

RSA



Information Booklet

DRIVER CERTIFICATE OF PROFESSIONAL
COMPETENCE (DRIVER CPC)

Údarás Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre
Road Safety Authority

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Introduction



What is Driver CPC?

Driver CPC is a Certificate in Professional Competence for professional bus and truck drivers. Its purpose is to set and maintain high standards of safety and driving among drivers of trucks and buses.

Driver CPC will be introduced in Ireland on the 10th September 2008 for bus drivers, and the 10th September 2009 for truck drivers. From these dates on, professional drivers will need to take part in continuous training.

If you are a new driver you will have to undertake the Driver CPC theory and practical driving tests before getting a Driver CPC. If you already have a license for a bus or truck (C/D license) you will automatically be entitled to a Driver CPC and will not have to take a test.

Driver CPC is not the same as a Transport Manager CPC.

Why is the Road Safety Authority implementing Driver CPC in Ireland?

The Road Safety Authority (RSA) is introducing Driver CPC in Ireland because a European Union law, Directive 2003/59/EC, says that professional drivers must get training. At the moment many professional drivers in the EU are working without the benefit of training or the opportunity to regularly refresh their skills.

The RSA has consulted with the transport industry, the general public and other European countries about implementing Driver CPC in Ireland.

Information for drivers



How does Driver CPC affect existing drivers (Holders of C/D licenses)?

If you have a full licence for a truck or bus before Driver CPC comes into force on the 10th September 2008 for buses and the 10th September 2009 for trucks, you will automatically get your Driver CPC without having to take more tests. This is called acquired rights. In order to keep your Driver CPC, you must do 35 hours of periodic training (seven hours per year) over the next five years.

How does Driver CPC affect new drivers?

If you want to become a professional bus driver after the 10th September 2008 or a professional truck driver after the 10th September 2009 you will have to do a Driver CPC examination. The examination includes:

- a two hour multiple choice theory test,
- a two hour case study theory test,
- a 90 minute driving test, and
- a 30 minute practical test.

You can go on training in RSA approved training centres to help you pass your Driver CPC examination.

Once you have completed and passed the four parts of the Driver CPC examination you can apply for a driving licence and Driver CPC card in that category. You will then have to do 35 hours of periodic training (seven hours per year) over the next five years to keep your Driver CPC.

Should you fail any part of the test you will have to resit that part of the test again.

What is Periodic Training?

Periodic training is training you need to do every year to keep your Driver CPC. All professional drivers must do at least 35 hours training every five years and do at least seven hours a year to keep their Driver CPC. The training is in seven hour blocks which you must do in one day.

The training covers areas such as road safety, environmental driving and issues involving the health and well being of professional drivers. It does not involve a driving test or assessment.

Periodic training will help you improve your knowledge and skills to make sure that you are a driver of the highest professional standard. It will also help you to keep up to date with the changes in the industry and to benefit from training throughout your professional career.

The RSA and a working group of people from the bus and road haulage industries have developed the training. This training is listed in the EU Directive. The RSA will approve the training course and the training centres that will deliver the training. Please see appendix 1 for the periodic training course outline.

Where can I do my Driver CPC theory test?

Abbeyfeale	Cork	Killarney	Skibbereen
Athlone	Derrybeg	Letterkenny	Sligo
Ballina	Donegal	Limerick	Tullamore
Caherciveen	Drogheda	Longford	Youghal
Carrick on Shannon	Dublin Central	Macroom	Waterford
Carlow	Dublin North	Monaghan	Westport
Castlerea	Dundalk	Mullingar	Wexford
Cavan	Ennis	Naas	Wicklow
Charleville	Galway	Nenagh	
Clifden	Kells	Portlaoise	
Clonmel	Kilkenny	Tralee	

To apply for your theory test, please contact Prometric at the following:

Tel. 1890 606 106 or online www.theorytest.ie

Where can I do my Driver CPC bus / truck driving and practical test?

The Driver CPC bus test can be carried out in any existing bus test location.

Locations for the Driver CPC truck test have not been identified as yet. Information regarding test center locations will be available on our website www.drivingtest.ie in due course.

To apply for your Driver CPC driving and practical test, please contact the RSA: Tel. (096) 78 225 or locall 1890 50 60 80 or online – www.drivingtest.ie

Bus drivers / Truck drivers



How does Driver CPC affect me as a Professional Driver?

If you are already a professional bus driver on the 10th September 2008 / professional truck driver on the 10th of September 2009, you will get acquired rights for Driver CPC. Your licence should have the date of issue before the 10th September 2008 (for bus drivers), or 10th September 2009 (for truck drivers), which will be evidence of your Driver CPC.

You will then have to do 35 hours of periodic training (seven hours per year) over the next five years with an approved RSA training centre. If you complete all your periodic training within the five years you will get a card recording your Driver CPC, photograph and signature. If you do not do all your 35 hours of periodic training within the five years you will not get a card and therefore cannot work as a professional driver.

Diagram 1: Drivers with Acquired Rights

Acquired rights by having your bus licence on or before the 10th September 2008 / truck licence on or before the 10th of September 2009.

Date of issue of licence is proof of acquired rights.



Complete 35 hours of periodic training (seven hours per year) over the next five years.



A Driver CPC Driver Qualification Card will be issued by the RSA at the end of training.

How do I become a professional bus driver after the 10th September 2008 / professional truck driver after the 10th of September 2009?

To become a professional bus driver after the 10th September 2008 / professional truck driver after the 10th of September 2009, you will have to pass the two, two hour theory tests, a 90 minute driving test and a 30 minute practical test. You need to pass the theory test before you can apply for the driving test part of the examination.

When you pass all four parts of the Driver CPC exam and get your bus or truck category driving licence, you will have to sign a RSA declaration form with the necessary information. You will then get a Driver CPC card which will record your photograph, signature, categories of vehicle you have Driver CPC, etc.

In order to keep your CPC, you will have to do 35 hours of periodic training (seven hours per year) over the next five years. This will be recorded on the RSA Driver CPC database.

(Diagram 2) Becoming a Professional Driver

Pass all CPC theory tests.



Pass driving and practical test.



Get a Driver CPC card.



Do 35 hours of periodic training (seven hours per year)
over the next five years.

Other information about Driver CPC



When do I NOT need Driver CPC?

If you drive any of the vehicles listed below, you do not need Driver CPC. These are:

- vehicles not allowed go more than 45 kilometres per hour;
- vehicles used or controlled by the Defence Forces, Civil Defence, the Fire Service and forces responsible for maintaining public order;
- vehicles undergoing road tests for technical development, repair or maintenance, or new or rebuilt vehicles which have not been put into service;
- vehicles used in states of emergency or for rescue missions;
- vehicles used for driving lessons for anyone who wants to get a driving licence or a CPC;
- vehicles used for carrying passengers or goods for personal use and not for business; and
- vehicles carrying materials or equipment that the driver uses as part of their work, as long as driving the vehicle is not the driver's main activity.

Who enforces Driver CPC?

An Garda Síochána and the RSA Transport Officers have the powers to enforce Driver CPC, under the law.

What happens if I don't obey the rules of Driver CPC?

- If you cannot show your Driver CPC, you are breaking the law and you could get a fine of up to €2,000.
- If you fake documentation you could get a fine of up to €5,000.
- If you drive without a valid Driver CPC you could get a fine of up to €2,000.
- If you or an employer causes or lets another driver who does not have a valid Driver CPC drive a relevant vehicle you / they could get a fine of up to €5,000.

What are the benefits of Driver CPC?

Both professional drivers and the transport and road haulage industries will benefit from the introduction of Driver CPC in Ireland. Some of these benefits are:

Better, safer drivers

- Driver CPC means that professional drivers will have better driving skills. This will lead to less casualties on our roads, and protect more vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, motorcyclists, cyclists, children and older people. It will also save employers the costs of vehicle repair and loss of trade.

Career paths for professional drivers

- The drivers' profession will be regulated to make sure that all professional drivers have the skills they need to work in the industry. The introduction of Driver CPC will create a level playing field for the road haulage and passenger transport industry. Quality standards will improve and they will be monitored and maintained to a high quality which matches the best in Europe.

Healthier drivers

- There are concerns for all professional drivers about their health, lifestyle, eating habits, symptoms and effects of fatigue and stress and work life balance. Periodic training will help address these issues.

Environmental and economic benefits

- The “Momenta Report” for the Department for Transport in the UK (on the Safe and Fuel Efficient Driver Training Programme Autumn 2005) showed that the right driver training would reduce fuel consumption by an average 9.5%. Even reducing it by 5% would save 169,000 tonnes of oil a year, or about 192 million litres @ €1.20 a litre. Reduced fuel consumption combined with better use of load transportation will reduce costs. Every tonne saved would save about €1,400.

The Road Safety Authority and Driver CPC



What is the role of the Road Safety Authority (RSA) regarding Driver CPC?

The RSA is responsible for implementing Driver CPC in Ireland. The RSA is:

- organising the first Driver CPC examinations, including the four hour theory test and a two hour driving and practical test;
- developing the 35 hour periodic training course as outlined in the EU Directive;
- appointing, approving and setting standards for training centres to deliver the periodic training that drivers must do and training for potential professional drivers to help them to pass the first Driver CPC examination;
- giving the Driver CPC card to qualified drivers;
- recording the Driver CPC qualification; and
- updating the RSA Driver CPC database with the drivers' training records.

How did the RSA decide on how to implement Driver CPC?

The RSA sent out a consultation document with recommendations in August 2007 about Driver CPC and how to introduce Driver CPC in Ireland with the least effect on the passenger transport and road haulage industries. The RSA got feedback from the transport industry and from the general public. The RSA met with organisations who represent the transport industry, large transport employers and other organisations and people who wanted to give their views on Driver CPC. The RSA also met with other European countries to exchange information on how each country was implementing Driver CPC.

Why did the RSA choose the test only option?

The RSA looked at all options the EU Directive gave countries to implement Driver CPC. The RSA chose the test only option so that new professional drivers can prepare for the test in a way that best suits their individual learning style. The test only option is likely to have the least impact upon the industry in recruiting new drivers.

The RSA has developed a programme which will help drivers who want to do training before they do their Driver CPC examination. They can do the training in training centres approved by the RSA. All professional drivers across all EU member states will have to do the 35 hours periodic training over five years.

Appendix 1



CPC Periodic Training Syllabus Titles:

Course Title	Length of Course	Compulsory Training
Control of Vehicle and Eco Driving Techniques	7 hours	Yes
Minimising Risks and Managing Emergencies in the Transport Industry	7 hours	Yes
Health and Safety of the Professional Driver	7 hours	Yes
Role of the Professional Driver in the Transport Industry	7 hours	Yes
The Professional Truck Driver	7 hours	Yes, if you are a professional truck driver
The Professional Bus Driver	7 hours	Yes, if you are a professional bus driver

Appendix 2



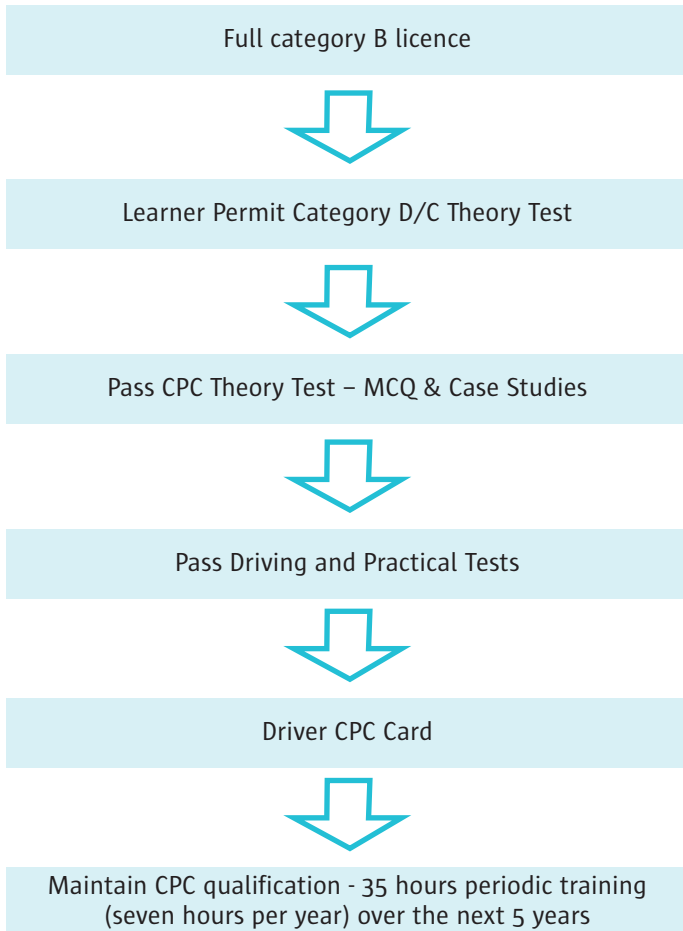
Cost of CPC Initial Qualification

Test	Cost
Multiple choice questions (MCQ) theory test	€70
Bus case studies theory test	€70
Current bus driving test	€63
Practical test	€32

Appendix 3



Initial CPC - Qualification Process



Working To Save Lives

Údarás Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre Road Safety Authority

An rannóg Teastas um Inniúlacht Gairmúil, Páirc Ghnó Ghleann na Muaidhe, Cnoc an tSabhaircín,
Bóthar Bhaile Átha Cliath, Béal an Átha, Co. Mhaigh Eo.

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