



Checklist



Myself:

Be present in the



My Documentation:

Your current



My Vehicle

Ensure that

# CHECKLIST FOR YOUR DRIVING TEST

**GET IT ON!**



**NO SEATBELT NO EXCUSE**

## Your Driving Test is scheduled!

You have been scheduled for your driving test. So what does this mean for you? How will you approach the test? Are you prepared for it?

These are some of the questions you need to think about ahead of your test. The driving test is just one step along the way to becoming a fully-licensed driver. While it is a very important step, it is by no means the only one. In order for you to successfully pass the test, you need to ensure that you are fully prepared. The preparation necessary may vary from person to person, depending on skill levels in the various aspects of driving. If you engage the services of an Approved Driving Instructor (ADI), you can get a feel for how competent a driver you are and how prepared you are. Your ADI can then tailor your training in line with what you require.

Remember, driving is not an automatic right – it brings with it a huge responsibility. When driving, you are responsible for your life, the lives of your passengers, and the lives of other road users. If you pass a driving test, you have shown that you can drive competently – yet this does not necessarily mean that you will drive competently on your way home, or during the following day...or week...or year. Whether you are successful at the test or not, your driving education does not stop at the driving test and you only become a ‘rounded’ driver after gaining much more experience. You should continue to drive carefully and build up experience of driving in different situations and conditions.

In order to be a safe driver, you must maintain the standard required to pass the test every day. Indeed, while a person may have passed the test, they may still have incurred a number of serious faults, so as a driver, you have to always strive to drive safely and competently with due regard for all other road users.

If you fail, you are given a detailed report which outlines where you need to do some further work, and you should work on these areas, together with all other areas of your driving, with your ADI. Together with your instructor, you can maximise your chances of passing next time.



*Practice with your sponsor*

## Tips for the test

Now that you are aware of where the test fits in your overall driving career, let's see what we can do to help you prepare for the test. The following tips should be useful to help you:

### What do I need to do?

- Practise my driving with my sponsor (your sponsor is an accompanying driver who you have nominated to help you through the Essential Driver Training (EDT) programme to assist you in becoming a better, safer driver). EDT is required if you are a first-time Category B (car) learner permit holder.
  - Get help from my ADI
  - Read all available information – this leaflet,
    - The “Preparing for your test” leaflet which issued with my acknowledgement letter
    - My appointment letter
    - The Rules of the Road book (available to download on our website [www.rsa.ie](http://www.rsa.ie) or in bookshops)
    - The Learning to Drive suite of manuals for car, bike, truck or bus (available to purchase in bookshops)
- The RSA website also has useful information to help you prepare for your test – visit [www.rsa.ie](http://www.rsa.ie).
- Ensure that I have my documentation in order
  - Ensure my vehicle is in order

# My checklist for the driving test

**Read this immediately – do not leave it until the last minute, and double-check ahead of your test that you comply with all requirements!**

## Did you know?

A high percentage of driving tests are not conducted due to some of the following reasons:

- A fault with the vehicle presented for the test,
- Documentation not being in order,
- The candidate not turning up,
- The candidate being late,
- The candidate turns up at the wrong time or centre,
- Or not meeting one or more of the following requirements (below).

In such cases the person has to re-apply for the test and pay the fee again. **Don't let this happen to you!!! – read our checklist and ensure you comply with all requirements!**

## Myself:

- Be present in the waiting area of the test centre before the appointed time of your test.
- If you are a first time learner permit holder for a Car or Motorcycle, you must take a structured driver training programme with an ADI before taking the test.
  - For motorcyclists, this is known as Initial Basic Training (IBT) and applies to those who have a first learner permit for licence category A, A2, A1 or AM. You can find more information about IBT on our website [www.rsa.ie](http://www.rsa.ie).
  - For car learner drivers, this is known as Essential Driver Training (EDT) and applies to those whose first learner permit start date for licence Category B is on or after 4 April 2011.

- You must be insured to drive the vehicle. The vehicle must display a current valid original Insurance Disc (white background with a green band extending along left hand side). The disc must clearly show the Registration Number (or fleet name) of the vehicle (not Chassis Number) and the policy dates. If the details are faded, you should get the disc replaced prior to the test. You will be asked to read and sign a statement confirming that the vehicle insurance cover is in place and is adequate.
- Test applicants must wear suitable footwear during the practical driving test. (Flip flops/beach sandals or other backless type footwear or barefoot driving is not acceptable).
- If you have difficulty communicating in English, or you are deaf or hard of hearing, you can have an interpreter/assistant with you. This person must not be your driving instructor and is not permitted to accompany you on the practical test. Please inform the Driver Testing Section before the day of your test that you will have an interpreter/assistant with you.

## My Documentation – what do I need to bring with me?

- Your current Irish learner permit for your test category. The learner permit must:
  - Relate to you
  - Be in date
  - Be for the correct category of vehicle which you are undertaking your test in
  - If you are a first time learner permit holder and your test is for a motorcycle, works vehicle or car (licence categories AM, A1, A2, A, W or B) you can only take a test if you have held the learner permit for at least six months.



- If you are a first time learner permit holder for a Car, you must take a structured driver training programme with an ADI before taking the test. This is known as Essential Driver Training (EDT) and applies to those whose first learner permit start date for licence Category B is on or after 4 April 2011.
- If you are taking a Category C (truck) test, you must bring the vehicle's Certificate of Roadworthiness with you on the day of the test as proof of the vehicle's unladen weight (please see the section relating to extra requirements for trucks).
- If you are taking a Category CE (Articulated truck) test, you must provide certification from a weighbridge facility which sets out the unladen weight of the tractor unit and trailer being presented for the test. The certification must include the following:
  - The registration number of the tractor unit and the trailer mark of the trailer being presented for the test;
  - The unladen weight of the tractor unit and trailer together;
  - The date the vehicle was weighed (must be dated within the past 12 months ).

Please see the section relating to extra requirements for trucks.

## **My Vehicle**

- **Ensure that the vehicle you are using for your test meets the minimum vehicle requirements for the driving test as set out in your appointment letter and also available at [www.rsa.ie](http://www.rsa.ie).**

*These requirements may require time to prepare for and comply with in some cases, so please ensure that you allow adequate time to comply.*

- **You must provide the vehicle for the test.**
- **If you pass the test in a vehicle with automatic transmission, your driving licence will only allow you to drive a vehicle with automatic transmission.**

- **You must be insured to drive the vehicle.**

*The vehicle must display a current valid original Insurance Disc (white background with a green band extending along left hand side). The disc must clearly show the Registration Number (or fleet name) of the vehicle (not Chassis Number) and the policy dates. If the details are faded, you should get the disc replaced prior to the test. You will be asked to read and sign a statement confirming that the vehicle insurance cover is in place and is adequate.*

- **The vehicle must display a valid motor tax disc**

*The disc must clearly show all details required by law, including the registration number of the vehicle, and be Class Private.*

- **The vehicle must display a valid NCT disc (if applicable)**

*The disc must clearly show all details required by law, including the registration number of the vehicle.*

- **The vehicle must display 'L' plates front and rear**

*(a rectangular plate or sign bearing the letter 'L' not less than fifteen centimetres high in red on a white background and a border of at least 2 centimetres). Learner permit holders for motorcycle licence category AM,A1, A2, or A, must when driving such a vehicle display a yellow fluorescent tabard (a high-visibility vest or jacket) bearing the letter 'L' not less than 15 centimetres high in red on a white background, in clearly visible vertical positions front and rear worn over the chest clothing. L plates and tabards must be in good condition. In the case of a test with a trailer, an L plate must be displayed on the rear of the trailer.*

- **Vehicles used as taxis or hackneys are not permitted to be used as driving test vehicles unless the appropriate rate of Vehicle Excise Duty has been paid i.e. Class Private.**

- **Vehicles hired under a hire agreement are not generally insured for a driving test.**

*If you plan to use such a vehicle, you must get a note from the hire company indicating that it is insured for the driving test. This must be given to the driver tester on the day of the test.*



- **Vehicles registered outside the State are not accepted for test purposes.**
- **The vehicle must be in a roadworthy condition at the time of the test and you will be asked to sign a statement to this effect.**
- **Tyres should, upon visible inspection, comply with Road Traffic Acts' requirements.**

*The minimum tyre tread depth requirement is currently 1.6mm for a motorcar. There should be no obvious bulges, cuts or severe uneven wear present. Tyres should be inflated to the correct pressure.*

- **Space saver-type spare wheels are not acceptable as they have a speed rating lower than that required for the test.**
- **Loads should be removed or properly secured.**

*Loose objects inside the vehicle such as screwdrivers, knives, gas bottles etc. must be removed or properly secured before the test.*

- **You may not carry passengers or pets while on the test.**
- **The windscreen should be clean and free from visual obstructions, including excessive cracks.**
- **Vehicles presenting for test with tinted front windscreen and/or front passenger and driver door glass will be acceptable for test purposes only where the tinting is part of the original manufacturers build and specification i.e. the glass should be clear to the naked eye.**

*Please note that the National Car Test (NCT) requires that the glass in the windscreen and front side windows has a light transmission level of not less than 65% in order to pass the NCT test. Tinting of these windows must not be greater than 35%. You must ensure, therefore, that any tint in windows of vehicles presented for the driving test also complies with these limits.*

- **All vehicles presented for a driving test must have a safety belt fitted to the front passenger's seat, notwithstanding whether or not this is required by law.**

*The belt must be fitted to the manufacturer's specification and be in good working order.*

- **The passenger door on the tester's side should be working properly and, in particular, should be possible to open from the inside as well as the outside.**
- **The suspension should not be defective.**
- **The brake and indicator lights should be checked to ensure they are working efficiently.**

*All indicator lights should be clearly showing amber.*

- **The handbrake should be in good working order.**
- **Any warning lights indicating a malfunction or a defect, which shows before or during the test, may lead to the non-conducting/non-completion of your test.**

*Vehicles are fitted with a number of warning lights that let the driver know if certain critical safety and performance features are not working properly. They are important safety features and it is in the interest of the driver and road safety that all safety systems in the vehicle are in full working order.*

- **There should be no leakage of exhaust fumes into the vehicle.**
- **There shall be no visible or obvious defect which would be likely to cause vehicle breakdown during the test.**
- **Modifications which could pose a risk to the health and safety of the driver tester are not permitted for test.**

*Examples include, but are not limited to, un-padded/protected internal roll-cages, modified/lowered suspensions or any modification which could pose a significant risk.*

- **All vehicles presented for a driving test must have a head restraint fitted to the front passenger's seat.**

*The head restraint must be fitted to the manufacturer's specification.*

- **The passenger seat must be securely mounted and capable of being fully and properly adjusted.**

*Broken or unstable seats are not acceptable.*

- **As vehicles presented for a driving test are regarded as an enclosed workspace, all vehicles must be smoke-free in accordance with the Public Health (Tobacco) Act, 2004.**

*As this Act also covers environmental tobacco smoke, test candidates are asked not to smoke in the vehicle before the driving test and to ensure that there is no residual smoke or smoke odour present for the test.*

- **In the case of a test with a trailer, the trailer must have a registration plate displayed on the rear, and the registration number must correspond with that of the drawing vehicle.**
- **The vehicle must have reasonably clean seating and/or seat covering, i.e. free from excessive dust/dirt, dampness or moisture.**
- **There may be other instances that would lead a tester to conclude on health and safety grounds that the test vehicle was not in a sufficiently roadworthy condition to conduct the test.**

For further requirements necessary for specific categories of vehicle, please see the next few pages.

## Further Requirements for certain Categories

### Motorcycle tests - Categories AM, A1, A2, A

As well as the requirements in your appointment notification and in the general checklist, you also need to comply with the following:

- Learner permit holders for motorcycle licence category AM, A1, A2, or A must, when driving such a vehicle, display a yellow fluorescent tabard bearing the letter 'L' not less than 15 centimetres high in red on a white background, in clearly visible vertical positions front and rear worn over the chest clothing. L plates and tabards must be in good condition.
- You will be required to produce confirmation in relation to your motorcycle engine size and power output. For all motorcycle and moped tests, you must bring with you the Vehicle Registration Certificate and Licensing Certificate.
- If your motorcycle is restricted, you must bring a Certificate of Restriction with you on the day of the test. The Certificate must have been issued within the last two years.
- If you are taking a motorcycle test, i.e. category AM, A1, A2 or A, you must satisfy yourself that the vehicle presented for test is consistent with any restrictions denoted on the learner permit.

### BE (Car and Trailer) tests

As well as the requirements in your appointment notification and the general checklist, you also need to comply with the following:

- If you are presenting for your BE (Car and trailer) test, you must meet the vehicle requirements as set out in your appointment notification.
- Your vehicle must meet the minimum real total mass requirements - real total mass is the weight of a vehicle including the load, if any, which is on it.

The trailer must be presented for the test with a real total mass of at least 800kg, having due regard for safety, stability, manufacturer's guidelines and legal limits of the combination.

In order to meet the real total mass requirement, you are required to place 30 four-inch (100 x 220 x 450 mm) solid concrete building blocks in the trailer. If it is accepted that a trailer will weigh a minimum of 250kg on its own, the 30 blocks (each weighing approximately 19-20kg) will weigh an additional 570kg, which together will exceed the minimum real total mass requirement of 800kg at 820kg. The blocks should be evenly distributed across the trailer and positioned in such a way as to keep the nose weight within the recommended limits.



*100 x 220 x 450 mm solid concrete building block*

The nose weight is the maximum load your trailer can put on your vehicle's towing hitch (set out by the vehicle and hitch manufacturers). The suggested figure for a safe nose weight when towing is around 7 per cent of the laden weight of the trailer. The trailer should be loaded in such a way as to ensure individual wheels/axles are not overloaded, and having due regard for safety, stability, manufacturer's guidelines and legal limits of the combination.

Also remember that in order to comply with the law, the braking and lighting systems must be functioning correctly and the general structure must be sound.

## Truck Tests (Categories C and CE)



As well as the requirements in your appointment notification and the general checklist, you also need to comply with the following:

### Category C

- You must meet the vehicle requirements as set out in your appointment notification.
- You must bring the vehicle's valid Certificate of Roadworthiness (CRW) with you on the day of the test as proof of the vehicle's unladen weight.
- Please note that in the case of a new truck that has yet to undergo a Commercial Vehicle Roadworthiness Test, you must bring a certificate of unladen weight from a weighbridge with you to the test.

### *Real Total Mass*

- If you are presenting for your Category C (truck) test, your vehicle must meet minimum real total mass requirements - real total mass is the weight of a vehicle including the load, if any, which is on it.

The vehicle must be presented with a real total mass (the actual weight of the vehicle including any load, if necessary) of at least 10,000kg, having due regard for safety, stability, manufacturer's guidelines and legal limits.

If the unladen weight of the vehicle is less than the minimum requirements outlined above, you will need to load the vehicle to meet these requirements.

Loading of the vehicle, if required, must be achieved by placing containers known as IBCs (intermediate bulk containers), filled with water, on the vehicle. IBCs have a stated capacity and so are ideal as proof of a given weight. For example, a 1,000 litre IBC when filled with water will weigh 1,000kg (1 tonne). IBCs are also available in lesser capacities. It is also advised to fill the IBC to the top with water to avoid liquid movement, as would happen if only partially full.



*Example of an IBC*

You may be required to open a tailgate/door in order for the tester to see that the load, if required, is in place.

**Category CE**



- You must meet the vehicle requirements as set out in your appointment notification

*Real Total Mass*

- If you are presenting for your Category CE (articulated truck) test, as well as meeting the requirements set out in your appointment letter and in the checklist, you must meet minimum real total mass requirements - real total mass is the weight of a vehicle including the load, if any, which is on it.

The articulated vehicle or the combination must be presented with a real total mass (the actual weight of the combination including any load, if necessary) of at least **15,000kg**, having due regard for safety, stability, manufacturer's guidelines and legal limits of the combination.

You must provide certification from a weighbridge facility which sets out the **unladen weight of the tractor unit and trailer together** being presented for the test. The certification must include:

- The registration number of the tractor unit
- The trailer mark of the trailer being presented for the test
- The **unladen** weight of the tractor unit and trailer **together**
- The date the vehicle was weighed - certificates will only be accepted for the driving test within one year of this date.

If the unladen weight of the vehicle or combination is less than the minimum requirements outlined above, you will need to load the vehicle or trailer to meet these requirements.

Loading of the vehicle can be achieved by placing containers known as IBCs (intermediate bulk containers) on the vehicle. IBCs have a stated capacity and so are ideal as proof of a given weight. For example, a 1,000 litre IBC when filled with water will weigh 1,000kg (1 tonne). IBCs are also available in lesser capacities. It is also advised to fill the IBC to the top with water to avoid liquid movement, as would happen if only partially full.



*Example of an IBC*

You may be required to open a tailgate/door in order for the tester to see that the load, if required, is in place.



## **What happens if we cannot conduct your test on the day?**

While we make every effort to ensure that your test goes ahead at the appointed date and time, in some instances it can become necessary to cancel a test at short notice. Examples of this could include where a driver tester is ill and we cannot assign another tester or where weather conditions would mean that doing your test would be dangerous. In any such case, we will do our best to inform the test candidate as soon as possible. If you have provided us with a mobile phone number, we may use this to send you a text to inform you, or we will ring you. If this is not possible, we will email you.

Where there is any wide-scale disruption to several test centres, such as when there is widespread ice and snow, we will post regular updates in relation to each test centre affected on our website.

Remember that the last thing we want to do is cancel your test, so if this does happen, please be patient – it is something that we did not want to happen and something that we will do our best to rectify as quickly as possible.

In every case where we cancel a test, we will rearrange a further test appointment free of charge.

Please note that should any fault or issue outlined under the 'my vehicle' heading occur during the test, leading to the test having to be stopped, irrespective of whether the issue was present at the start of the test, you will have to re-apply for the test and pay the appropriate fee. Likewise, if, during your test, you become unable to proceed for any reason and the test is stopped as a result, you will have to re-apply and pay the appropriate fee.

**Remember!** – if you need to cancel your test due to not meeting these requirements, you may only do so if you have not cancelled twice already and are giving 10 days' notice. Otherwise, you will have to re-apply for the test and pay the appropriate fee.

**If you have any further query on any of these matters, please contact the Road Safety Authority by phoning 1890 40 60 40 in advance of your test.**

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# Working To Save Lives

## Údarás Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre

### Road Safety Authority

An Rannóg Taistáil Tiomána, Páirc Ghnó Ghleann na Muaidhe,  
Cnoc an tSabhaircín, Bóthar Bhaile Átha Cliath, Béal an Átha, Co. Mhaigh Eo  
Driver Testing Section, Moy Valley Business Park, Primrose Hill,  
Dublin Road, Ballina, Co. Mayo

locall: 1890 50 60 80 fax: (096) 25252 email: [info@rsa.ie](mailto:info@rsa.ie)  
website: [www.rsa.ie](http://www.rsa.ie)

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