



Driver & Vehicle
Licensing
Agency

INF52

Large vehicles you can drive using your car, bus or lorry licence



For more information, go to www.gov.uk/browse/driving



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Please read this leaflet carefully.

It explains that you can drive large vehicles or buses using your lorry or car driving licence.

All professional bus, coach and lorry drivers must hold a Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (Driver CPC) as well as a vocational driving licence. For more advice, contact Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) on 0300 200 1122 or email drivercpc@dvsa.gov.uk

Further Information

For information on:

- driving in Great Britain on a non-GB licence, go to www.gov.uk/driving-nongb-licence
- driving a minibus, go to www.gov.uk/driving-a-minibus
- towing licence and age requirements, go to www.gov.uk/towing-rules

You can also order information leaflets:

- online www.gov.uk/dvlaforms
- by phone 0300 790 6801

Goods vehicles you can drive with a full car (category B) licence

You can drive any of the following large vehicles, known as 'exempted' goods vehicles:

- goods vehicles powered by steam, for example, large vehicles with coal or wood-burning engines
- any road construction vehicles used or kept on the road for carrying built-in road construction machinery (with or without the materials used by that machinery)
- any engineering equipment (vehicles designed or built for the purpose of engineering work), except mobile cranes
- a works truck designed for use on private property or in the immediate area around it, for example, dumper trucks and forklift trucks
- industrial tractors (tractors used mainly for haulage work off the public road) with a weight of no more than 7,370kg when loaded, and designed to travel no faster than 20mph
- agricultural motor vehicles which are used off the road and are not tractors, for example, crop sprayers and combine harvesters
- digging machines (vehicles with digging buckets or shovels) which travel on a public road only for the purpose of going to or from a site where they are used for digging or shovelling work
- goods vehicles:
 - used on the public road only to move between land owned or used by the person keeping the vehicle
 - not used on public roads for distances of more than 9.7 kilometres in total during any week (midnight on Saturday to midnight on the following Saturday)
- goods vehicles, other than agricultural motor vehicles that:
 - are used only for agriculture, horticulture or forestry purposes
 - are used on roads only to move between land owned or used by the keeper of the vehicle
 - do not travel more than 1.5km on roads at one time
- goods vehicles used for no purpose other than moving lifeboats and the necessary gear of the lifeboats
- goods vehicles built before 1 January 1960, as long as they are not loaded and are not towing a loaded trailer
- articulated goods vehicles weighing less than 3.05 tonnes when not loaded

- goods vehicles being used by a visiting armed force or headquarters (as defined in the Visiting Forces and International Headquarters Application of Law Order 1965(a))
- goods vehicles driven by a police officer for the purpose of:
 - stopping the vehicle obstructing road users or other members of the public
 - protecting life or property (including the vehicle and its load), or for similar purposes
- goods vehicles fitted with equipment designed for partly raising a broken-down or disabled vehicle (one that cannot be driven) from the ground and towing it, as long as the goods vehicles:
 - are only used for dealing with broken-down or disabled vehicles
 - are not used for carrying any goods other than broken-down or disabled vehicles and items needed to deal with broken-down or disabled vehicles
 - weigh no more than 3.05 tonnes when not loaded
- mobile project vehicles with maximum authorised mass (MAM) exceeding 3.5 tonnes, and primary purpose is to be used as a recreational, educational or instructional facility when stationary, carrying:
 - mainly goods or burden consisting of play or educational equipment and articles needed in connection with the use of such equipment
 - articles needed for the purpose of display or an exhibition

The vehicle must be constructed or adapted to carry no more than 8 people in addition to the driver.

You must be aged 21 and have held a category B licence for at least 2 years. A mobile project vehicle may only be driven on behalf of a non-commercial organisation. If you pass your driving test (category B) before 1 January 1997, you may be able to drive a vehicle commercially.

Buses you can drive with a full car (category B) licence

You can drive any of the following vehicles known as ‘exempted passenger’ carrying vehicles:

- a bus made more than 30 years before the date it is being driven, and not used for business purposes or for carrying more than 8 passengers

- a minibus with up to 16 passenger seats, as long as:
 - the vehicle is used for social purposes by a non-commercial organisation, but not for hire or reward (that is, not to make a profit)
 - the driver is at least 21
 - the driver has held a car (category B) licence for at least 2 years
 - the driver has volunteered to drive
 - the total weight of the minibus including passengers is not more than 3.5 tonnes – plus up to 750kg of equipment for disabled passengers, for example a wheelchair ramp
 - if the driver is 70 or over, they can meet the health standards for driving a minibus (category D1)

Mobile cranes

Since 1 January 1999, you need to hold a category C1 driving licence to drive a mobile crane which weighs between 3.5 tonnes and 7.5 tonnes, and category C licence if the crane weighs more than 7.5 tonnes.

Bus recovery vehicle

A bus recovery vehicle is a vehicle (not an articulated goods vehicle) which:

- has an unloaded weight of no more than 10.2 tonnes
- is being driven by the holder of category C entitlement and an operator's licence
- is being used for the purpose of going to, or returning from, a place where help will or has been given to a damaged or broken down bus, or for trying to repair or move a broken-down bus, or moving a damaged vehicle.

Exception: You can drive a bus recovery vehicle with a full category D entitlement but you must adhere to the conditions listed above.

Minimum ages

The minimum age for driving an exempted goods vehicle depends on its weight.

The minimum age for driving exempted goods and passenger carrying vehicles depends on the type of vehicle being driven. Please follow the tables and accompanying notes.

Descriptions of vehicle categories before 19 January 2013

Category	Description	Minimum age	Notes that apply
B	<p>Cars</p>  <p>Motor vehicles with a MAM of up to 3,500kg, no more than 8 passenger seats, with or without a trailer weighing no more than 750kg.</p> <p>As category B but with a trailer weighing more than 750kg. The total weight of the vehicle and trailer together cannot weigh more than 3500kg.</p>	17	Notes 1 and 6
C1	<p>Medium sized vehicles</p>  <p>Vehicles weighing between 3,500kg and 7,500kg, with or without a trailer weighing up to 750kg.</p>	18	Note 5
C	<p>Large goods vehicles</p>  <p>Vehicles over 3,500kg with a trailer weighing up to 750kg.</p>	21	Note 2
D1	<p>Minibuses</p>  <p>Vehicles with 9 to 16 passenger seats, with or without a trailer weighing up to 750kg.</p>	21	Notes 3 and 5
D	<p>Buses</p>  <p>Any bus with more than 8 passenger seats, with a trailer up to 750kg.</p>	21	Notes 3 and 4

All weights quoted above refer to a vehicle's maximum authorised mass (MAM). This is the total weight of the vehicle when 'laden' (loaded).

Note 1

Age 16 if you are getting the mobility component of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) or Adult Disability Payment (ADP) at the enhanced rate, the mobility component of Child Disability Payment (CDP) at the higher rate or have applied for PIP having previously received the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) at the higher rate. If your circumstances change while you are 16 and you lose your qualifying benefit or it is re-assessed and awarded at a lower rate, you are required to notify DVLA, as this may effect your entitlement to drive.

Note 2

You can drive at 17 if you are a member of the armed forces.

You can drive at 18 if you:

- have passed your driving test and Driver CPC initial qualification
- are learning to drive or taking a driving test for this category or the Driver CPC initial qualification
- are taking a national vocational training course to get the Driver CPC initial qualification
- got your driving licence before 10 September 2009 (so must take the CPC periodic training within 5 years of the date you got your driving licence).

Note 3

You can drive at age 17 if you are a member of the armed forces.

You can drive these vehicles at age 18 if one of the following applies:

- you are learning to drive or taking a passenger carrying vehicle (PCV) driving test or Driver CPC initial qualification
- when you pass a PCV driving test and Driver CPC initial qualification, you can drive under any of the following conditions:
 - driving on a regular service where the route does not exceed 50km
 - not engaged in the carriage of passengers
 - driving a vehicle of a class included in sub-category D1
- having passed a PCV test before 10 September 2008 and driving under a bus operator's licence, minibus permit, or community bus permit, and any of the following conditions:
 - driving on a regular service where the route does not exceed 50km
 - not engaged in the carriage of passengers
 - driving a vehicle of a class included in sub-category D1

You can drive at age 20 after passing a PCV driving test and Driver CPC initial qualification.

For further advice, contact DVSA by phoning 0300 200 1122 or email drivercpc@dvsa.gov.uk

Note 4

You need category D entitlement to drive an articulated bus (for example, a 'bendy bus').

Note 5

If you passed your test for category B or B automatic before 1 January 1997, your licence will already show entitlements C1, C1E (8.25 tonnes), D1 and D1E (not for hire or reward).

Note 6

An exemption exists for the holders of category B to drive large motor tricycles in category A, provided they are over 21 years of age.

Descriptions of vehicle categories on or after 19 January 2013

Category	Description	Minimum age	Notes that apply
B	<p>Cars</p>  <p>Motor vehicles with a MAM not exceeding 3,500kg, designed and constructed to carry no more than 8 passengers in addition to the driver with a trailer up to 750kg.</p> <p>As category B but with a trailer weighing more than 750kg. The total weight of the vehicle and trailer together cannot weigh more than 3,500kg.</p>	17	See notes 1 and 6
C1	<p>Medium sized vehicles</p>  <p>Vehicles between 3,500kg and 7,500kg, designed and constructed for the carriage of no more than 8 passengers in addition to the driver with a trailer up to 750kg.</p>	18	See note 5
C	<p>Large goods vehicles</p>  <p>Vehicles over 3,500kg with a trailer up to 750kg, and designed and constructed for the carriage of no more than 8 passengers in addition to the driver.</p>	21	See note 2
D1	<p>Minibuses</p>  <p>Vehicles with no more than 16 passenger seats in addition to the driver and with a maximum length not exceeding 8 metres with a trailer up to 750kg.</p>	21	See notes 3 and 5
D	<p>Buses</p>  <p>Any bus designed and constructed for the carriage of more than 8 passengers in addition to the driver, with a trailer up to 750kg.</p>	24	See notes 3 and 4

Maximum authorised mass (MAM)

All weights quoted for the relevant vehicles relate to maximum authorised mass (MAM). This is the total weight of the vehicle when 'laden' (loaded). See note on MAM on page 6.

Note 1

Age 16 if you are getting the mobility component of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) or Adult Disability Payment (ADP) at the enhanced rate, the mobility component of Child Disability Payment (CDP) at the higher rate or have applied for PIP having previously received the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) at the higher rate. If your circumstances change while you are 16 and you lose your qualifying benefit or it is re-assessed and awarded at a lower rate, you are required to notify DVLA, as this may effect your entitlement to drive.

Note 2

You can drive at age 17 if you are a member of the armed forces. You can drive at 18 if one of the following applies:

- you passed your driving test and driver CPC initial qualification
- you are learning to drive or taking a driving test for this category or Driver CPC initial qualification
- you are taking a national vocational training course to get a Driver CPC initial qualification
- you had your driving licence before 10 September 2009 (you must take the Driver CPC periodic training within 5 years of this date)

Note 3

You can drive at age 17 if you are a member of the armed forces. You can drive these vehicles at aged 18 if one of the following applies:

- you are learning to drive or taking a PCV test or Driver CPC initial qualification
- having passed a PCV driving test and Driver CPC initial qualification, you can drive if one of the following applies:
 - driving on a regular service where the route does not exceed 50km
 - not engaged in the carriage of passengers
 - driving a vehicle of a class included in sub-category D1
- if you passed your PCV test before 10 September 2008 and drive under a bus operator's licence, minibus permit, or community bus permit and meet the following conditions:
 - driving on a regular service where the route does not exceed 50km
 - not engaged in the carriage of passengers
 - driving a vehicle of a class included in sub-category D1

You can drive at age 20 after passing a PCV driving test and Driver CPC initial qualification.

For further advice, contact DVSA by phoning 0300 200 1122.

You can drive at age 21 for categories D and DE if:

- the vehicle is being used by the fire service or for maintaining public order
- the vehicle is undergoing road tests for repair or maintenance purposes
- you were entitled to drive the vehicle before 19 January 2013

Note 4

You need category D entitlement to drive an articulated bus (for example, a 'bendy bus').

Note 5

If you passed your test for category B or B automatic before 1 January 1997, your licence will already show entitlement C1, C1E (8.25 tonnes), D1 and D1E (not for hire or reward).

Note 6

An exemption exists for the holders of category B to drive large motor tricycles in category A, provided they are over 21 years of age.

How vehicles are classed

We cannot give legal advice on how vehicles are classed for driving licence purposes.

International Vehicles Standards Division of the Department for Transport may be able to help you work out if a vehicle is classified as a works truck, an agricultural motor vehicle, an industrial tractor or engineering equipment, but only for the purposes of how it is built and used.

You should get independent legal advice if necessary.

If you have any questions

Phone our contact centre on 0300 790 6801

Monday to Friday 8am to 7pm

Saturday 8am to 2pm

If you change your name, address or vehicle, please tell us immediately. If you do not, you could be fined £1,000.

For more information, go to www.gov.uk/tell-dvla-changed-address

For information on a change of name or gender, visit www.gov.uk/change-name-driving-licence

Buying a vehicle?

The tax is no longer transferable so you must tax it before you use it.

www.gov.uk/vehicletaxrules

