above 3500 kg is likely to need to hold a Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC). This can be obtained in two ways.

CPC (Certificate of Professional Competence) Training

New Drivers

For new drivers they can undertake the Initial qualification route. This involves passing all 4 modules of the CPC training. These are:

- Driver CPC part 1 test: theory
- Driver CPC part 2 test: case studies
- Driver CPC part 3 test: driving ability
- Driver CPC part 4 test: practical demonstration

On successful completion of the above the new driver will get their licence + a DCPC initial qualification card.

This will allow them to drive larger vehicles immediately. However, they will still have to attend 35 hours of periodic training every 5 years to keep driving professionally.

Existing Drivers

If the driver has acquired rights (pre 1997 licence or LGV driver who has not driven for some time and does not have a driver CPC qualification card) they can attend 35 hours of periodic training to obtain and maintain their CPC. They can also undertake modules 2 and 4 of the initial qualification to obtain their CPC.

All drivers must carry their DCPC qualification card with them at all times whilst driving vehicles within scope of the CPC regulations. There is a £50 fixed penalty for non-compliance.

It is essential that all drivers report any fixed penalties or points on their licence to their line manager immediately.

This is required whether they committed the offence in their own time or work time and is regardless of the vehicle they were in at the time. A failure to do so could have serious implications for operator's licence held by Aberdeenshire Council.