

Checklist for your practical driving test

July 2026



You have booked your driving test

Now that you have booked your driving test it's a good time to start getting ready. This checklist will guide and help you with your preparation for the driving test.

The driving test is just the first step in becoming a truly safe and competent driver. Safe and guided preparation is the key to approaching your test. The guidance of an Approved Driving Instructor (ADI) can help tailor your preparation to match your driving skill level.

To prepare for your test, you should continue to build on what you have learned in your driving lessons. That means practising driving safely with your sponsor or ADI in different situations and road conditions, including driving at night. It's also possible that you may have developed some driving faults or bad driving habits. Your ADI will give you a detailed report on what driving skills you need to improve. This will improve your chances of passing your driving test. Just remember that you must always be accompanied by an ADI or sponsor driver who has held a full, valid licence in the same category for at least two years.

While passing your test will be a proud accomplishment, driving is not an automatic right. Being a driver comes with huge responsibilities. You will be responsible for many lives on the road: your own, your passengers and other road users. So, every time you drive, you should keep up the high standards you learned from your ADI. Never stop learning!

Not everyone passes the test first time. That's okay. With our help you can use these tips to better prepare yourself for whenever you take your test.

Tips for the driving test

Use these tips to help you get ready to take your test:

Prepare yourself

- Get help and advice from your Approved Driving Instructor (ADI).
- Practice driving with your Approved Driving Instructor (ADI) and sponsor. Your ADI will help you become a safer driver and guide you through the Essential Driver Training (EDT) programme.
- As a learner motorcyclist, start your Initial Basic Training (IBT) as soon as you can. You cannot practice unsupervised until you have completed IBT.
- Note that your tester is different to your instructor. Unlike your instructor, your tester will not give you verbal encouragement or advice during your test. Your tester will be completely focused on giving you directions and assessing your performance. This is to ensure that every test is assessed fairly.

Documents to help you prepare for your test

Read all available information, such as:

- **The Rules of the Road** (available in bookshops or from www.rsa.ie)
- This leaflet
- The Preparing for your driving test leaflet shared when you added yourself to the waiting list and available with your booking confirmation.
- The Learn to Drive manuals for the appropriate category (available in bookshops).

If you have a further query on any of these matters, or for the most up-to-date information please visit MyRoadSafety.ie or www.rsa.ie in advance of your test.

Prepare for driving test day

- Make sure your documentation is in order and on display (see section below: Documents to bring on the day).

- Make sure you have completed all 12 Essential Driver Training (EDT) sessions before taking the test. For motorcyclists, you must have completed your Initial Basic Training (IBT). IBT is valid for two (2) years from date of completion.

Your driving test requirements

You don't want to find out at the last minute that your driving test can't go ahead because you haven't met the requirements.

Did you know?

A high percentage of driving tests don't go ahead for these reasons:

- An invalid and/or incorrect category learner permit
- A fault with your test vehicle
- Incorrect documentation
- Arriving late and missing your appointment
- Arriving at the wrong time or wrong centre

If you don't meet all of the above requirements, you will have to book another driving test and pay the test fee again.

You must be accompanied

As a learner driver, until you are in possession of a full driving licence you must be accompanied at all times while driving. This person must hold a valid full licence in the same category for at least two years. This rule applies when driving to and from the test centre, even after you have passed the test. A certificate of competency is not a driving licence.

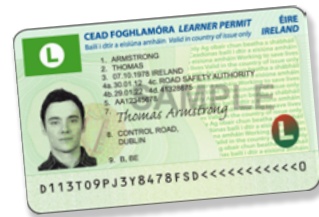
A person who can drive in Ireland under a licence issued by either an EU Member State or by a country in the European Economic Area, can act as an accompanying driver. Otherwise a foreign licence holder cannot act as an accompanying driver.

You cannot be accompanied by any passengers other than your tester during your test. An RSA official may accompany your tester for training and supervisory purposes. However, they will take no part in the test itself. It is not possible to opt out of this, if refused, your test will not go ahead and you will lose your fee.

Things to do and documents to bring on the day



- Arrive early. Be present in the test centre waiting room/area before your appointed time. Do not wait in your vehicle.
- Wear suitable footwear for your test. Remember, flip-flops, sandals, backless footwear or barefoot driving are not acceptable.
- Your valid learner permit for your test category. Your learner permit must:
 - Correspond with your identity
 - Be in date (You can check the expiry date of your learner permit on the back of the permit listed beside the Category)
- Be for the correct category of vehicle for your test.
- Bring a valid certificate of motor insurance showing that you are insured to drive the vehicle presented for test. The insurance cert must be an original or copy of the original, (digital copies are acceptable). In the event that you are not named on the Certificate of Insurance you will also, in addition to the certificate, need to provide an email or letter (on headed paper) from your insurance



company stating that you are insured to drive the vehicle presented for test. Names or personal details of other people on documents can be redacted or covered. The documents will be viewed by the tester and returned to you.

- For the category C (truck) test: bring your vehicle's certificate of roadworthiness to the test as proof of the vehicle's unladen weight (please see the section relating to extra requirements for trucks).
- For the category CE (truck with trailer and articulated truck) test: bring your vehicle combination's certification from a weighbridge facility to your test. This certification must:
 - Be dated within the past 12 months
 - Set out the unladen weight of the tractor unit and trailer
 - Show the date the vehicle was weighed
 - Include the registration number of the tractor unit and the trailer mark of the trailer.

Displaying vehicle documentation

Be sure the following are clearly displayed on your vehicle:

- A valid, original insurance disc (white background with a green band along the left-hand side). This must clearly show the registration number (or fleet name) of your vehicle and the policy dates

The information on display must clearly show all details required by law, including the registration number of the vehicle. If details are faded (including the green strip), you should get the relevant disc replaced prior to your test. You will also be asked to read and sign a statement confirming that your vehicle is roadworthy and the insurance cover is in place and adequate.

- A valid original motor tax disc
- A valid NCT disc or valid CVRT disc, if applicable
L-plates on the 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). L-plates must not be faded and must be clearly visible to other road users.

- Motorcyclists must wear a yellow tabard (vest) displaying an L-plate on the front and back.

Get your vehicle ready and prepared

On your test day:

- You need to provide the vehicle for your test. You can find details of the minimum requirement for your driving test vehicle in our Representative vehicle for your Driving Test leaflet. Please visit www.rsa.ie for more information.
- You must be insured to drive the vehicle.
- The vehicle must be in a roadworthy condition and you will be asked to sign a statement to this effect

Vehicle details to check in advance of your test

- On visible inspection, your tyres should meet the minimum legal requirements. There should be no obvious bulges, cuts or severe uneven wear present. Tyres should be inflated to the correct pressure.
- **Please note: space saver-type spare wheels aren't acceptable, as their speed rating doesn't meet test requirements.**
- Loads should be removed or properly secured.
- Loose objects inside the vehicle such as bottles, cans, clothes etc. must be removed or properly secured before the test.
- Your windscreen should be clean and free from visual obstructions, including excessive cracks. The windscreen wipers and washer fluid should be fully operational.
- Windscreen and front side windows must not be tinted beyond manufacturers specification so as to ensure visibility and safety for both the learner driver and driver tester.
- Any vehicle modifications that pose a risk to the health and safety of the driver tester are not permitted. Examples include but are not limited to: unpadded or protected internal roll-cages, modified or lowered suspension.

Driver testers are trained in all elements above and their decision on whether or not the test can continue is final.

Check your vehicle's safety systems and warning lights

Your vehicle is fitted with a number of warning lights that let you know if certain critical safety and performance features are not working properly. It is important that all your vehicle's safety systems are in working order. Not only is this a requirement for your test, but it is also in the interest of your safety and the safety of other road users. Please take note of the following:

- Your vehicle suspension should not be defective
- Make sure your brake and indicator lights are working efficiently
- All indicator lights should be clearly showing amber
- Make sure your handbrake is in good working order
- Any dashboard warning lights indicating a malfunction or a defect, which shows before or during the test, will lead to your test not going ahead or being cut short. Where this happens you will need to reapply for your driving test and pay the appropriate fee.
- There should be no leakage of exhaust fumes into the vehicle
- There should be no visible or obvious defect which would be likely to cause vehicle breakdown during the test.

Ensure the safety and consideration of the assigned driver tester

- Your vehicle must have a safety belt fitted to the front passenger seat, be in good working order and conform to the manufacturer's specification.
- The driver and passenger windows must be working properly and it should be possible to open the windows from each side.
- Your front passenger door must be working properly and should be possible to open from both the inside and outside.
- Your vehicle must have a head restraint fitted to the front passenger's seat, and to the

manufacturer's specification.

- Your front passenger seat must be securely mounted and capable of being fully and properly adjusted. Broken or unstable seats are not acceptable.
- Visual or audio recording equipment is not permitted during an official driving test so must be removed, powered off and not recording. (The RSA has a duty to protect the privacy of driver testers at work. The vehicle being used for a driving test is considered a workspace for the duration of the test.)
- Only you and your assigned driver tester are allowed in the vehicle during your test. Occasionally an RSA Official will be present on test. The RSA Official is present for the sole purpose of monitoring the tester and has no input in the assessment of your driving test. You're not permitted to carry any other passengers, including pets.
- During your test, your vehicle is considered an enclosed workspace and needs to be smoke-free in accordance with the Public Health (Tobacco) Act, 2004. Please do not smoke or vape in your vehicle before your test. This is to help you ensure there is no residual smoke or smoke/vaping odour present during your test.
- Your vehicle should have reasonably clean seating and seat covering, i.e. free from excessive dust, dirt, dampness or moisture.

Vehicle restrictions to be aware of

- 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 stamped note from the hire company indicating that the vehicle has been hired using a current valid Irish Learner Permit and that the vehicle is insured for the purposes of a driving test. Give this note to your driver tester on the day of the test.
- 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 registered outside the State are not accepted for test purposes.

- Left hand drive vehicles can be used for a driving test once they are registered in Ireland and have all valid documentation listed above.

Please note: outside of the requirements listed above, there may be other elements that would lead a tester to conclude that a vehicle is not in a suitable condition to conduct the test. Be sure to double-check your vehicle is in a sufficiently roadworthy condition and is able to meet these health and safety requirements.

You will find further requirements necessary for specific categories of vehicle in the following pages.

Further requirements for certain categories

Motorcycle (categories AM, A1, A2, A) tests

It is important you meet the following requirements, as well as those in your booking confirmation letter / email and the general checklist above.

Documentation

We will ask you to show us documentation in relation to your motorcycle engine size and power output. For all motorcycle and moped tests, bring your vehicle registration certificate (VRC) with you. The VRC must show the power output in section (P.2). If this is blank or if .5555 is shown here, you will need to contact the Vehicle Registration Unit in Shannon to arrange for your VRC to be updated to show the power output of your motorcycle.

We will ask you to show / display a current valid tax disc for that motorcycle.

Safety and motorcycle restrictions

If your motorcycle is restricted, you must produce documentation that includes the original full power output along with the new restricted power output of your motorcycle. This documentation will be required

by your Tester on the day of your test. You need to make sure that your motorcycle is consistent with any restrictions applied by your learner permit.

As stated in the general requirements, your motorcycle or moped must be fitted with functioning and adequate brake lights (red), and indicator lights (amber/orange).

You must also have all the necessary personal protection equipment (PPE), i.e. helmet, gloves, boots and weather-gear.

You must bring your own earpiece with a 3.5mm jack-plug.

Car with trailer (category BE) tests

It is important you meet the following requirements, as well as those in your booking notification and the general checklist above.

Weight and total mass requirements

Please review the Representative Vehicle for your Driving Test leaflet which is available at www.rsa.ie

The cargo compartment of the trailer must consist of a permanent, closed box body which is at least as wide and as high as the motor vehicle, and have a length of at least 2.4 metres. The closed box body may also be slightly less wide than the motor vehicle, provided that the view to the rear is only possible by use of the external rear-view mirrors of the motor vehicle.

Your vehicle must meet the minimum real total mass requirements, i.e. real total mass is the weight of a vehicle including the load.

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

Irrespective of the unladen weight of the trailer, you are required to place 30 four-inch (100 x 220 x 450 mm) solid concrete building blocks in the trailer.



100 x 220 x 450 mm solid concrete building block

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.

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 seven per cent of the laden weight of the trailer. The trailer should be loaded in such a way as to ensure individual wheels or axles are not overloaded, and having due regard for safety, stability, manufacturer's guidelines and legal limits of the combination.

The trailer presented for test must display a registration plate matching that of the towing vehicle.



Truck (category C) tests

It is important you meet the following requirements, as well as those in your booking notification and the general checklist above.

- You will need to bring your vehicle's valid current certificate of roadworthiness (CRW) to your test as proof of the vehicle's unladen weight.
- In the case of a new truck that has yet to undergo a commercial vehicle roadworthiness test, bring a certificate of unladen weight from a weighbridge with you to the test.

Real Total Mass

For the category C (truck) test, your vehicle must meet minimum real total mass requirements, i.e. 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 10,000 kg, having due regard for safety, stability, manufacturer's guidelines and legal limits.

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 to meet Real Total Mass 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 1,000 kg (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 or door in order for the tester to see that the load, if required, is in place.



Truck with trailer and articulated truck (category CE) tests

Real Total Mass

For the category CE (articulated truck) test, you must meet minimum real total mass requirements, i.e. 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 15,000 kg, having due regard for safety, stability, manufacturer's guidelines and legal limits of the combination.

If you are presenting with a truck and trailer combination, the towing vehicle must meet with the

10,000 kg real total mass requirement for a category C test vehicle. Both the towing vehicle and the trailer must display valid CVRT discs, if applicable.

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. Please refer to the section titled 'Loading to meet Real Total Mass requirements' for more advice.

Documentation

Bring your vehicle combination's certification from a weighbridge facility to your test. This certification must:

- Be dated within the past 12 months
- Set out the unladen weight of the tractor unit and trailer together
- Show the date the vehicle was weighed
- Include the registration number of the tractor unit and the trailer mark of the trailer.

What will happen if we cannot conduct your test on the day?

While we make every effort to ensure that your test goes ahead on the date you booked, in some instances it can become necessary to cancel a test at short notice.

Examples include where a driver tester is ill or where weather conditions would mean that doing your test would be dangerous. In every case, we'll do our best to inform you as soon as possible.

If you have provided us with a mobile phone number, we will ring you or send you a text. If this is not possible, we will email you.

If there is widescale disruption to several test centres, e.g. when there's widespread ice and snow, we'll post regular updates on www.rsa.ie.

We know how much preparation and attention you put into your test. The last thing we want to do is

to have to cancel it. If this does happen, please be patient. We will do our best to rectify things as soon as possible. In every case where we have to cancel, you will be prioritised and invited to book another test free of charge as soon as possible.

Please note: your test will be stopped if your vehicle fails to meet any requirement outlined in this document. This might happen before or even during the test itself. Likewise, if during the test you are unable to proceed for any reason, the test will be stopped as a result. In these instances, you will have to book another test and pay the appropriate fee.

Keep in mind: if you are not ready to take your test due to not meeting the test requirements, you can reschedule twice so long as you give at least 10 days notice without losing your fee. You must follow the instructions on MyRoadSafety.ie when rescheduling.

If you have a further query on any of these matters, please visit www.rsa.ie in advance of your test.

Good luck with your driving test!



 **MyRoadSafety.ie**

Your online resource to easily and safely manage all your driver information, services, tests, permits and licences.

VISION
ZERO



Údaras Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre
Road Safety Authority

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