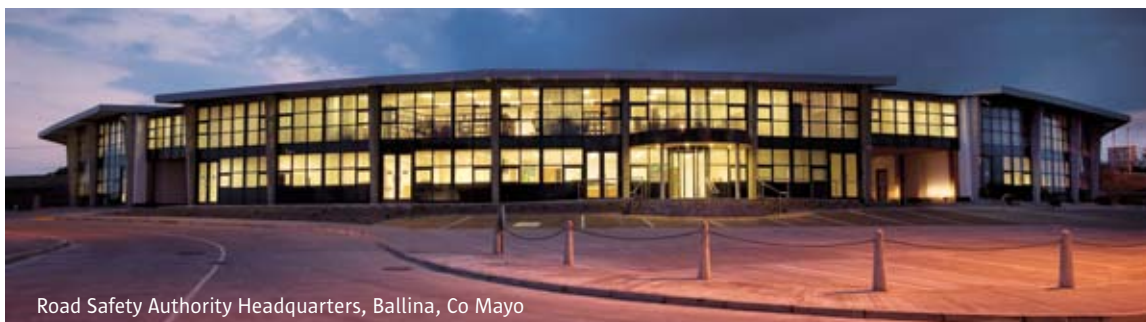




Údarás Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre  
Road Safety Authority



Approved Driving Instructor



Road Safety Authority Headquarters, Ballina, Co Mayo



## Dear Instructor

It is now five months since our last Newsletter and as the implementation date for the regulation of the driving instruction industry draws ever closer, I write to advise you of the following.

Some Instructors have been concerned that there is not enough time for them to pass through all three stages of the examination process by 31st December 2008.

By the end of this month there will be about 800 ADI throughout the country. However, the RSA has another 1000+ applicants for ADI who are at various stages in the qualifying process. The huge volumes of work for both instructors and the driver testing service this year has slowed the process down and for that reason it is planned to allow a short extension to 30th April 2009 to give a chance to everyone currently in the system to become an ADI. It is essential that we have an adequate number of ADIs across the country so that learner drivers can access an instructor. 800 ADIs is simply not enough to meet learner demand

After that date it will be an offence to give instruction for hire or reward. In the meantime the RSA is planning information campaigns telling learners that getting lessons from full ADI permit holders is the best way to learn to drive. We are doing this through the driver theory test, online advertising, and through our own publications.

Please remember from 1st May 2009 it will be an offence to give driving instruction to a learner permit holder for hire or reward (professionally) unless you are on the RSA register of approved driving instructors. Please also remember that 'temporary' permits will cease to be valid on 31st December 2008. These permits should be returned to the RSA.

The next phase of our campaign will target the learners themselves and we will be urging them to use 'full' ADI permit holders from 1st January next. Our campaign will involve messages to each theory test applicant, posters and leaflets all carrying the message that they should engage the services of a fully registered ADI.

We continue to have success with driving test waiting times, currently the average waiting time is just 8 weeks and as mentioned in the previous newsletter we acknowledge the incredible workload undertaken by driving instructors in helping us achieve our targets. It was a particularly busy time for many of you and we are aware that without the extra effort of the instructors it would not have been possible to achieve these waiting times.

Finally as the year draws to a close I would like to point to the continuing success we are having in reducing the number of fatalities on Irish roads. Those of you who have heard me speak on this topic know that our view is that one death is one too many and we continue to work to reduce the numbers being killed and injured. You have made a huge contribution to making Ireland's roads safer not just this year but for the driving career of the students you teach. Together we need to continue to reduce this figure so that less families have to endure the agonising pain of losing a loved one.

May I wish you and your families a happy Christmas and we look forward to working with you in 2009.

Best wishes

Noel Brett

Chief Executive, Road Safety Authority



## ADI Information Campaigns

The RSA has planned information campaigns to inform learner drivers that getting lessons from full ADI permit holders is the best way to learn to drive. This is being done through the distribution of information leaflets to all candidates who sit the driver theory tests along with posters which will be placed in Garda Stations, driving test centres and motor tax offices around the country. In addition candidates for the driving test will be reminded, through frequent official communications, to use only full permit holding ADIs when getting lessons.

An extensive online 'banner' advertisement campaign will be seen on popular social network websites and other popular websites. This means that every person who views these particular websites will see these advertisements advising learner drivers to seek lessons from full ADI permit holders.

The building of a dedicated ADI section of the official website is also underway. When completed, users of the site will be able to find all ADI related information that they need including a list of full ADI permit holders and their locations and downloadable versions.



## FETAC Level 6 Special Purpose Awards in Driving Instruction

The Road Safety Authority has now been approved by FETAC as a provider for the purposes of awarding the new qualification (at level 6) of driving instructor.

Based on an examination of the standards of knowledge skills and competence required for Driving Instructors, the Group has developed five Special Purpose Awards in Driving Instruction at Level 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications. The awards will be made for the following categories of vehicle: Articulated Vehicle, Car, Motorcycle, Passenger Vehicle and Goods Vehicle.

Each Special Purpose award is made up of three minor awards, each of which must be achieved for the overall award. The three minor awards comprise two category specific minor awards, in driving instruction theory and driving skills and one generic award in driving instruction.

Level 6 Special Purpose Award in Articulated Vehicle Driving Instruction

Level 6 Special Purpose Award in Car Driving Instruction

Level 6 Special Purpose Award in Goods Vehicle Driving Instruction

Level 6 Special Purpose Award in Motorcycle Driving Instruction

Level 6 Special Purpose Award in Passenger Vehicle Driving Instruction

The RSA will be forwarding details of successful Instructors who have passed all three stages of the ADI qualifying examinations whether they underwent the ADI train the trainer programme or went straight to the examination stages or had 'Recognition of prior learning' for one or more Stages of the examination process.

Following a short administrative process FETAC will send the awards direct to the successful instructor.

## Applying for Approval as an ADI Training Provider

The Road Safety Authority (RSA) has developed a “train the trainer” type course for those wishing to undergo training prior to applying for registration as an Approved Driving Instructor. The course is broken down into three separate modules closely matching the three stage examination process for ADI. The course will be made available to approved training providers and the providers will be supplied with the course syllabus, activities, training outlines & the powerpoint presentations needed to deliver the modules in accordance with the requirements of the scheme.

The first step is to apply for approval as an ADI training provider. The application form is now available from our website [www.rsa.ie](http://www.rsa.ie) under the ADI link. It is also available in hard copy which may be obtained by telephoning the ADI unit on (096)25007.

When you have completed the application form you should return it to the ADI Unit at the address on the form together with:

- The completed ‘waiver / release’ form
- Two references one of which should be financial, the other should be a character type reference.

When evaluating your application we may seek further information from you and will write to the named ‘contact person’ for dealing with your application. All communications will be sent to the postal address given (not a PO box or a forwarding address).

The RSA reserves the right to refuse to grant approval or withdraw approval where any of the criteria has not been met. In particular once approval is granted, the RSA may review its decision to grant approval where an issue of continuing suitability as an RSA provider has come to the attention of the authority.

Only approved training providers will be permitted to advertise themselves or their business as an RSA approved training provider. Any such advertisements must be in accordance with the RSA brand guidelines.



## Consultation Documents

The RSA has launched several important consultation documents this year including:

- Fitness To Drive
- The Use of Agricultural Vehicles & Works Vehicle on Public Roads

These and other consultation documents were important pieces in terms of the Road Safety Strategy 2007-2012. Many thanks to those of you who responded with your views. For those who were unable to respond, may I ask that whenever possible, you take time to consider these important issues and give us your comments which in turn will help us to develop future policy. Our Road Safety Strategy is a living document that we will continue to update and improve as we work our way through the 126 action points contained within it.

## CPC – Certificate in Professional Competence Bus & Truck drivers



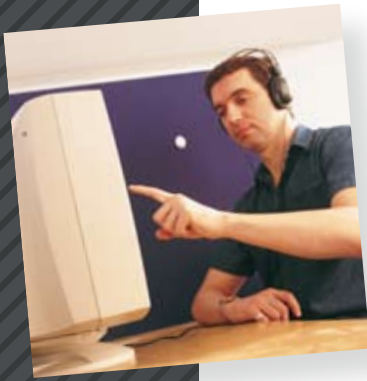
The CPC scheme for Bus and Coach Drivers is now up and running and applications are currently being processed for Training Providers interested in obtaining RSA approval for the purpose of delivering Driver CPC periodic training.

All the information and documentation needed to make an application for approval is available on the following link [http://www.rsa.ie/SERVICES/RSA\\_Services/CPC\\_Unit.html](http://www.rsa.ie/SERVICES/RSA_Services/CPC_Unit.html)

The new tests have been introduced without too many difficulties for applicants and instructors alike. The results of the tests taken so far seem promising and would indicate that applicants who have prepared well for the tests are having no difficulty on the day. There are four tests in total:

- 120 minute MCQ (multiple choice questions) theory test (fee €70)
- 120 minute Case Study theory test (fee €70)
- 90 minute Driving test (fee €63)
- 30 minute practical test (fee €32)

A database has been developed to record all driver CPC training and issue driver qualification cards as required by the EU Directive. On the 10th September 2009, CPC requirements for Truck drivers will come into effect. The RSA will develop the Truck MCQ and Case studies in early 2009 and it will be available from the 10th September 2009.



## RSA Theory Tests

The RSA now has three separate theory tests available through its test provider Prometric.

Prometric have developed a new website to facilitate test applicants and bookings can be made on-line at [www.theorytest.ie](http://www.theorytest.ie). It is also possible to reschedule or cancel a test if necessary (subject to the terms & conditions) and the site is also available in English & Irish.

The first page of the website invites you to choose between

- DTT – Driver Theory Test
- ADI - Approved Driving Instructor
- CPC – Certificate Of Professional Competence

Once you have clicked on the relevant icon you will find information on test centre locations, test types, the test experience, ID requirements on the day of your test, revision material, how to book a test and some frequently asked questions.

## Review of Irish Driver Training, Testing & Licensing System

The Road Safety Authority has appointed a company to review and make recommendations on driver training and education and how it can be structured to improve road safety in Ireland.

The review will get under way in the first quarter of 2009 and will involve research being carried out in various areas of driver testing, training and licensing, including:

- The attitude/motivation of learner drivers as they go through the learning process;
- The role that driving instruction currently has in preparing learners to drive in Ireland;
- The manner in which accompanied driving in Ireland contributes to good driving practice and if, and how this can be enhanced;
- The role the driving test has in helping to produce safe drivers and whether changes to the test will deliver a road safety dividend;

The research will involve the company seeking the views of ADI's, learner drivers, driver testers and other relevant stakeholders and will result in the issue of a final report that will then be considered by the RSA.

It is our hope that this report will map the way forward in terms of how a person should acquire and maintain a driving licence in a modern and road safety conscious Ireland of the future.

## Recognition of Prior Qualifications

Since our last newsletter several qualifications have been assessed against the standards as laid down by the RSA for the ADI examination process and the following is an update on particular qualifications which have been found to either match or exceed those standards.

Qualification	Exemption agreed for:		
	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
NUI CERT in Training & Continuing Education	No	No	Yes
NUI Dip in Training & Continuing Education	No	No	Yes
NUI Degree in Training & Continuing Education	No	No	Yes
DSA (GB) ADI Licence	Partial	Yes	Yes
DVA (NI) ADI Licence	Partial	Yes	Yes
RoSPA Dip in Driving Instruction	No	No	Yes
CILT CERT in Driving Instruction	No	No	Yes
German Mastercraftsman in Training	No	No	Yes
Garda Car Course	No	Yes	No
Garda Bike Course	No	Yes	No

Other qualifications remain to be assessed and further updates will follow.

**Note:** All Instructors should inform driving test applicants that they **MUST** hold a Learner Permit for a minimum of 6 months before taking their test.

If you wish to contact our ADI unit, you may do so as follows:

**Michael Dolan**, ADI Chief Examiner

**ADI Unit**, Road Safety Authority, Moy Valley Business Park, Primrose Hill, Ballina, Co. Mayo

**Telephone: 096 25007 Email: [adi@rsa.ie](mailto:adi@rsa.ie) Website: [www.rsa.ie](http://www.rsa.ie)**