



Údarás Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre
Road Safety Authority



A Message from Mr. Noel Brett CEO, Road Safety Authority



Finally after decades of demand for national regulation of the driving instruction industry I am delighted that we finally go live on 30th April 2009. It is reassuring that so many Instructors have either passed or are nearing completion of their examinations to meet the revised deadline of 30th April 2009. The Authority will not be extending the deadline for implementation of these extremely important regulations for new applicants. Those who have passed stage 1 by the 30th of April 2009 have been allowed 90 days to complete their exams and become registered. There is now a proper entry standard into the profession which will ensure a high standard of tuition and service to learner drivers and which will protect the livelihood of professional instructors from unqualified and unregistered instructors. We expect that some 1350 Instructors will have completed the examination stages by the 30th April with a further 650 who are currently at stage 2 or 3 having 90 days to complete the process and become fully registered. People who have not passed their Stage 1 theory test before 30th April will not be able to provide driving instruction for reward until such time as they have qualified and had their name entered onto the register.

We are now recommending that learner drivers only use the services of a 'fully' approved ADI. We expect that learner drivers and ADI's themselves will be the front line enforcement for the new scheme and will advise the RSA ADI unit in Ballina of any instances where the new ADI regulations are not being adhered to. The RSA will launch a public awareness campaign to ensure that learner drivers understand the ADI scheme, know how to select a registered ADI and what standards to expect.

Over the coming months we will work closely with registered ADIs to monitor the new scheme and to prepare for measures such as graduated driver licensing, enhancement of the driver testing and compulsory basic training.

On 16th January 2009 we launched an extremely important consultation document on 'Graduated Driving Licences' (GDL) and feedback from that process will help inform our decision making process as we move forward to modernise Ireland's driver licensing system both in terms of licence acquisition and licence maintenance and I look forward to the results of that process. For those of you who took the time to feed into the process I would like to offer you my sincere thanks. For those of you who were unable to offer your views on this occasion I would ask that you make every effort to help us in any future consultation process as it is only with the valuable feedback from relevant stakeholders that we can be certain we have considered a wide range of opinion and thereby have devised a comprehensive policy for the relevant sector. We will of course be keeping you all advised of developments on GDL and other issues as they materialise.

Ireland's road safety record continues to improve; we have now climbed into the European top ten countries a development of which we are all extremely proud. There is however no room for complacency and whilst we realise we will never reach a 'zero' number of accidents or fatalities we all owe it to ourselves our families and others to strive for the very lowest numbers possible. Engineering and Enforcement can do so much, but Education (your area) is at least equal to if not more important in terms of improving our road safety record. I am aware that the ADI Chief Examiner is currently considering ways on how we can form a 'Stakeholders Forum' which will be used to plan future developments of both the area of Education and of the ADI scheme itself. You will be asked to put forward names of people who will represent Instructors views at the forum, the ADI unit will be in touch separately in connection with plans for this shortly.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all well with both your registration as an RSA Approved Driving Instructor and your continuing efforts to help reduce the number of accidents and fatalities on our roads, without your continuing efforts we will not be able to continue improving our record.

Very Best Wishes

Noel Brett CEO
Road Safety Authority

New ADI Permit



The ADI unit of the RSA has begun issuing a new version of the ADI permit (see copy to left) to all newly qualified ADI's and will be reissuing this version of the permit to existing ADI's over the coming weeks and months. The new permit has enhanced security features and reflects the extended deadline for those ADI's who qualified earlier in the process. The new permits being reissued to existing ADI's will have the expiry date set back for a further four months in recognition that they underwent the tests in good time. If you lose your permit

you must report its loss to An Garda Síochána and immediately notify the ADI unit of the RSA on 096 25007. Replacement permits will only be issued following receipt of confirmation from the Gardai that its loss/destruction has been notified to them and the payment of a replacement fee of €100.

Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (Driver CPC)



The CPC training syllabus has been completed and circulated to all RSA approved Training Providers. The training modules are now in place and bus drivers should start the 'periodic' training process of completing one days' training per year. There is much interest from Training Providers who wish to provide CPC training and 70 centres have been established and approved in many cities and large towns throughout the country.

A list of all RSA approved Training Providers along with other CPC information is available on the following link; this list will be updated as new Training Providers are approved.
http://www.rsa.ie/SERVICES/RSA_Services/CPC_Unit.html

There are six training modules in total, which were developed by a group consisting of transport industry representatives in conjunction with the RSA and in line with the training requirements of the Driver CPC EU Directive. They are broken down into the following

- Module 1. Control of the Vehicle and Eco Driving Techniques
- Module 2. Minimising Risks and Managing Emergencies in the Transport Industry
- Module 3. Health and Safety for the Professional Driver
- Module 4. Role of the Professional Driver in the Transport Industry.
- Module 5. The Professional Truck Driver
- Module 6. The Professional Bus Driver

The training providers will record the driver's details and update the Driver CPC Unit as each training module is completed. The CPC unit will maintain the drivers training record and after five years and on completion of the training modules a Driver CPC driver qualification card will issue

Increase in Driving Test Fee Announced

Fees for driving test by vehicle category

Category of vehicle	Driving test fee
A1	€75
A	
B	
M	
W	
EB	€110
C1	
C	
D1	
D	
EC1	
EC	
ED1	
ED	

Fees effective from 7th April, 2009

The Road Safety Authority (RSA) announced that the fee for a driving test was to increase from Wednesday 8th April 2009.

Commenting on the announcement Mr. Noel Brett, CEO of the Road Safety Authority said "The new fee, will allow the RSA to continue to deliver a high quality service but more importantly to improve the service it delivers to its driving test customers. Since its establishment the RSA has made significant progress in reducing the waiting times for customers to get a driving test. As of today there are 40,113 people waiting for their test and the national average waiting time is under ten weeks. In a number of centres we can now offer tests within six weeks. We will greatly enhance the service to driving test customers over the summer when we introduce a new IT System which will enable customers to book their test on line, and select the date, time and location that best suits them."

FAQ's

The following is a list of some common questions that we are regularly being asked. We have addressed these issues and others at a series of meetings held across the country during the week commencing 20th April 2009.

• Will the Regulations come into force on 30th April 2009?

Ans: Yes the regulations have been signed by the Minister of State for Transport Mr. Noel Ahearn TD, and will come into effect on 30th April 2009.

• When will we have compulsory lessons?

Ans: The Road Safety Authority have two pieces of work under way that will inform our proposals on this issue. A Consultation document on GDL (Graduated Driver Licensing) was published in December 2008 and the period closed on 14 March 2009. We are currently reviewing the feedback. Separately to that we have a review of the learning to drive process under way. The RSA will make recommendations to Government on compulsory lessons among other changes in the Autumn-it's a matter for Government to make a final decision on this.

• Where is my new ADI permit?

Ans: New Permits have been prepared and will be delivered next week. All the old type are being replaced with a new type which will incorporate the new extended expiry date for those who had qualified prior to the 31st December 2008 (the original date of regulation).

• What is happening on the trainee permit?

Ans: A person who has passed Stage 1 & Stage 2 of the ADI examination process may apply for a trainee permit providing s/he completes at least 20 hours of training under certain topics - with an approved driving Instructor, who also agrees to act as a 'Sponsor' for the trainee. Forms are available from the ADI unit of the RSA in Ballina.

• What steps have the RSA taken to promote ADI and raise public awareness?

Ans: We are raising public awareness in a targeted way by placing adverts in Motor Taxation Offices, Driving Test Centres, in The Theory Test book, and the leaflet 'Preparing for Your Driving Test. Theory Test applicants are also being given a leaflet about ADI's. In addition we are planning some very targeted on-line advertising. (aimed at young or new drivers).

• What else have the RSA done to help promote awareness?

Ans: The RSA have written to the Advertising Standards Authority of Ireland and we have requested that its members do not accept advertising from a driving instructor who is not a 'fully' approved ADI.

The RSA has met with and written to the Gardai and advised about the law on ADI after 30 April 2009 and its date of implementation. The RSA has also asked Gardai to give priority to aspects of licensing laws such as accompanied driving and displaying L plates.

The RSA has also written to the Irish Insurance Federation to advise that they should satisfy themselves where Insurance is being sought by a driving instructor that s/he is an ADI.

• Will the RSA 'cap' the number of ADI's to prevent too many entrants into the industry?

Ans: No. We have no plans to restrict the numbers.

• Will the RSA set a minimum price for driving lessons?

Ans: No the RSA have no intention of restricting an Instructors right to determine the price for his / her service .

New Speed Limits for Buses and Coaches



With effect from 1st February 2009 new regulations came into force that has changed the maximum speed limits for Buses and Coaches when they are travelling on a **Motorway** or **Dual Carriageway**.

The main points to be aware of are;

1. A Single Deck and Double Deck Bus travelling on a Motorway or Dual carriageway can now travel at a maximum speed of: **100 Km/h**
2. Where a Bus or Coach is travelling on a normal road (not Motorway or Dual carriageway) the maximum permitted speed they can travel at remains: **80 Km/h**
3. As before, where the vehicle is designed or adapted to carry standing passengers the maximum permitted speed they can travel on any road remains: **65 Km/h**

Limits above are subject to any lower set speed limit that may apply from time to time.

Use of ADI Logo



Only those Instructors who are currently on the register of approved driving instructors (ADI) may use the Road Safety Authority's ADI logo. Such use **MUST** be in accordance with the 'Branding Guidelines' for using the logo issued with the 'full' permit and certificate of registration.

Until you have received the permit and certificate you may not use the logo at all.

Specifically, it is not enough to have applied for a test or be waiting for a test.

Once you are on the register you will receive a copy of the 'branding' guidelines which clearly sets out ways in which the ADI logo can and cannot be used. One condition is that any use of the logo must include your unique identifier (permit number).

Stakeholders Forum

To support the future development of the driving instruction and to listen to the views of the industry the RSA will set up a Stakeholders Forum. This will be a group of instructors selected to represent their colleagues-work on this will begin in the summer. If you have ideas as to how the representatives might be chosen we would be glad to hear your thoughts.

Aside from the Stakeholders Forum the RSA has been approached by a number of driving instructors who would like to set up instructors groups and give feedback to the RSA generally about issues of common importance. In the Dublin area David Fay has raised this with the RSA- if you are an instructor particularly in the Dublin area and would like to contact him at davefay10@yahoo.ie to explore this idea he'll be glad to hear from you.

RSA Publications of Interest

In addition to the documents you can access from the ADI section of the RSA web site there are many other extremely useful publications produced by the Road Safety Authority also available from various sections of our web pages, for example:

• Driver Tiredness – The facts	• Digital Tachographs
• Helping Learner Drivers to drive safely	• Mobile Phones and driving
• Drivers Hours Rules Regulation (EC) 561/2006	• Information Booklet – Driver Certificate of professional Competence (CPC)

These booklets or leaflets (and others) contain useful information and practical advice on tackling some of the important road safety issues facing Irish road users. Please feel free to use them as sources of reference or guidance for yourself or your students.