

Driver CPC

Driver Certificate of Professional Competence

What is Driver CPC?

The European Parliament and Council has introduced compulsive training for vocational drivers to help them keep up to date with ever-changing regulations and to benefit from state-of-the-art training throughout their career.

A requirement of the EU Directive 2003/59, the training is referred to as the Driver CPC (Certificate of Professional Competence). This is a Level 2 operational qualification and covers subjects such as fuel consumption, loading, drivers' hours, customer care, defensive driving and operator licence rules.

Why the change?

The Directive states: "the obligation to hold an initial qualification and to undergo periodic training is intended to improve road safety and the safety of the driver, including operations carried out by the driver when the vehicle is stopped. Furthermore, the modern nature of the profession of drivers should arouse young people's interest in the profession, contributing to the recruitment of new drivers at a time of shortage."

How will this affect me?

Who will it apply to?

Legislation to underpin the Driver CPC has been in place since March 2007.

The Driver CPC for PCV licences has applied from 10 September 2008 and for LGV drivers it had to be implemented by 10 September 2009.

Since these dates, drivers have taken part in initial training which involves a test. Following this, the drivers are having to complete 35 hours of periodic training within five years of the initial test and then every five years from then onwards.

Drivers who already held a vocational licence before the above dates were given acquired (grandfather) rights, and did not have to obtain the initial qualification.

However, they will need to complete 35 hours of periodic training by 10 September 2014 for LGV or 10 September 2013 for PCV licences, and then every five years thereafter.

Any exemptions?

There are seven exemptions from the training requirements, which include drivers of a vehicle that is:

- A non-commercial carriage of passengers or goods for personal use. The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) agrees that this will apply to vehicles operated by non-profit organisations. For example, passenger vehicles driven for noncommercial bodies by volunteer drivers
- Used in the course of driving lessons for any person wishing to obtain a driving licence or driver CPC
- Undergoing road tests for technical development, repair/maintenance purposes or new/rebuilt vehicles not yet put into purchase
- Restricted to a maximum authorised speed of 45km/h. VOSA has indicated that these vehicles would need to be fitted with a speed limiter

- Carrying material or equipment to be used by the driver in the course of his/her work, provided that driving the vehicle does not constitute the driver's main activity. VOSA believes that the 'principal activity' of the driver will depend on what the driver is employed to do and how that is demonstrated by the time spent driving. For example, if the driver is a workman (builder, plumber, scaffolder, etc) then the exemption would apply. If the driver was just delivering goods for others to work with on site, then the exemption is unlikely to apply.
- Used in states of emergency or assigned to rescue missions.
- Used by or under the control of the:
 - Armed forces
 - Police forces
 - Local authorities in the discharge of any function under section 5 of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004
 - Fire and rescue authorities

Supporting the implementation of the Driver CPC

The Freight Transport Association (FTA) has formed a training alliance with the Road Haulage Association (RHA) to develop a portfolio of high-quality mini courses, which can be combined to create training modules of at least seven hours' duration, as required by the Driver CPC. These mini courses can be chosen on a 'pick 'n'mix' basis, thus allowing an organisation to develop a modular programme based upon its specific training needs.

Further reading

To find out more about the periodic training requirements of the Driver CPC, as well as actions for operators, visit any of these sites: www.dsa.gov.uk www.skillsforlogistics.org www.fta.co.uk

If you would like additional copies for colleagues, these can be downloaded by visiting www.hitachicapitalvehiclesolutions.co.uk Call **0844 499 5227** or email info.vs@hitachicapital.co.uk for more information

thus allowing an organisation to develop a modular programme based upon its specific training needs. The programmes provide PowerPoint presentations, driver exercises, DVDs, trainer guides, a management resource pack and the option of a post course assessment.

For example, if a company is looking to improve its performance on fuel efficiency, delivery times, drivers' hours records and vehicle maintenance performance the FTA has relevant training modules available, covering:

- Safe, Environmental and Fuel Efficient Driving – classroom-based (2 hours)
- Safe, Environmental and Fuel Efficient Driving – in-cab practical (4 hours)
- Routing and Scheduling – classroom-based (2 hours)
- Drivers' Hours and Tachograph Training (4 hours)
- Defect Checks – practical (1 hour)
- Vehicle Performance optimisation – classroom (2 hours)

The company can then build a programme from these modules, which meets both the directive requirements and its personal business needs. This course can then be accredited through the Joint Approval Unit for Periodic Training (JAUPT) for delivery in-house by internal company trainers.

The FTA can also offer a 'Train The Trainer' programme, providing the knowledge and skills requirements for the Driver CPC.