



Driver & Vehicle
Licensing
Agency

Visual disorders panel updates

Changes to the medical standards for driving and visual disorders

Important changes to the epilepsy and vision medical standards - latest update 15th March 2013

There are important changes to the minimum medical standards for driving in the UK. These changes affect the minimum eyesight standards for driving and the health requirements for drivers with epilepsy. These changes followed a public consultation on the proposals which ended on 28 April 2011 and apply to drivers of cars and motorcycles (Group 1) and lorries and buses (Group 2).

Vision All Drivers

- Must still be able to read a number plate (post-1.9.2001 font) from 20 metres, with corrective lenses if necessary.
- Must also have a binocular visual acuity of 0.5 (6/12), with corrective lenses if necessary, but we will not require drivers to have their eyesight tested as part of the application process for a car/motorcycle licence.
- If a driver has been advised by their doctor or optometrist that they cannot meet 0.5 (6/12) with corrective lenses they must tell DVLA
- Drivers who cannot meet this standard will not be licensed.
- Bioptic (telescope) devices are still not permitted for driving in the UK.

Vision Group 2 (lorry and bus) drivers

- Must have a visual acuity of 6/7.5 in the better eye and the worse eye standard has reduced to 6/60.
- If glasses are worn, this must have a power no greater than +8 dioptres (dioptres = strength of the glasses lens)
- If a doctor completing a medical examination required for lorry and bus driver licensing cannot measure 6/7.5 on the Snellen Chart or interpret a driver's glasses prescription (where glasses are worn), the driver will need to have the vision assessment section of the D4 examination report completed by an optician.
- Any fees associated with the completion of the D4 examination report must be paid by the driver.

Epilepsy

- Drivers who have only ever had seizures whilst asleep can set a pattern of asleep seizures after one year. There is no change for drivers who have a history of awake and asleep seizures.
- Drivers who have only ever had seizures which do not affect their consciousness or their ability to act (subject to expert medical opinion) can for the first time be licensed to drive after a 1 year pattern of such seizures has been set.

There are no changes for Group 2 drivers with epilepsy.

Changes to the Vision standards for Group 1 and 2 drivers - 1st May 2012

A further change to the vision standards was made in March 2013, click [here](#) to view the latest standards.

Changes to the Group 1 and Group 2 driver licensing standards for vision came into effect from the 1st May 2012.

The changes mean that:

Group 1 (cars and motorcycles): applicants and licence holders, will need to have a visual acuity of 6/12 (0.5 decimal) as well as being able to read the number plate from the prescribed distance.

Visual field: the present standard of a total field width of 120 degrees remains but in addition, there will need to be a field of at least 50 degrees on each side.

Group 2 (buses and lorries): applicants and licence holders must have a visual acuity, using corrective lenses if necessary, of at least 6/7.5 (0.8 decimal) in the better eye and at least 6/12 (0.5 decimal) in the other eye. If corrective lenses are worn, an uncorrected acuity in each eye of at least 3/60 (0.05 decimal) is needed. All Group 2 drivers must also meet all the Group 1 visual acuity standards as outlined above. Where glasses are worn to meet the minimum standard for driving, they should have a corrective power of no more than plus eight (+8) dioptres.

The full standards are published in the [At a Glance guide](#)