



National Driver Licence Service
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta um Cheadúnais Tiomána

Driver Licensing in Ireland A GUIDE





Driver Licensing in Ireland

A GUIDE

About this booklet

If you want to drive, you have to have a valid driving licence or a learner permit.

The National Driver Licence Service (NDLS) is responsible for processing applications for driver licences and learner permits. (Until recently, these functions were carried out by Motor Tax Offices.)

There are 15 different categories of driving licence and learner permit for different types of vehicle, and all of these have different rules and regulations. There are rules ...

- ... about how old you must be before you can drive different categories of vehicle
- ... about how much formal training or how many lessons you have to take
- ... about penalty points
- ... about who has to submit a medical report with an application
- ... about who does and who does not need CPC
- ... and so on.

Many of these rules and regulations will seem obvious. Others less so. All of them, however, are in place for good reason and they fit with the RSA's mission to improve road safety and to ensure that drivers are well-trained, safe and competent. The purpose of this booklet is to outline how to apply for and maintain a driving licence or learner permit and to describe the regulations that relate to both.

What is in this booklet

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General information

Learner permit and driving licence forms

You will need to fill out one or more forms at various stages when you are applying for a learner permit or driving licence. All of these forms are available on the [RSA website](#) or on the [NDLS website](#).

Form	When you use it
Learner Permit Application Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You have passed a driver theory test and want to apply for a learner permit.• You want to renew a learner permit that is due to expire within the next three months <i>or</i> that has expired within the last five years.• You want to replace a lost, stolen or damaged learner permit.• You want to change personal details on your learner permit.
Driving Licence Application Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You have passed a driving test and want to apply for a driving licence for the first time.• You have passed a driving test in an additional category and want to apply for that category to be added to your licence.• You want to renew a driving licence that is due to expire within the next three months <i>or</i> that has expired within the last ten years.• You want to replace a lost, stolen or damaged driving licence.• You want to apply for an Irish driving licence in exchange for an equivalent licence issued by another EU state or by another country with which Ireland has an exchange agreement.• You want to change personal details on your driving licence.
Application Form Practical Driving Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You want to apply to take a practical driving test. <p>You may also apply directly online. Go to the Driving test page of the RSA website and click on Apply online.</p>

Form	When you use it
<p>D501 Medical Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You want to apply for a truck or bus learner permit or driving licence. • You want to apply for any category of learner permit or driving licence and have particular medical conditions. • You are aged 70 years or over.
<p>D502 Eyesight Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You want to apply for a learner permit for the first time – not necessary if you are supplying a medical report (form D501).

Identity verification

During your first licensing transaction on or after 29 October 2013 (whether for a learner permit or a driving licence, a new application or a renewal), you must present in person at an NDLS office to have your photograph taken and your identity verified. This is a security measure to combat fraud and to make sure that you are entitled to the licence or permit for which you are applying. Staff at the NDLS office will take your photograph, verify your signature, and check the other documents that you are required to bring with you, as described below.

You can do this at any [NDLS office](#) – it does not have to be the one nearest where you live.

Normally, you do not need to visit an NDLS office in subsequent licensing transactions, as your identity will already have been verified. You can choose either to continue to use the photograph taken in the NDLS office (if this is less than five years old), or submit new photographs that comply with the standards set out on page 8.

Evidence of identity

In order to prove your identity and your entitlement to a licence or permit, you are required to present evidence in four categories:

1. Photographic identity	<p>Acceptable photo identity documents are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● An Irish passport (current or having expired within the past 12 months).● Current passport for all non-Irish citizens.● Current National Identity Card from certain countries – see note on page 8.● Current Irish Certificate of Naturalisation.● Current UK (photo) driving licence.● Current Public Services Card.● Current Irish Travel Document issued by the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service of the Department of Justice & Equality. <p>All identity documents submitted must be valid original documents. Photocopies are not accepted.</p>
2. Evidence of your residency entitlement	<p>To be considered normally resident in Ireland, you must live here at least 185 days in each calendar year. If you are an Irish resident and are working or studying abroad but have family in Ireland, you may be regarded as normally resident in Ireland provided you return here regularly.</p> <p>Documents that will be accepted as evidence of residency entitlement are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Irish/UK long-form Birth Certificate or Adoption Certificate.● Foreign Birth Registration.● Current passport from certain countries – see note on page 8.● Current National Identity Card from certain countries – see note on page 8.● Irish Certificate of Naturalisation.● Current Certificate of Registration (GNIB card) for persons who are not EU, EEA or Swiss citizens.● Diplomatic Passport.

3. Evidence of your address	<p>Documents that will be accepted as evidence of your address are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Utility bill (from, for example, your electricity, phone, gas, cable television or broadband provider). Mobile phone bills are not acceptable.● Correspondence with an insurance company.● Statement from a bank, building society or credit union. (Statements from store cards or catalogue companies are not acceptable.)● Letter from Department of Social Protection or Revenue.● Other official correspondence from an Irish State agency – for example, a Government department, the HSE, Register of Electors/Polling card, the CAO, the Private Residential Tenancies Board or a third-level college or training agency. <p>Note that any document presented as evidence of address must be dated within the past six months.</p> <p>The address for which evidence is presented here will be used for all future correspondence until a change is notified.</p>
4. Evidence of your PPSN	<p>You must provide evidence of your personal public services number (PPSN). Documents that will be accepted as evidence of your PPSN are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Public Services Card or Social Services Card● Correspondence from the Revenue or Department of Social Protection showing PPSN● P21 or Tax Assessment or Notice of Tax credits● Receipt of Social Welfare payment● Medical Card or Drug Payment Scheme (DPS) Card● European Health Insurance Card● Payslip or P60/P45 <p>If you don't have a PPSN or can't find it, contact the Department of Social Protection (www.welfare.ie) and they will give you the necessary information.</p>

A document used to provide evidence in one of the above categories may also, if acceptable, be used as evidence in another. For example a Public Service Card will serve as both photo identification and as evidence of PPSN.

In addition to the above, if you already hold an Irish driving licence or learner permit, you must bring that with you to the **NDLS office**.

National identity cards and passports

National Identity Cards are accepted from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

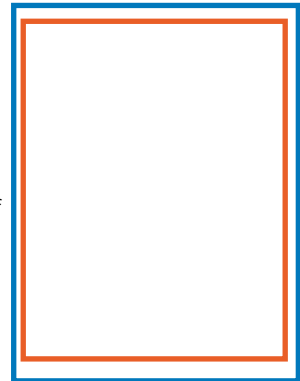
Current passports are accepted as evidence of residence from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

About photographs

During your first licensing transaction on or after 29 October 2013, your photograph is taken in an NDLS office. During subsequent licensing transactions, you can choose either to continue to use the photograph taken in the NDLS office (if this is less than five years old), or submit new photographs that comply with the standards set out below. You must submit photographs if the photograph on your existing licence or learner permit is more than five years old.

If you submit photographs with your application, they must be two passport-style photographs. These must be identical and recent (no more than six months old), and they must meet the following guidelines:

- Width: 35–38mm; height: 45–50mm.
- The photograph should show a full front view of your head, as you would normally appear.
- The image must be sharp and clear, and taken against a plain white or light grey background.
- You should not be wearing sunglasses, and there should be no hair covering your eyes.
- Your expression should be neutral with both eyes open and your mouth closed. Contrived expressions such as raised eyebrows, squinting or frowning are not acceptable.
- Only head coverings worn for religious reasons are permitted. Hair bands are not allowed.



*Minimum and maximum size
of photographs*

Further information

Further information relating to driver licensing is available at the following websites:

- www.rsa.ie
- www.theorytest.ie
- www.ndls.ie
- www.rulesoftheroad.ie

Books and other documents

The following is a short list of some of the many books and leaflets that are available that supplement the information covered in this booklet. Some of these are available in bookshops and other retail outlets around Ireland and from online retailers.

- *Learning to drive a car* (RSA)
- *Learning to ride a motorcycle* (RSA)
- *Learning to drive a truck* (RSA)
- *Learning to drive a bus* (RSA)
- *The official driver theory test: questions and answers*
- Road Traffic Acts (available at www.irishstatutebook.ie)
- *Rules of the Road*

Any other queries

If you have any queries relating to driving licences that are not covered in this booklet, please contact us:

- By email: licensingqueries@rsa.ie
- By phone: LoCall number 1890 40 60 40.

The driver theory tests

Before you can apply for your first learner permit in any category, you must pass the driver theory test for that category.

The purpose of the driver theory test is to check your knowledge of topics such as the *Rules of the Road*, risk perception, eco-driving, hazard awareness, and safe driving behaviour.

The driver theory test is computer-based and user-friendly.

Categories and minimum age

For each vehicle category, there is a minimum age requirement for holding a learner permit, as shown in the table below.

There are four driver theory tests, and which one you take depends on the category of vehicle you are planning to drive, also shown in the table below

You can take the theory test before the minimum age, but the certificate you obtain on passing is valid only for two years.

Licence / learner permit category		Minimum age for holding a learner permit	Theory test
AM	Moped, light quadricycle	16	AM
A1	Small motorcycle	16	
A2	Medium-sized motorcycle	18	
A	Motorcycle (any size), motor tricycle	20 (progressive); 24 (direct access) 21 motor tricycles	
B	Car and light van	17	BW
BE	Car and light van with trailer	17	
W	Tractor and works vehicle	16	
C	Truck	18 with CPC*; 21 without CPC	C
CE	Truck with trailer/articulated truck	18 with CPC*; 21 without CPC	
C1	Small truck/large van	18	
C1E	Small truck/large van with trailer	18	

Licence / learner permit category		Minimum age for holding a learner permit	Theory test
D	Bus	21 with CPC*; 24 without CPC	D
DE	Bus with trailer	21 with CPC*; 24 without CPC	
D1	Minibus	21	
D1E	Minibus with trailer	21	

* The lower minimum ages relate to drivers who have passed the CPC theory test – see Truck and bus licences on page 32.

You do not have to pass the same theory test more than once. So, for example, if you pass the theory test for category C and obtain a learner permit for category C1, and you subsequently wish to obtain a learner permit for category C, you don't have to take another driver theory test – provided you still have a valid learner permit or driver licence for category C1.

Booking your theory test

Once you are satisfied that you have sufficiently prepared, you can book your theory test:

Online	<p>www.theorytest.ie</p> <p>Note that some unofficial websites charge a fee on top of the cost of the test without providing any extra service. For this reason, you should always use the official website when booking a theory test or driving test.</p>
By phone	<p>1890 606 106 (English language)</p> <p>1890 606 806 (Irish language)</p> <p>1890 616 216 (text phone – for the hearing-impaired)</p>

The test is offered in both English and Irish, and voiceovers are available in Polish in all categories and in Lithuanian and Russian in the car category and in Polish in all categories. There are test centres all around the country.

Special assistance

If you need any assistance with mobility, or if you are hard of hearing, or have a reading or language challenge, contact the driver theory test service, as shown below. (Note that translator assisted appointments can be made by phone only.)

By email	<p>theorytesthelp@prometric.com</p> <p>Include your name and contact number in your email.</p>
By phone	<p>1890 606 406</p> <p>1890 616 216 (text phone – for the hearing-impaired)</p>

What you need to bring with you

When you arrive at the test centre to take your test, you need to have the following:

- Acceptable photo ID, such as a passport, a Department of Social Protection services card, Garda National Immigration Bureau card, or an ID card issued by another EU country (these are listed on page 8). If you are taking the bus or truck theory test, your current driving licence is acceptable as photo ID. Your photo ID must be a valid original document (copies are not acceptable) and it must be in date.
- Two identical passport-style photographs – see **About photographs** on page 8.

After you pass the theory test

When you pass the driver theory test you are issued with a Theory Test Certificate indicating the categories you have passed. You may then apply for a learner permit in one or more of those categories. The certificate is valid for up to two years and must be used to obtain a permit within that time, otherwise you will have to sit the test again.

If you didn't pass

If you do not pass the test, you are given a short report advising you of the areas of the test where your answers were wrong. The actual questions to which you gave wrong answers will not be specified – this is to encourage you to revise the entire area rather than just individual questions.

If you believe that your score is not a true reflection of your performance, speak to the driver theory test administrator before leaving the test centre.

You may request the driver theory test provider to re-check your test. Fill in one of the appeal forms that are available at all test centres. You must lodge your appeal within ten working days of taking the theory test, and you must enclose a further fee with your appeal – full details of the procedures to follow are included on the appeal form.

On receipt of your appeal, the driver theory test provider will re-check your test and give you the results within five to ten working days. The re-checking will be carried out by the driver theory test provider's head office staff. If it is found that the original marking was wrong, the driver theory test provider will refund the fee enclosed with your appeal and, if appropriate, issue you with a Theory Test Certificate.

The learner permit

You must have a learner permit for the category of vehicle that you are learning to drive.

What category of learner permit to apply for

In addition to the minimum age requirements (see **Categories and minimum age** on page 10), there are some restrictions on the category of learner permit you may apply for:

- If you have no driving experience you can apply for your first learner permit to drive a motorcycle, moped, car, land tractor or work vehicle (categories AM, A1, A2, A, B, W).
- If you want a learner permit for a truck or bus, you must already hold a driving licence for a car (category B).
- If you want a learner permit to tow a trailer, you must already hold a driving licence for the towing vehicle – for example, if you want a CE category learner permit (truck with trailer / articulated truck), you must already have a C category driving licence.

Applying for a learner permit

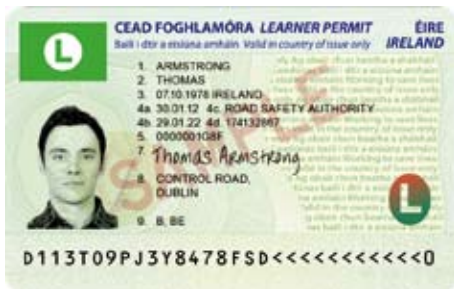
When you are applying for a learner permit, you must fill in a learner permit application form; this includes full details of all the information and documentation you need to supply. The following is a summary of what is required:

Application form	A fully completed and signed learner permit application form .
Theory Test Certificate	If you are a first-time applicant for a learner permit, you must provide the certificate that you receive when you pass the theory test. The theory test specified on the certificate must be the one that is appropriate for the learner permit you are applying for (see page 10), and the certificate must be dated within the past two years.
Fee	The appropriate fee, as indicated learner permit application form .
Learner permit	Any learner permit you hold for another category.
Verification of your identity	If this is your first application on or after 29 October 2013, you must present yourself in person at one of the NDLS offices countrywide to have your photograph taken and your identity verified. See page 5 for details.
Photographs	If required – see page 8.

<p>Medical report</p>	<p>A medical report (form D501) is required for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Those with particular medical conditions – see Medical reports on page 34 for more details. ● Those applying for a truck or bus learner permit. ● Those aged 70 years or over. <p>The requirement to provide a medical report may be waived if the previous medical report you provided is still valid and in date.</p>
<p>Eyesight report</p>	<p>If this is your first time applying for a learner permit, you must supply an eyesight report (form D502). This is not necessary if you are supplying a medical report (form D501).</p>
<p>Certificate of professional competency</p>	<p>If you are learning to become a professional driver or If you are between the ages of 18 and 21 (truck) or between the ages of 21 and 24 (bus) and have already passed the first two CPC theory tests, include your CPC theory test cert/result sheet with your application.</p>

The details on your learner permit

Your learner permit contains both personal details and details of the categories of vehicle it covers.



1. Surname
2. First name
3. Date and country of birth
- 4a. Date of issue 4c. Issuing body
- 4b. Date of expiry 4d. Your driver number
5. Licence / permit number
6. (Photograph)
7. Signature
8. Address
9. Categories



10. Date of issue for each category
11. Date of expiry for each category
12. Additional Information / restrictions
13. Administrative information
14. Optional for information in relation to learner permit or road safety.

Term of a learner permit

Learner permits are generally issued for two years.

Renewing a learner permit

When you are applying to renew a learner permit, you must fill in the [learner permit application form](#); this includes details of all the information and documentation you need to supply. The following is a summary of what is required:

Application form	A fully completed and signed learner permit application form .
Fee	The appropriate fee, as indicated on the learner permit application form .
Learner permit	Any learner permit you hold for another category.
Verification of your identity	If this is your first application on or after 29 October 2013, you must present yourself in person at one of the NDLS offices countrywide to have your photograph taken and your identity verified. See page 5 for details.
Photographs	If required – see page 8.
Medical report	<p>A medical report (form D501) is required for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Those with particular medical conditions – see Medical reports on page 34 for more details. ● Those applying for a truck or bus learner permit. ● Those aged 70 years or over. <p>The requirement to provide a medical report may be waived if the previous medical report you provided is still valid and in date and covers the category of vehicle for which you are applying.</p>
Evidence of previous or forthcoming driving test	<p>If you are applying for a third or subsequent learner permit, you must provide written evidence that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● You have sat a driving test for the category you are applying for within the past two years; or ● You have booked a forthcoming driving test.

L Plates

All learner permit holders (except those in the work vehicles / land tractors category) must display L plates when driving. The plate should consist of a red L on a white background. The L should be at least 15cm high.

On cars, trucks and buses, L plates must be displayed in clearly visible vertical positions to the front and the rear of the vehicle.

Motorcycle learner permit holders must display the L plates on the front and back of a yellow fluorescent tabard worn over their outer clothing.

N Plates

Legislation is currently being considered that will require novice drivers to display N plates for a period of two years from the date they gain their full licence.

Driving on a learner permit

There are a number of conditions that you must meet while driving on a learner permit:

- You must carry the learner permit with you at all times while driving.
- You are not allowed to drive on motorways in the category of vehicle for which you are a learner.
- You are not allowed to carry any passenger for reward.
- If you are a learner in the **car, truck or bus** category, you must be accompanied by a qualified driver (or sponsor) at all times while driving. A qualified driver or sponsor is an experienced driver who has had a full licence for a continuous period of at least two years in the category of vehicle being driven by the learner permit holder.
- If you are a learner in the car category, you must complete [essential driver training \(EDT\)](#) before you can take your driving test – see page 18 for more details.
- If you are a learner in the **work vehicles / land tractor** category, you are not allowed to carry a passenger unless the passenger is a qualified driver and the vehicle is constructed or adapted to carry a passenger.
- If you are a learner in any of the **motorcycle** categories:
 - You must complete [initial basic training \(IBT\)](#) before going on a public road – see page 17.
 - You are not allowed to carry a pillion passenger.

Compulsory driver training

As part of the RSA's programme of improving driving standards and safety on the roads, all new first-time learner permit holders in the motorcycle and car categories are required to undertake structured learner driver training.

Initial Basic Training for learner motorcyclists

Initial Basic Training (IBT) is a training course designed to teach basic riding skills to learner motorcyclists. It is delivered by approved driving instructors (ADI) and contains separate modules that must be completed in sequence. The modules include a mixture of theory and practical riding skills. IBT is mandatory for learner motorcyclists whose first learner permit (for any motorcycle category) is dated on or after 6 December 2010.

When you have completed your IBT course, your ADI will record the details of your training in your logbook and issue you with a *certificate of satisfactory completion*. You must have this certificate before you can undergo your practical driving test.

You may not ride unsupervised on a public road before you receive your certificate. Keep the certificate with your learner permit, as you may be asked to produce it if stopped by a member of An Garda Síochána.

The following table shows the modules you must have completed before applying for each category of driving test.

Category	Access	Required modules
AM	Direct only	Modules 1, 2, 3 and 4)
A1	Direct only	Modules 1, 2, 3 and 4 (direct access only)
A2	Direct	Modules 1, 3 and 5 on an A2 category bike
	Progressive (from A1 category)	Modules 1, 3 and 5, of which Module 5 must be on an A2 category bike
A	Direct	Modules 1, 3 and 5 on an A category bike
	Progressive (from A2 category)	Modules 1, 3 and 5, of which Module 5 must be on an A category bike

For more information on [Direct and progressive access to motorcycle licences](#), see page 30.

Module 5 consists of topics that are broadly similar to those in Modules 2 and 4, but with content that is suited to more powerful motorcycles.

Module 5 is also the 'progression' module for those who are upgrading from a licence for a lower-powered motorcycle to a licence for a higher-powered one.

More information on IBT

The RSA website has a page of resources relating to Initial Basic training (IBT) for motorcyclists – to access this, choose **Learner Drivers** on the RSA home page, and then click the quick link to [IBT for Motorcyclists](#).

Essential Driver Training for learner car drivers

Essential Driver Training (EDT) is a training course designed to teach the basic skills of driving to learner car drivers. It is delivered by approved driving instructors (ADI), and consists of 12 one-hour lessons. EDT is mandatory for learners whose first category B learner permit is dated on or after 4 April 2011.

Over the period when you are taking the EDT lessons, you should also practise driving with an accompanying driver or sponsor and take whatever additional formal lessons you require. No two learners are the same and the amount of practice or other lessons required will vary from one learner to the next.

As you complete each EDT lesson, your ADI will sign off on your EDT log book and upload your record of training to the RSA. Your log book is your record of the lessons you have taken, and is an important document that you should keep safely and take along to every lesson. While you are learning, use the self analysis sections of the EDT log book to reflect on your own driving performance.

More information on EDT

The RSA website has a page of resources relating to Essential Driver Training for car drivers – to access this, choose **Learner Drivers** on the RSA home page, and then click the quick link to [Car Driver Training \(EDT\)](#).

Approved driving instructors (ADIs)

ADIs are assessed by the RSA to ensure that they have the necessary skills to give instruction in driving and motorcycle riding.

They are very experienced and have a great deal of knowledge about driving. ADIs' vehicles are fitted with dual controls and the instructors themselves have the skills and knowledge to make learning to drive a safe experience.

The RSA website includes a list of all registered ADIs, sorted by county.

Click the [Finding an instructor](#) link on the RSA home page.

The driving test

Driver testing in Ireland is carried out directly by the RSA to a standard that complies with the EU Directive on driving licences.

You can apply and pay for your driving test online on the RSA website www.rsa.ie. Online applicants can also choose their test centre and schedule their own test appointment. Click on the driving test link on the RSA's home page and follow the links to apply online.

Alternatively, you can download a driving test application form from www.rsa.ie, or get a copy from any driving test centre, Garda Station or Citizens Information Centre. Complete and return it with your fee to the Road Safety Authority, Primrose Hill, Ballina, Co. Mayo. You can apply in Irish or English.

Preparing for your driving test

As you prepare to take your driving test, you should:

- Study the Rules of the Road.
- Get tuition from an [Approved Driving Instructor](#).
- Car learner drivers must take the [Essential Driver Training](#) course (if applicable), before taking the driving test. Please note you will not receive a driving test appointment until your ADI has notified the RSA (via an electronic portal) that you have completed each of your 12 EDT lessons. You can check your own EDT training record by visiting the [My EDT page](#) of the RSA website.
- Motorcycle learners (all categories) must have completed Initial Basic Training, if applicable, before taking the driving test.
- Practise driving as much as possible on all types of roads (except motorways) and in all types of traffic situations, including driving at night.
- Build up your driving experience and confidence before applying for your test.
- Look out for the RSA suite of *Learning to drive* manuals for cars, motorcycles, trucks and buses, which are for sale in bookshops.

Requirements for taking the driving test

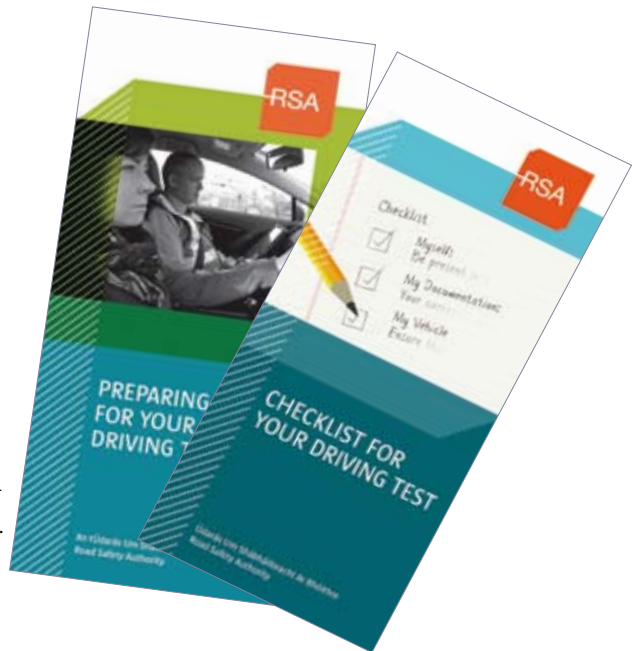
In order to take the driving test, there are a number of requirements that you must meet, including the following:

- You must have held a valid learner permit for at least six months (on the day of the test) – this requirement does not apply to those taking truck or bus tests or car/trailer (BE) tests; nor does it apply to holders of a motorcycle licence who are applying for a licence for a higher-powered motorcycle category where they are moving progressively from a lower-powered motorcycle.
- You must have a suitable and roadworthy vehicle:
 - The lights, brakes, indicators, handbrake and safety belts must all be in working order.
 - The tyres must have a tread depth of at least 1.6mm for cars, trucks and buses or 1.0mm for motorcycles.
 - Your vehicle must have L plates; or (for motorcycle applicants) you must wear a hi-vis tabard with L plates.
 - The vehicle must be a ‘representative’ vehicle for the category of test you are taking.
- The vehicle must have current and valid tax, insurance discs and NCT (if applicable). You will be required to declare that you are insured to drive the vehicle.
- Motorcycles with sidecars are not acceptable test vehicles.

More Information on the driving test

The RSA's [website](#) includes a number of pages and downloadable documents that deal with the driving test – click on the driving test at the home page to access these.

In particular, see the downloadable document on *Representative vehicles for the driving test* and the two leaflets *Preparing for your driving test* and *Checklist for your driving test* which are available for download.



Your appointment for a driving test

Appointments for driving tests are organised on a first-come, first-served basis and you will be notified up to one month in advance of your test. Testing is conducted out of many test centres throughout the country. For a list of test centres please see www.rsa.ie.

You should be present in the test centre before the appointed time of your test. If you are late, the test cannot be conducted and you will lose your fee.

The driver tester will call you for your test and will check your learner permit to establish that it is yours, that it is current and that it is for the correct category of vehicle. You will also be asked to read a statement confirming that you are insured to drive the vehicle and that the vehicle is in a roadworthy condition.

What the driving test includes – cars, motorcycles, works vehicles and land tractors

For the car, motorcycle and works vehicle / land tractor categories, the driving test lasts approximately 30 to 40 minutes and includes a number of different elements:

- The driver tester will ask you questions on the Rules of the Road.
- You will be taken to the vehicle where you must complete a number of roadworthiness checks.
- You will be asked how you would carry out technical checks – for example, on tyres, engine oil, lights, and so on.
- You will be asked questions on the vehicle controls, and you will be asked to demonstrate the use of secondary controls, such as the windscreen wipers, demisters, rear window heater, and so on.
- You will then be asked to drive and to follow directions given by the driver tester. If you are unclear about any direction, please ask the tester to clarify. During the test you must:
 - Maintain proper control over the vehicle at all times.
 - Show anticipation and awareness.
 - Take proper precautions when moving off, stopping, overtaking, changing direction and meeting other traffic.
 - Make safe and reasonable progress when driving and when meeting and crossing the path of other vehicles.
- The test will end back at the test centre and the tester will give you the result with some brief feedback on how you performed in the test.

More details on the test

For more details on what you are tested on during the driving test, see the [Driving Test](#) page on the RSA's website and the leaflet *Preparing for your Driving Test*.

What the driving test includes – trucks and buses

For truck and bus categories, the practical driving test lasts approximately 90 minutes and is broadly similar in structure to the car driving test.

If you are taking [CPC](#), you usually also take the CPC Part 2 practical knowledge test on the same day as the practical driving test. In this test you will be asked questions on areas such as road safety, legal matters relating to driving, vehicle loading and stability, physical risks involved in driving, passenger safety and comfort (buses only), and what to do in an emergency.

After you pass the driving test

When you pass the driving test, the driver tester issues you with a Certificate of Competency indicating the category in which you have passed. You may then apply for a driving licence in that category.

The certificate of competency is valid for two years, so you must make your application to your NDLS Office for a licence within that time. **The Certificate of Competency is not a driving licence.** Even though you have passed the test, you are not fully licensed until you have applied for and received the licence. The driver tester may also provide you with feedback on your performance during the test – take the time to go through the feedback report with your driving instructor who will be able to assist you in understanding the report.

If you didn't pass

If you fail your test, the tester will give you some brief feedback and will also give you a Driving Test Feedback Form outlining the main areas which require attention, and a full detailed report will be sent to you by email or post. You will also receive a certificate indicating that you failed the test – keep this in a safe place as you may need it to renew your learner permit. Ask your driving instructor to go through the feedback report with you, as this will help you to prepare for your next test.

If you wish to appeal

If you believe that the tester did not conduct the test in accordance with procedures and wish to lodge an appeal, you can lodge the appeal to the District Court under Article 33 of the Road Traffic Act, 1961. You must provide a written outline of the reasons why you feel the test was not properly conducted.

The Court cannot examine individual faults incurred during your test, but can examine whether or not the test was conducted properly. If it finds that the tester did not conduct the test in accordance with procedures it can direct that a further test be offered to you free of charge.

The driving licence

Who may apply for a licence?

You may apply for a driving licence if:

- You have passed a driving test within the past two years.
- You wish to renew a driving licence that is due to expire within the next three months or that has expired within the past ten years.
- You wish to add an additional category to a driving licence where a driving test is not needed.

Exchanging a licence from another country

You may apply for a driving licence if you already have a driving licence issued by another Member State of the European Union or of the European Economic Area or another ‘recognised state’ (see below) and you wish to exchange it for an equivalent Irish driving licence. In this case, the following conditions apply:

- An EU licence to be exchanged must not have expired for more than ten years.
- A licence from an EEA country or any other recognised state must not have expired for more than one year.
- You must enclose your licence with your application. This will then be sent back to the country of issue when your Irish licence is issued. **Please note that it is an offence to hold a driving licence from more than one country.**

Recognised states

Countries designated ‘recognised states’ are those with which Ireland has a mutual agreement in respect of driving licences and which have licensing systems broadly similar to ours.

These include all EU states and the following: Australia, Gibraltar, Guernsey, Iceland, Isle of Man, Japan, Jersey, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, South Korea, Switzerland and Taiwan.

Applying for a driving licence

When you are applying for a driving licence, you must fill in a [driving licence application form](#), which includes details of all the information and documentation you need to supply. The following is a summary of what is required:

Application form	A fully completed and signed driving licence application form .
Certificate of competency	If you are applying for the first time for a licence in a particular category that requires a driving test, you must provide the certificate that you receive when you pass the driving test. The vehicle category specified on the certificate must be appropriate for the licence you are applying for, and the certificate must be dated within the past two years.
Fee	The appropriate fee, as indicated on the driving licence application form .
Learner permit and/or driving licence	Your current or most recent learner permit <i>and/or</i> your current driving licence for another category (where required).
Verification of your identity	If this is your first application on or after 29 October 2013, you must present yourself in person at one of the NDLS offices countrywide to have your photograph taken and your identity verified. See page 5 for details.
Photographs	If required – see page 8.
Medical report	<p>A medical report (form D501) is required for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Those with particular medical conditions – see Medical reports on page 34 for more details. ● Those applying for a truck or bus learner permit. ● Those aged 70 years or over. <p>The requirement to provide a medical report may be waived if the previous medical report you provided is still valid and in date and covers the category of vehicle for which you are applying and covers the term of the licence</p>

Renewing a driving licence

When you are applying to renew a driving licence, you must fill in a [driving licence application form](#), which gives full details of all the information and documentation you need to supply.

The following is a summary of what is required:

Application form	A fully completed and signed driving licence application form .
Fee	The appropriate fee, as indicated on the driving licence application form .
Driving licence	Your current or most recent learner permit <i>and/or</i> your current driving licence for another category (where required).
Verification of your identity	If this is your first application on or after 29 October 2013, you must present yourself in person at one of the NDLS offices countrywide to have your photograph taken and your identity verified. See page 5 for details.
Photographs	If required – see page 8.
Medical report	<p>A medical report (form D501) is required for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Those with particular medical conditions – see Medical reports on page 34 for more details.• Those applying for a truck or bus learner permit.• Those aged 70 years or over. <p>The requirement to provide a medical report may be waived if the previous medical report you provided is still valid and in date and covers the category of vehicle for which you are applying and covers the term of the licence</p>

Adding categories to your driving licence

When you have successfully passed a driving test in a new vehicle category, you need to apply to have the additional category added to your driving licence. Make your application on the [driving licence application form](#) – this includes details of the information and documentation you need to supply. The following is a summary of what is required:

Application form	A fully completed and signed driving licence application form .
Fee	The appropriate fee, as indicated on the driving licence application form .
Driving licence	Your current or most recent learner permit <i>and/or</i> your current driving licence for another category (where required).
Certificate of competency	This is the certificate that you receive when you pass the driving test in the additional category.
Verification of your identity	If this is your first application on or after 29 October 2013, you must present yourself in person at one of the NDLS offices countrywide to have your photograph taken and your identity verified. See page 5 for details.
Photographs	If required – see page 8.
Medical report	<p>A medical report (form D501) is required for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Those with particular medical conditions – see Medical reports on page 34 for more details. ● Those applying for a truck or bus learner permit. ● Those aged 70 years or over. <p>The requirement to provide a medical report may be waived if the previous medical report you provided is still valid and in date and covers the category of vehicle for which you are applying and covers the term of the licence.</p>

Term of a driving licence

The term of the driving licence you may apply for is determined by your age and by your medical condition. The age in question is your age on the first day of the period for which the licence is being granted. A 1-year or 3-year licence may be granted in exceptional circumstances where, for medical reasons, a longer licence term cannot be granted.

If you are	You may apply for
Under 60	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Motorcycle, car or tractor/works vehicle categories: a 10-year licence.Truck or bus categories: a 5-year licence.
Between 60 and 66	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A licence that will expire when you reach 70.
Between 67 and 69	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A licence that will expire when you reach 70.A 3-year licence.
70 or over	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A 3-year or 1-year licence (subject to certification of fitness to drive by your doctor).

The details on your driving licence

Your driving licence contains both personal details and details of the categories of vehicle you are licensed to drive.



- 1. Surname
- 2. First name
- 3. Date and country of birth
- 4a. Date of issue 4c. Issuing body
- 4b. Date of expiry 4d. Your driver number
- 5. Licence / permit number
- 6. (Photograph)
- 7. Signature
- 8. Address
- 9. Categories

- 10. Date of issue for each category
- 11. Date of expiry for each category
- 12. Additional Information / restrictions
- 13. Administrative information
- 14. Optional for information in relation to licence or road safety

If your licence is lost, stolen or damaged

If your driving licence is lost, stolen or damaged, you can apply for a replacement. Make your application on the [driving licence application form](#), which includes details of the information and documentation you need to supply. The following is a summary of what is required:

Application form	A fully completed and signed driving licence application form . You need to complete part 6 of the form in a Garda station.
Verification of your identity	If this is your first licensing transaction on or after 29 October 2013, you must present yourself in person at one of the NDLS offices countrywide to have your photograph taken and your identity verified. See page 5 for details.
Photographs	If required – see page 8.
Fee	The appropriate fee, as indicated on the driving licence application form .

If you wish to change personal details on your licence

You may apply to change the name or other personal details on your licence. Make your application on the [driving licence application form](#) – this includes details of the information and documentation you need to supply. The following is a summary of what is required:

Application form	A fully completed and signed driving licence application form . You need to complete part 6 of the form in a Garda station.
Verification of your identity	If this is your first licensing transaction on or after 29 October 2013, you must present yourself in person at one of the NDLS offices countrywide to have your photograph taken and your identity verified. See page 5 for details.
Photographs	If required – see page 8.
Fee	The appropriate fee, as indicated on the driving licence application form .
Current licence	Your current or most recent driving licence or learner permit.

Motorcycle licence categories

Direct and progressive access to motorcycle licences

You may apply for a learner permit or driving licence in any of the motorcycle categories by *direct access* – that is, without having previously held a lower category motorcycle licence. You must, however, meet these conditions:

- You must meet the minimum age requirement for the category you are applying for.
- You must pass the motorcycle theory test (AM) before you can apply for your first motorcycle learner permit in any category.
- You must meet the [IBT requirements](#) (see page 17).
- You must have held a learner permit for at least six months before you can take the driving test.

For the A2 and A licence categories, you may also apply for a driving licence by *progressive access* and without having to take a practical test – taking advantage of your experience and what you have learnt from riding a lower-powered motorcycle. You must, however, meet all the conditions set out below.

Progressive access from A1 to A2 without taking a practical test

If you are a holder of an A1 licence, you may apply for an A2 licence without having to take the A2 driving test as long as you meet the following conditions:

- You are over 18 years of age.
- You have held an A1 licence for at least two years.
- You have completed IBT module 5 on an A2 category motorcycle. Module 5 is the *progression* module: it consists of topics that are broadly similar to those in Modules 2 and 4, but with content that is suited to more powerful motorcycles.

In all other circumstances, you must pass the practical A2 test to obtain an A2 licence.

Progressive access from A2 to A without taking a practical test

If you are a holder of an A2 licence, you may apply for an A licence without having to take the A driving test as long as you meet the following conditions:

- You are over 20 years of age.
- You have passed the A2 driving test and have held an A2 licence for at least two years.
- You have completed IBT module 5 on an A category motorcycle. Module 5 is the *progression* module: it consists of topics that are broadly similar to those in Modules 2 and 4, but with content that is suited to more powerful motorcycles.

In all other circumstances, you must pass the practical A test to obtain an A licence.

If your category A learner permit was issued before 19 January 2013

The revised motorcycle categories were introduced on 19 January 2013. The most significant change was the splitting of the old category A into two: A2 for lower-powered bikes and a new revised category A for higher-powered bikes.

If you have a category A motorcycle learner permit that was issued before 19 January 2013 and now wish to apply for a driving test, you have the following options:

- You can take out a new category A2 learner permit and apply to take the A2 driving test (on a motorcycle with the following specifications:
 - Cylinder capacity of at least 395cm³; and
 - Engine power of at least 20kW, but not exceeding 35kW; and
 - A power /weight ratio not exceeding 0.2kW/kg and not derived from a vehicle of more than double its power; if the motorcycle is powered by an electric motor, the power to weight ratio of the vehicle shall be at least 0.15kW/kg; **OR**
- You can apply (with your current old style paper A learner permit) to take the A2 driving test, but only on a motorcycle in the range 20kW to 25kW; **OR**
- **(Only if you are over 24)** You can apply for a new category A learner permit and apply to take the category A driving test on a motorcycle of at least 595cm³ with engine power of at least 50kW.

You must have completed the IBT appropriate to the category of bike you wish to ride – see page 17.

Motorcycle restrictions relating to learner permits and licences issued before 19 January 2013

The following restrictions apply in relation to learner permits and licences issued before 19 January 2013:

- If you have a category A learner permit that was issued before 19 January 2013, you are restricted to driving motorcycles with an engine power output not exceeding 25kW or with a power/weight ratio not exceeding 0.16kW/kg.
- If you have a full category A licence that was issued before 19 January 2013), you are restricted to driving motorcycles with an engine power output not exceeding 25kW and with a power/weight ratio not exceeding 0.16kW/kg for two years from the date of issue of the licence.

A motorcycle can have a restrictor kit fitted to it to meet these requirements. The kit should be fitted only by a registered motorcycle dealer and you should keep the documentation relating to the kit while it is on your bike. Manufacturers and suppliers will advise on the power outputs of individual motorcycles.

Truck and bus licences

Truck and bus driving licences are ‘higher category’ licences (sometimes referred to as Group 2 licences).

You need to have a car driving licence before you can apply for a truck or bus learner permit. You also need to pass the truck or bus Driver Theory Test.

You need to take the [Driver CPC](#) (Certificate of Professional Competence) theory and practical tests and obtain your Driver’s Certificate of Professional Competence in the following circumstances:

- If you want to drive a truck or bus for a living; or
- If you are between the ages of 18 and 21 (trucks) or and 21 and 24 (buses).

What is Driver CPC and who should have it?

The [Driver CPC](#) (Certificate of Professional Competence) is an EU-wide qualification that sets high standards for professional driver competence across Europe. The main aims of the Driver CPC are:

- To make sure that all professional drivers have good driving and safety standards and that they keep up those standards throughout their careers.
- To make sure that young and inexperienced drivers have good driving and safety standards.
- To create a common standard for the training and testing of drivers throughout the EU.
- To help reduce fatalities and serious injuries.
- To promote more efficient user of fuel.

If you wish to work as a professional truck or bus driver, you need both a licence for the category of vehicle you will be driving and a Driver CPC.

The age limits for certain learner permits and licence categories (C, CE, D, DE) are lower for those who have Driver CPC qualifications – for details, see page 34.

Who doesn’t need Driver CPC?

You don’t need to have Driver CPC if you are:

- Driving for non-commercial purposes – for example, as a volunteer, or driving an emergency or rescue vehicle.
- A registered RSA-approved ADI.
- Someone who drives in the course of work, provided driving is not your primary occupation – for example, a plumber who uses a light truck to transport materials.
- Driving a vehicle that has a maximum speed not exceeding 45 km/h.

More information on Driver CPC

For more information on all aspects of Driver CPC, see the Driver CPC page on the RSA website – to access this page, choose **Professional Drivers** at the RSA home page and then choose [Driver CPC](#).

The steps to becoming a professional truck or bus driver

Before you apply for a Driver CPC, you must have a full category B licence and you must have completed all stages of the CPC process – theory and practical tests.

Driver CPC theory tests

There are two driver CPC theory tests:

- Theory test 1: a two-hour test that consists of 100 multiple-choice questions.
- Theory test 2: a two-hour case study test in which you are presented with various scenarios that a driver might face.

Please note that there are plans to streamline CPC testing and to reduce the number of tests required to get a CPC card.

For certain truck and bus categories, lower age limits apply if you have passed these tests.

Category	Minimum age without CPC	Minimum age with CPC
C1, C1E	18	18
C, CE	21	18
D1, D1E	21	21
D, DE	24	21

Driver CPC practical tests

When you have passed the two CPC theory tests, you can then apply to take the practical tests:

- Practical driving test: a 90-minute practical driving test – this is the standard driving test for the category of licence you are applying for.
- CPC practical knowledge test: a 30-minute practical knowledge test – this is designed to test your knowledge of the vehicle and how to operate it safely and effectively.

Medical reports

The ability to drive safely can be impaired by certain medical conditions, and driver fitness is governed by EU law and regulations made in Ireland under the Road Traffic Acts.

For the purposes of medical risk, driving licence categories are divided into two groups:

- **Group 1** includes the car, works vehicle / tractor and motorcycle categories – for this group see *Sláinte agus Tiomáint: Medical Fitness to Drive Guidelines (Group 1 Drivers)*, February 2013. The guidelines have recently been revised and updated to take account of changes made in 2010 to standards for eyesight, epilepsy and diabetes. They are based on current medical evidence, best practice and include standards set out in European Directives.
- **Group 2** includes the truck and bus categories – these are regarded as higher-risk vehicles that require a higher standard of physical and mental fitness on the part of the driver. Revised guidelines for Group 2 categories are being developed and will be available early in 2014.

The circumstances in which you need to present a medical report (D501) and/or an eyesight report (D502) are set out below.

References

For more information and access to documents, see the [Medical Issues](#) page of the RSA website – choose **Licensed Drivers** at the RSA home page and then choose [Medical Issues](#).

Medical report (form D501)

In making an application for a learner permit or a driving licence, you are asked to answer a range of questions relating to health and fitness. If you answer **Yes** to any of these questions, you must provide a medical report (on form D501) as part of your application.

You are *also* required to provide a medical report if you:

- Are applying for any category of truck or bus learner permit or driving licence.
- Will be 70 years of age or more on the day the new licence or learner permit comes into force.
- Suffer from certain disabilities or diseases – including those listed on the learner permit and driving licence application forms.
- Have ever suffered from alcoholism or epilepsy.
- Are taking, on a regular basis, drugs or medication which would be likely to make you an unsafe driver.

The report must be completed by a general practitioner who is registered on the General Register of Medical Practitioners in Ireland.

The medical report must specifically refer to your eyesight, hearing, general physique and general medical condition, and their impact on your ability to drive. You must sign the declaration in the medical report in the presence of the general practitioner.

Eyesight report (form D502)

The first time you apply for a learner permit you must include a satisfactory eyesight report form (D502) with your application. You also need to provide a satisfactory eyesight report if you previously wore glasses/lenses and are now no longer required to do so, and in certain cases when exchanging a licence from another country.

The report must be completed either by a registered ophthalmic optician or by a medical practitioner. You must sign the Eyesight Report Form in the presence of the optician or doctor.

Penalty points

The aim of the **penalty points system** is to improve driver behaviour in Ireland and reduce the levels of death and serious injury on our roads.

Essentially, a penalty point is a formal reprimand indicating that you have been guilty of a specific driving offence.

How penalty points work

Penalty point offences are recorded on your **driving licence** record if:

- You are convicted of a driving offence that attracts penalty points; or
- You are served with a fixed-charge notice for an offence that attracts penalty points and you opt to pay the fine rather than have the matter referred to the Courts.

The points are then added to your licence record 28 days after the date on which the notice was issued to you.

Payment of fixed charges

Offences can be detected by a garda or (in the case of speeding offences) by safety cameras.

- **Garda detection:** where a garda detects an offence and stops you, you must show your driving licence to the garda, who can take your driver number. In most cases, a fixed-charge notice setting out the fine payable will then be issued, and you have the option of paying the fixed charge or allowing the matter to proceed to court.
- **Camera detection:** where an offence is detected by camera, the fixed-charge notice is sent to the registered owner of the vehicle. If someone else was driving the vehicle at the time, the owner is required to give the driver's name and contact details. The fixed charge notice is then issued to the driver.

The fixed charge notice specifies the amount of the penalty. This amount must be paid within 28 days of the date of the notice. If you don't pay this amount within 28 days, the amount is subject to a 50 per cent surcharge, and the total (i.e. fixed charge plus 50 per cent) must be paid within 56 days of the date of issue of the notice. If you have not paid within this 56-day period, court proceedings are initiated.

Most penalty point offences attract fixed charges, but a small number of offences result in automatic summons to Court without the option of paying a fixed charge.

If you are alleged to have committed a driving offence that incurs penalty points, you receive a notice informing you that penalty points are being added to your driving licence record. The notice includes your name and address, and the time, date and location of the alleged driving offence. It confirms that you have either paid the fixed charge for the offence (see immediately below) or were convicted of the offence in Court.

Your driving licence record

Penalty points are recorded on your driving licence record and not directly on your licence. This means that your penalty points total at any time is the total number of points you have accumulated across different vehicle categories in the past three years – for example, as a fully licensed driver in one category and as a learner in a different category.

Penalty points remain on your driving licence record for a period of three years. The three years does not include any period during which your licence is out of date or during which you are disqualified from driving because of another offence.

Driving licence records are maintained centrally on the National Driver file managed by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.

If you accumulate 12 points

If you accumulate 12 penalty points within any given three-year period, you are automatically disqualified from driving for 6 months. You are required to surrender your licence to the appropriate licensing authority within 14 days of receiving notification of the disqualification.

It is an offence not to surrender a licence on disqualification, and it is a serious offence to drive while disqualified.

References

- Click on Licensed Drivers on the RSA home page, and follow the link to [Penalty points](#).
- The law governing penalty points is the Road Traffic Act 2002, available at: www.irishstatutebook.ie/2002/en/act/pub/0012/index.html

Summary of requirements for each licence category

Category and vehicle type		Requirements
AM	Mopeds and light quadricycles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum age: 16 • Pass AM category driver theory test • Complete IBT (as required) • Pass AM category driving test
A1	Motorcycles with an engine capacity not exceeding 125 cubic centimetres, with a power rating not exceeding 11 kW and with a power to weight ratio not exceeding 0.1 kW/kg. Motor tricycles with a power rating not exceeding 15 kW.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum age: 16 • Pass AM category driver theory test • Complete IBT (as required) • Pass A1 category driving test
A2	Motorcycles with a power rating not exceeding 35 kW, with a power to weight ratio not exceeding 0.2 kW/kg and not derived from a vehicle of more than double its power.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum age: 18 • Pass AM category driver theory test • Complete IBT (as required) • Pass A2 category driving test <p>You may also obtain an A2 licence by progressive access – see page 30.</p>
A	Motorcycles and motor tricycles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum age: 24 (20 with progressive access - see page 30) • Pass AM category driver theory test • Complete IBT (as required) • Pass A category driving test <p>You may also obtain an A licence by progressive access – see page 30.</p>
B	<p>Vehicles (other than motorcycles, mopeds, work vehicles or land tractors) having a MAM* (see note on page 39) not exceeding 3,500 kg, designed and constructed for the carriage of no more than eight passengers in addition to the driver.</p> <p>The vehicle may tow a trailer (a) where the MAM* of the trailer is not greater than 750 kg or (b) where the MAM* of the trailer exceeds 750kg the combined MAM* of the towing vehicle and the trailer is not greater than 3,500 kg.</p> <p>Quadricycles (other than those covered by AM) are also covered by this category.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum age: 17 • Pass BW category driver theory test • Complete EDT (as required) • Pass B category driving test

Category and vehicle type		Requirements
BE	Combination of drawing vehicles in category B and trailer where the MAM* of the trailer is not greater than 3,500 kg.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Minimum age: 17 ● Pass BW category driver theory test ● Already hold a B category driving licence ● Pass BE category driving test
W	Work vehicles and land tractor with or without a trailer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Minimum age: 16 ● Pass BW category driver theory test or ● Pass W category driving test <p>At age 17, those who have passed a B category driving test may apply to have the W category added to their licence.</p>
C1	Vehicles in category C having a MAM* weight not exceeding 7,500 kg, designed and constructed for the carriage of no more than eight passengers in addition to the driver and where the MAM of the trailer is not greater than 750 kg.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Minimum age: 18 ● Pass C category driver theory test ● Already hold a B category driving licence ● Submit medical report (form D501) when applying for learner permit / driving licence ● Pass C1 category driving test
C1E	<p>Combination of drawing vehicles in category C1 and trailer where the MAM* of the trailer is greater than 750 kg and where the MAM of the drawing vehicle and trailer combined does not exceed 12,000 kg.</p> <p>Combination of drawing vehicles in category B with trailer where the MAM of the trailer is greater than 3,500 kg and where the MAM* of the drawing vehicle and trailer combined does not exceed 12,000 kg.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Minimum age: 18 ● Already hold a C1 category driving licence ● Submit medical report (form D501) when applying for learner permit / driving licence ● Pass C1E category driving test

* Maximum Authorised Mass (MAM)

Throughout these tables, **Maximum Authorised Mass** (also known as Design Gross Vehicle Weight D.G.V.W.) means design laden weight. Manufacturers generally refer to it as gross vehicle weight (g.v.w) and it is usually displayed on a metal plate attached to the vehicle by the manufacturer.

Category and vehicle type		Requirements
C	Vehicles (other than work vehicles or land tractors) having a MAM* exceeding 3,500 kg, designed and constructed for the carriage of no more than eight passengers in addition to the driver and where the MAM of the trailer is not greater than 750 kg.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum age: 21 (or 18 – see below) • Pass C category driver theory test • Already hold a B or C1 category driving licence • Submit medical report (form D501) when applying for learner permit / driving licence • Pass C category driving test <p>The minimum age of 18 applies to those who have passed the CPC theory test (for a learner permit) or have CPC qualification (for full licence) – see page 32.</p>
CE	Combination of drawing vehicles in category C and trailer where the MAM* of the trailer is greater than 750 kg.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum age: 21 (or 18 – see below) • Already hold a C category driving licence • Submit medical report (form D501) when applying for learner permit / driving licence • Pass C category driving test <p>The minimum age of 18 applies to those who have passed the CPC theory test (for a learner permit) or have CPC qualification (for full licence) – see page 32.</p>
D1	Vehicles in category D designed and constructed for the carriage of not more than sixteen passengers in addition to the driver with a maximum length not exceeding 8 metres and where the MAM* of the trailer is not greater than 750 kg.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum age: 21 • Pass D category driver theory test • Already hold a B category driving licence • Submit medical report (form D501) when applying for learner permit / driving licence • Pass D1 category driving test
D1E	Combination of drawing vehicles in category D1 and trailer where the MAM* of the trailer is greater than 750 kg.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum age: 21 • Already hold a D1 category driving licence • Submit medical report (form D501) when applying for learner permit / driving licence • Pass D1E category driving test

Category and vehicle type		Requirements
D	Vehicles designed and constructed for the carriage of more than eight passengers in addition to the driver and where the MAM* of the trailer is not greater than 750 kg.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Minimum age: 24 (or 21 – see below) ● Pass D category driver theory test ● Already hold a B or D1 category driving licence ● Submit medical report (form D501) when applying for learner permit / driving licence ● Pass D category driving test ● The minimum age of 21 applies to those who have passed the CPC theory test (for a learner permit) or have CPC qualification (for full licence) – see page 32.
DE	Combination of drawing vehicles in category D and trailer where the MAM* of the trailer is greater than 750 kg.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Minimum age: 24 (or 21 – see below) ● Already hold a D category driving licence ● Submit medical report (form D501) when applying for learner permit / driving licence ● Pass D category driving test <p>The minimum age of 21 applies to those who have passed the CPC theory test (for a learner permit) or have CPC qualification (for full licence) – see page 32.</p>

Appendix A: NDLS offices

County	Address
Carlow	Unit 7, First Floor, Graigue Village Centre, Graiguecullen, Carlow
Cavan	Unit 5, Cavan Shopping Centre, Main Street, Cavan
Clare	Unit 4, Ennis Shopping Centre, Ennis
Cork	Commercial Unit 1, Copley Hall, Cotter's Street, off Copley Street, Cork
	First Floor, Cork Co-operative Marts, Marsh Road, Skibbereen
Donegal	Eurohouse, Killybegs Road, Donegal
	Unit 7, O'Boyce's Corner, Port Road, Letterkenny
Dublin	Unit 9, Leopardstown Shopping Centre, Ballyogan Road, Dublin 18
	Unit H Own Door Offices, Citywest Shopping Centre, Citywest
	Unit 236, Omni Park Shopping Centre, Swords Road, Santry
Galway	2nd Floor, Block 1, Cityeast, Ballybrit Business Park
	Clifden (part-time), Station House Hotel
Kerry	Mezzanine Unit, Manor West Shopping Centre, Tralee
Kildare	5B Elm House, Millennium Park, Naas
Kilkenny	Unit 2E, First Floor, © Hill Centre, Dublin Road, Kilkenny
Laois	Unit 29A, Laois Shopping Centre, Portlaoise
Leitrim	Unit 7, Bridge Lane, Carrick-on-Shannon
Limerick	Unit 29, Parkway Shopping Centre, Dublin Road, Limerick
Longford	Suite 3, Business Centre, Longford Shopping Centre, Longford
Louth	Ground Floor Unit 3, Southgate Shopping Centre, Dublin Road, Drogheda
Mayo	New Antrim Street, Castlebar
	Belmullet (part-time), Broadhaven Bay Hotel
Meath	Unit 3 Finnegan's Way, Emmet Street, Trim
Monaghan	Office 2, First Floor, Teach O'Cleircin, Old Cross Square, Monaghan
Offaly	Room 201, Down Suite, Castle Buildings, Tara Street, Tullamore
Roscommon	Unit 1, Racecourse Business Park, Roscommon
Sligo	Ground Floor Millennium House, Stephen Street, Sligo
Tipperary	Suite 5A, Second Floor, Powerstown House, Clonmel
	10 Silver Street, Nenagh
Waterford	Waterford Shopping Centre, Lisduggan, Waterford

County	Address
Westmeath	Golden Island Shopping Centre, Athlone
	Unit 1A, Mullingar Shopping Centre, Ashe Road, Mullingar
Wexford	7a The Square, Redmond Square, Wexford
Wicklow	Unit C16, Wicklow Enterprise Centre, The Murrough, Wicklow

National Driver Licence Service

National Driver Licence Service | Road Safety Authority
Primrose Hill, Dublin Road, Ballina, Co. Mayo

An tSeirhbís Náisiúnta um Cheadúnais Tiomána | Údarás Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre
Cnoc an tSabhaircín, Bóthar Bhaile Átha Cliath, Béal an Átha, Co. Mhaigh Eo.

096-25051 | www.ndls.ie