Who needs the full Driver CPC

You must have the full Driver CPC if you drive a lorry over 7.5 tonnes, bus or coach as the main part of your job.

You usually need to pass 4 tests to get it, unless you have 'acquired rights' because of your existing driving experience, often referred to as Grandfather Rights.

Drivers with 'acquired rights'

Having 'acquired rights' (or Grandfather Rights), means that you don't have to take the Driver CPC initial qualification because of your existing driving experience.

You have acquired rights if you got your vocational licence before the dates shown in the table below.

Type of vehicle	Vehicle categories included	When you got your vocational licence
Lorry	C, C1, C+E and C1+E	Before 10 September 2009
Bus or coach	D, D1, D+E, D1+E	Before 10 September 2008
Bus or coach (not for hire or reward)	D(101)	After 1991
Minibus (not for hire or reward)	D1(101)	Before 1997

Training deadlines for drivers with acquired rights

You still need to take periodic training, but there are set deadlines.

Training block	Lorry driver	Bus or coach driver	Dual-category driver (lorry, bus and coach)
First block of training	9 September 2014	9 September 2013	9 September 2013
Second block training	9 September 2019	9 September 2018	9 September 2019*
Third block training	9 September 2024	9 September 2023	9 September 2024

*You have 6 years to do your second block of training if you have acquired rights for both lorries and buses and finished your first block of training by 9 September 2013.

If you didn't do your first block of training

You can finish your training or take extra tests if you have acquired rights and didn't finish your first block of training by the deadline.

Driver CPC Module 1: theory test

You can book the part 1 theory test of the Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) as soon as you've got your provisional licence.

The test is made up of 2 parts - multiple choice and hazard perception. You have to book both parts separately, but you can take them on the same day.

It doesn't matter which one you take first but you need to pass both within 2 years of each other to get your theory test certificate.

You must take either your:

Great Britain photocard driving licence

Northern Ireland photocard driving licence and paper counterpart

Your test will be cancelled and you'll lose your fee if you don't bring the right documents.

How the test works

Multiple-choice questions part; You can take a practice test to find out how the test works.

The multiple-choice questions part lasts for 1 hour and 55 minutes, and the pass mark is 85%.

Hazard perception part; you'll watch a video about how the hazard perception part works. You'll watch 19 videos, and there are 20 developing hazards to spot.

The pass mark is 67%. You can't review your answers.

Your test results; You'll be given a letter at the test centre with the results for the part of the theory test you've just taken.

When you've passed both parts, your theory test certificate will be posted to you. You need this when you book your Driver CPC part 3 driving test.

Your theory test certificate is valid for 2 years from when you passed the first part of the test.

You need to pass the Driver CPC part 3 driving test within 2 years, otherwise you'll have to pass the part 1 theory test again.

If you fail the theory tests; You'll get a results letter with feedback telling you why you've failed. You can book another theory test straight away, but you can't take it for another 3 clear working days.

Cancelled tests

You can apply for a refund of out-of-pocket expenses if the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) cancels your test at short notice.

Driver CPC module 2 test: case studies

You can book the part 2 case studies test of the Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) as soon as you've got your provisional licence. You don't need to have passed the Driver CPC module 1 theory test.

How the test works

The test is made up of 7 case studies you work through on a computer. The case studies are short stories based on situations that you're likely to come across in your working life.

You'll be asked between 6 and 8 multiple-choice questions on each case study.

The test lasts for 1 hour and 15 minutes, and the pass mark is 40 out of 50.

Your test result

You'll get a letter with the results at the test centre. You need the test pass reference number when you book your Driver CPC module 4 practical demonstration test. The pass letter is valid for 2 years.

You need to pass the Driver CPC module 4 practical demonstration test within 2 years, otherwise you'll have to pass the part 2 case studies test again.

Driver CPC module 3 test: driving ability

You must have passed the Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) module 1 theory test before you can book the Driver CPC module 3 test.

What to take to your test

You must bring these to your test:

your valid Great Britain photocard driving licence, or Northern Ireland photocard driving licence and paper counterpart

a lorry or a bus or coach that meets the rules

Your test will be cancelled and you'll lose your fee if you don't bring these.

How the test works

Your practical test will last about 1 hour and 30 minutes and includes:

- vehicle safety questions
- practical road driving
- off-road exercises
- Vehicle safety questions

During your test you'll be asked vehicle safety questions on either:

- lorries, buses and coaches
- lorries, buses and coaches towing trailers
- Practical road driving

During your practical road driving, the examiner will see how you:

- use the vehicle controls
- move away at an angle, uphill and downhill
- do a controlled stop
- use the mirrors
- give appropriate signals
- show awareness and anticipation of other road users' intentions
- manage your progress and control your vehicle speed
- deal with hazards
- select a safe place to stop
- There will also be 10 minutes of independent driving, designed to test your ability to drive safely while making independent decisions.

Off-road exercises

The off-road exercises will include:

- an 'S' shaped reverse into a bay
- showing the uncoupling and recoupling procedure if you're taking a test with a trailer

Test result

After you've taken the practical test your examiner will tell you if you've passed and explain how you did.

You'll pass your test if you make:

- 15 or fewer driving faults
- no serious or dangerous faults

If you fail, you can book another driving test straight away, but you can't take it for another 3 clear working days.

Driver CPC module 4 test: practical demonstration

You must have passed the Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) part 2 test before you can book the Driver CPC part 4 test.

What to take to your test

You must bring:

- your valid Great Britain photocard driving licence, or Northern Ireland photocard driving licence and paper counterpart
- a lorry or a bus or coach that meets the rules

Your test will be cancelled and you'll lose your fee if you don't bring these.

How the test works: You're tested on being able to:

- load the vehicle following safety rules and to keep it secure
- stop trafficking in illegal immigrants
- assess emergency situations
- do a walkaround vehicle safety check

The test is made up of 5 topics from the Driver CPC syllabus. You can score up to 20 points for each topic.

To pass you have to score at least 15 out of 20 in each topic area and have an overall score of at least 80 out of 100.

After you've qualified

After you've passed all 4 of the Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) tests, you'll be sent a Driver CPC card. This is sometimes called a 'driver qualification card' or 'DQC'.

You must carry your Driver CPC card while driving a lorry, bus or coach professionally.

You can get a £50 fixed penalty for driving professionally without your Driver CPC card.

Getting your Driver CPC card: The card will be sent to the address on your driving licence. You need to change this address first if it's wrong.

The photograph and signature on your photocard licence will be used on your Driver CPC card.

Waiting for your card; You can drive professionally if you've passed all the tests and you're waiting for your Driver CPC card to arrive.

If your card doesn't arrive; You should get your Driver CPC card within 20 days of passing the final test. Contact the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) if you don't receive it.

Driver CPC card replacements

cpcre@dvsa.gov.uk

Telephone: 0191 201 8112

Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm