

Make sure you are ready for your test. You can do this by getting advice from an approved driving instructor (ADI) or an approved training body (ATB). You can now find instructors and training bodies on-line at www.transportoffice.gov.uk/findinstructor. You can get details of our publications from www.direct.gov.uk/motoring.

How to book a test

Internet bookings

You can book or change a test on-line at www.direct.gov.uk/drivingtest.

Phone bookings

You can book a test using a credit or debit card (as long as you are the cardholder) by phoning **0300 200 1122**. You can also use this number for rebooking and other enquiries. Minicom users should phone **0300 200 1144** and Welsh speakers should phone **0300 200 1133**.

When phoning to make a booking, please have your credit or debit card, theory test certificate number and driving licence number ready. We may monitor or record your call for training purposes so that we can continually improve the high quality of our customer service.

Fax bookings

You can book a test using a credit card or debit card by fax on **0300 200 1155**.

Postal bookings

Fill in a DL26 application form (or a DLV26 for lorry, bus or car with large trailer tests) and send it, with the appropriate fee, to:

The Driving Standards Agency

PO Box 280

Newcastle upon Tyne

NE99 1FP.

You can get application forms from driving test centres, your ADI or your ATB.

Some important advice when booking a test

If the date of your test is within three clear working days of your request, this is a 'short-notice' booking. **If you accept a 'short-notice' date, you cannot change it without losing your fee.** Please make sure you can go for your test on that day and make sure your instructor is available before you accept the booking.

Theory test

You can book a practical test only if you have passed the relevant theory test or are 'exempt' (that is, you don't have to take a theory test).

For information about whether you need to take a theory test, please phone us on **0300 200 1122** or fax us on **0300 200 1177**. Minicom users should phone **0300 200 1166** and Welsh speakers should phone **0300 200 1133**.

Special needs

To make sure there is enough time for your test, we need to know if you have any hearing difficulties, any special circumstances, any movement restriction or any disability. If you have a hearing difficulty or cannot speak English, you may bring an interpreter who is not an ADI and who is at least 16 years old. Please tell us when you book your test if you are going to bring an interpreter.

Weekday evening tests (summer only) or weekend tests

You have to pay more for these tests and they are not carried out at all test centres. There is a list of the centres that offer this service in test centre waiting rooms, or you can get the information by phoning **0300 200 1122**.

Extended tests

You should ask for an extended test only **if a court has ordered you to take this test after being disqualified from driving.**

Where you must live

You cannot take a test or get a full licence unless you are normally resident (live) in this country. This means you must work here (and pay tax) or have close family here. However, if you have moved to the UK from another European Union (EU) or European Economic Area (EEA) country, you should not take a driving test or get a first full licence unless you have lived here for 185 days in the last 12 months and are still living here at the time you apply for your licence. The test centre may ask you to provide evidence of this.

Minimum wait between tests

If you fail your test, you must wait for at least 10 clear working days (3 clear working days for B+E, LGV and PCV) between appointments for the same category of test. Working days are every day except Sundays and bank holidays.

Important information for LGV, PCV or car and large trailer practical driving tests

You must have an appropriate full 'rigid vehicle' licence before booking and taking a test with a trailer for LGV, PCV or car and large trailer practical driving tests. (A rigid vehicle is one which does not bend.)

For information on all licence categories, see the D100 factsheet issued by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA), which you can get from post offices.

Appointment changes

You can change your test appointment on-line at www.direct.gov.uk/drivingtest or by phoning **0300 200 1122**. If you are ill and cannot give the necessary notice to cancel your test appointment, please phone **0300 200 1122** for more advice.

We will contact you by phone or by letter if we need to change your appointment for any reason.

If you change your name or address, please tell us immediately on-line or by phoning **0300 200 1122**. You should also tell the DVLA separately about your driving licence.

We will always try to make sure that your test appointment goes ahead. If we cancel your test at short notice, we will provide a copy of our 'Refunding out-of-pocket expenses' form either at the test centre or by post. We will not pay compensation when a test is cancelled due to bad weather, but we will automatically arrange another appointment. You can find details of our service standards and complaints procedures in our 'Customer Service: A guide to our service standards' leaflet, which is available from all our offices and test centres.

If after two weeks you have not received written confirmation of your appointment, please phone **0300 200 1122** immediately. If you miss your appointment, you may lose your fee.

Taking your driving test

Vehicle

You must provide an appropriately licensed vehicle, displaying 'L' plates (D plates in Wales) (except taxi and ADI part-2 tests) and suitable for the purposes of the test. The vehicle should be smokefree and it must be fully covered by insurance for the purposes of the practical test. A hired car is unlikely to be insured for the driving test.

- **For car and ADI Part 2 tests** - seat belts and integral head restraints must be fitted to the front passenger seat and there must be an adjustable mirror inside for the examiner to use (this doesn't apply to taxi tests). The front passenger seat must provide all-round vision for the examiner.
- **For all ADI tests** – the vehicle must be a saloon or a hatchback/estate car, capable of the normal performance of vehicles of its type and must have manual transmission and right-hand steering. **Part 2 tests:** L plates (D plates in Wales) and roof signs should be removed. **Part 3 tests:** The front driver's seat should have a seat belt and an integral head restraint.
- **For lorry with trailer, bus with trailer and car with trailer tests** - all vehicles must be fitted with an audible or visual device to show correct operation of the trailer indicators.

For more information on vehicle requirements, including 'recalls' (vehicles that cannot be used in a test until they have been checked by a garage), please visit www.dsa.gov.uk or call **0300 200 1122**.

Eyesight

Before the car and motorcycle practical driving test, your driving examiner will ask you to read the number plate on a stationary vehicle. If you cannot read the number plate at the required distance you will fail the driving test and the practical test will not continue. If you require glasses to meet the eyesight requirements you must wear them whenever you drive.

Documents

Please bring your theory test pass certificate or confirmation (unless you are exempt) and your **valid signed Great Britain or Northern Ireland driving licence**. We will not accept any other driving licence or licence pass certificate.

If you have a new-style photocard licence, you must bring **both parts** of the licence (photocard and the paper counterpart) to the test. If you have an old style paper licence, you will also need to bring a valid passport **UNLESS** you are taking an ADI part-3 test in which case your trainee licence is an acceptable alternative to a passport. If your licence is not available, please phone **0300 200 1122** for more information.

When you come for a **motorcycle or moped test**, you must produce a valid compulsory basic training (CBT) certificate (unless the test is within the Accelerated Access scheme). You can get more information about Accelerated Access on our website at www.dsa.gov.uk or by phoning CBT on **0115 936 6547**

For advice about the following categories of vehicles, please ring 0115 936 6370/6371

Minimum test vehicle information

A – A machine over 120cc, but not more than 125cc, with a design speed of at least 100 kilometres an hour (62.5 miles an hour).

A1 – A machine above 75cc, but less than 125cc, with a design speed of less than 100 kilometres an hour (62.5 miles an hour).

A – Direct Access or Accelerated Access – A machine that is at least 35 kilowatts (kW) (46.6 brake horsepower (bhp)).

B – An unladen four wheeled vehicle with a maximum authorised mass (MAM) of up to 3,500 kilograms, less than 9 passenger seats and capable of at least 100 kilometres an hour (62.5 miles an hour).

B+E – A Category B vehicle towing an unladen closed box trailer with a MAM of at least one tonne. (The MAM is the most the vehicle and trailer combined are allowed to weigh.) Rear view must be by exterior mirrors only. Exterior mirrors for the examiner's use are also required.

All **C, C+E, C1, C1+E, D, D+E, D1, D1+E** vehicles presented for test must have externally mounted nearside and offside mirrors for the examiner's use and seatbelts fitted to seats used by the examiner or any person supervising the test. They must also be fitted with a tachograph and an anti-lock braking system (ABS). Trailers do not need to be fitted with ABS.

All vehicle combinations must operate the appropriate service brakes and utilise a heavy duty coupling arrangement suitable for the weight. A tractor unit is not a suitable vehicle for category C or C1 test

Medium sized goods vehicles

Category C1

A medium sized lorry with a maximum authorised mass (MAM) of at least 4 tonnes, at least 5 metres in length, capable of 80 km/h (50 mph) and with a closed box cargo compartment at least as wide and as high as the cab. Tachograph, ABS, seatbelts and examiner mirrors.

Category C1 + E

There are two types of test vehicle in the C1 + E category.

1. A drawbar outfit made from a combination of a category C1 vehicle towing a trailer of at least 2 tonnes MAM with a combined length of at least 8 metres, capable of 80 km/h (50 mph) and with a closed box trailer at least as high and as wide as the towing vehicle. The trailer may be slightly less wide than the towing vehicle, but the view to the rear must be by use of external mirrors only. Tachograph, ABS, seatbelts and examiner mirrors.

2. A medium sized articulated lorry with a MAM of at least six tonnes with a combined length of at least 8 metres, capable of 80 km/h (50 mph) and with a closed box trailer at least as high and as wide as the towing vehicle. The trailer may be slightly less wide than the towing vehicle, but the view to the rear must be by use of external mirrors only. Tachograph, ABS, seatbelts and examiner mirrors.

Large goods vehicles

Category C

A rigid goods vehicle with a MAM of at least 12 tonnes, at least eight metres in length and least 2.4 metres in width, capable of 80 km/h (50 mph). The vehicle should have at least eight forward ratios, a closed box cargo compartment at least as wide and as high as the cab. Tachograph, ABS, seatbelts and examiner mirrors.

Category C + E

There are two types of test vehicle in the C + E category.

1. A drawbar outfit made from a combination of a category C vehicle and trailer with a MAM of 20 tonnes and a length of at least 7.5 metres from coupling eye to extreme rear and a combined length of at least 14 metres with a trailer at least 2.4 metres in width. The vehicle combination should be capable of 80 km/h (50 mph), with at least 8 forward ratios and a closed box cargo compartment at least as wide and as high as the cab. Tachograph, ABS, seatbelts and examiner mirrors.

2. An articulated lorry with a MAM of at least 20 tonnes, with a minimum length of 14 metres and a minimum width of at least 2.4 metres. The vehicle should be capable of 80 km/h (50 mph) and have at least 8 forward ratios and a closed box cargo compartment at least as wide and as high as the cab. Tachograph, ABS, seatbelts and examiner mirrors.

Category D1

A Passenger Carrying Vehicle (PCV) with 9 - 16 passenger seats with a Maximum Authorised Mass (MAM) of at least four tonnes, of at least five metres in length and capable of 80 km/h (50 mph). Tachograph, ABS, seatbelts and examiner mirrors.

Category D1 + E

A category D1 vehicle towing a trailer of at least 1.25 tonnes MAM, with a closed box trailer at least two metres high and two metres wide. Tachograph, ABS, seatbelts and examiner mirrors.

Category D

A PCV with more than eight passenger seats, at least 10 metres in length, at least 2.4 metres in width and capable of 80 km/h (50 mph). Tachograph, ABS, seatbelts and examiner mirrors.

Category D + E

A category D vehicle towing a trailer of at least 1.25 tonnes MAM, with a closed box trailer at least two metres high and two metres wide. Tachograph, ABS, seatbelts and examiner mirrors.

For lorry, bus, tractor or car and trailer tests – a suitable 'unladen' vehicle (that is, one that carries no goods or stillage). Any trailer must be a closed box trailer.

Data Protection Act 1998

We use the personal information you provide to book and run the practical test. We also analyse the test details to assess how effective traffic patterns, safety initiatives and other transport issues are, to improve both customer service and road safety. We will not pass personal information to anyone else other than in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. This could include (but is not limited to) the police, HM Revenue and Customs, and local authorities. For more information, please see our privacy notice on our website (www.dsa.gov.uk) or look for our 'Notification Documentation' on the Information Commissioner's website (www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk). Our registration number is Z7122992.