



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Driving Licences



By the end of this lesson you will be able to:

1. **Identify** the legislation and regulations concerning driving licences.
2. **Recognise** the different types of driving licences and the restrictions applicable to each one.
3. **Explain** how to examine a driving licence including how to recognise the make-up of the driver number.
4. **Summarize** the offences that apply to both full and provisional driving licences.

The first driving licences were issued on 1st Jan 1904. Driving tests were introduced in 1936

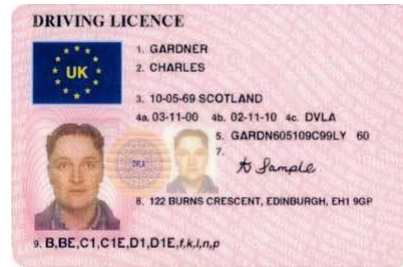
During the 90's legislation changed in respect of Driving licences which simplified the situation considerably and meant that there were only two pieces of legislation which relate to British licences.

Driving Licences

Part III Road Traffic Act
1988

&

Motor Vehicle Driving
Licences Regulations 1999



Part III Road Traffic Act 1988 is the primary piece of legislation governing driving licences.

The Motor Vehicles (Driving Licence) Regulations 1999 are regulations which deal with the requirements for full and provisional driving licences and the structure for driving tests and motor cycle training courses.

They also provide the categories for different driving licences, including those for 'goods' and 'passenger carrying' vehicles

Driving Licences

It is an offence for a person to **drive** on a **road** a **motor vehicle** of any class otherwise than in accordance with a licence authorising him to drive a motor vehicle of that class

Section 87 of the Road Traffic Act 1988



Section 87 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 creates the offences of driving a motor vehicle of any class on a road otherwise than in accordance with a licence authorising him to drive a motor vehicle of that class, or causing or permitting another person to drive otherwise than in accordance with a licence authorising him to drive a motor vehicle of that class. 87(1) It is an offence for a person to drive on a road a motor vehicle of any class otherwise than in accordance with a licence authorising him to drive a motor vehicle of that class.

87(2) It is an offence for a person to cause or permit another person to drive on a road a motor vehicle of any class otherwise than in accordance with a licence authorising that other person to drive a motor vehicle of that class.

All driving licences are issued by the DVLA

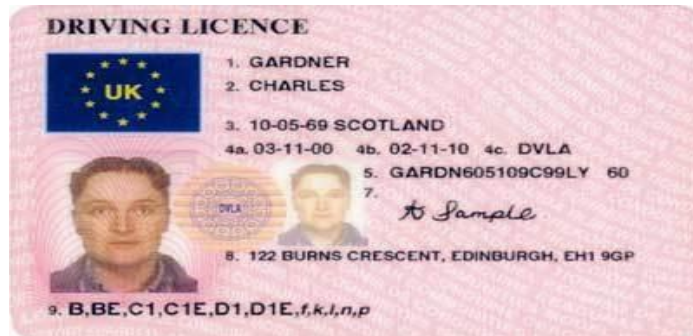
The terms 'drives', 'motor vehicle' and 'road' are defined as in previous road traffic sessions.

Drive(s) – not defined under RTA, however, *RvMcDonagh 1974*, identified that 'The essence of driving is the use of the driver's controls for the purpose of directing the movement of the vehicle however the movement is produced' – The general test to apply is whether the person (or persons) were steering and controlling the vehicle's propulsion and was doing what would fall within the normal meaning of driving

Motor vehicle – a mechanically propelled vehicle intended or adapted for use on a road.

Road – any highway and any other road to which the public has access and includes bridges over which a road passes

Driving Licence Types and Information



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Driving Licences

Driving Licence

THOMAS 537912 P99TY Driver Number

PETER THOMAS
WHITEFIELD
MANCHESTER M25 6PT

Valid from 01 06 1978 to 31 05 2022

Vehicle Categories: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z

Licence prior to 1991.

Green

CHANGE OF PERMANENT ADDRESS OR NAME

1. New Address: 12345 GARDEN ROAD, MANCHESTER, M1 2AB

2. New Name: J. PETER THOMAS

3. Date of Birth: 01 06 1978

4. Sex: M

5. Height: 175 cm

6. Weight: 75 kg

7. Vehicle Categories: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z

A European directive issued in 1991 has caused the UK to adopt the same categorisation system for vehicles as the rest of Europe (most other countries changed following an international agreement in Geneva in 1948) The effect of the EU directive has seen a change of group letters, some adjustments to the actual classes of vehicles, new classes and a radical change in the way in which the driving tests work.

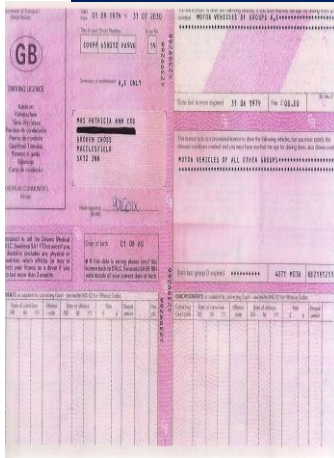
Unfortunately the effect of the changes has been to leave the UK with several different styles of licence, different categories, different category restrictions and finally a new set of information codes all of which can lead to confusion.

Most people upon passing there test automatically got Groups A (any vehicle) D (Any motorbike) E (moped)

This one is from 1978

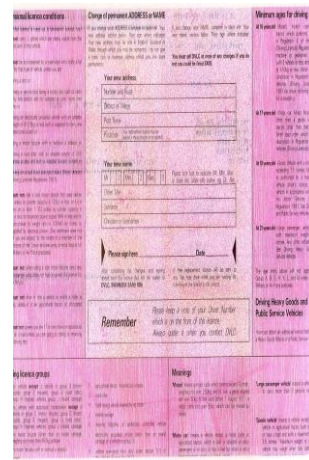


Driving Licences



European Licence
prior to 1991.

Pink



The first attempt at a European style licence was the all pink licence. The groups were the same as for the older green licences. The whole licence was the licence and there was no counterpart. Again there are still large numbers in circulation.

On these Pink licences it actually stated the Date of Birth rather than trying to work it out.

This gives the same information as on the Green Licence, Driving licence groups, Minimum ages and definitions of Mopeds etc.

Driving Licences

Licence after 1991
Green/Pink

Space was provided on the new style licences for a series of category restrictions.

These placed restrictions on the use of a particular category. For example, no longer were automatic vehicles a separate category as on old licences.

As from 1991 a person who took their test in a automatic vehicle received a full category B licence with a category restriction 6 limiting them to automatic vehicles only.



Driving Licences

Licence from 1997.
Green/Pink



The Road Traffic (New Drivers) Act 1995

This Act will affect drivers who passed their GB driving test after 1 June 1997 when it came into force. If the number of valid penalty points shown on the driving licence total 6 or more during the two year probationary period immediately following the first driving test, the full driving licence will be revoked by DVLA until such time as the person passes a further driving test.

Such drivers should apply for a provisional driving licence if they wish to continue driving and are subject to "learner" conditions until they pass both theory and practical parts of the driving test.

Valid penalty points incurred prior to passing the first test are taken into account if the driver commits a penalty point offence during the probationary period. Points incurred after the probationary period has expired will also count if the offence was committed during the probationary period.

Full entitlement to all categories of vehicle previously held will only be reinstated upon passing a test in any one of the driver's previously held entitlements. A successful test for entitlement to a category of vehicle not previously held will result in a full licence for that category only.

There is no right of appeal against revocation under the provisions of the Act. A driver may only appeal against the conviction, which led to the revocation



Changes – As a result of another European directive between June 1996 and Jan 1997 yet another version of the driving licence was introduced, the final changes took place in the Autumn of 1998 and the Driving Licence came in the form of a credit card style, which included a photograph of the licence holder. In addition a paper counterpart was also issued which carried details of any convictions/penalty points attached to the holder of the licence.

(**NOTE** - As of 8th June 2015 the paper counterpart was abolished and no longer issued. All information in relation to driver convictions is held by DVLA. New photo card driving licences issued after this date have an electronic data chip which holds the relevant information. Photo card driving licences will need to be renewed every 10 years).

Holders of old style licences were not compelled to change to the new licence

Further changes included:

Introduction of Theory Tests – these were introduced in June 1996 and for an interim period drivers could take this test before or after taking the actual driving test, that ended in 97 and new drivers must take the theory test prior to the driving test.

Entitlements Affected – the system changed yet again so that New drivers passing a test in an ordinary car would be restricted to group B.

Entitlement to tow a large trailer is only given to new drivers after successfully passing another driving test for the category B + E. It must be stressed that existing drivers are unaffected by this change vehicles, it only effects new drivers.

If entitlement to drive medium sized goods vehicles or passenger vehicles with a capacity of larger than **8 passengers** is required then new drivers will need to take a number of separate tests. (since 1998)

Change of Entitlements for existing drivers: As from Jan 97 the requirements for all licence holders changed the way in which vocational entitlements greater than C1 or D1 are obtained.

C1 motor veh between 3.5 and 7.5 tonnes including such a veh drawing a trailer not exceeding 750 kg

D1 motor vehicle with between 8 and 16 seats

A new system of staged testing has been introduced. For example, if entitlement to drive an articulated combination is required, (category C + E), then the driver must first pass a test in a vehicle of category C before moving onto C + E.



Motorcycles CBT – Compulsory Basic Training

A new system of testing motorcyclists was also introduced. Depending on their age and the size of the machine on which the test was taken, they may be limited to the size of machine they can ride as a full licence holder.

How were motorcyclists effected.

From Jan 1997 the legislation regarding learner motorcycles changed considerably to incorporate a new category A1, (light motorcycle), to prevent young learner motorcyclists access to large machines; and also to allow more mature riders direct access to large machines by taking a special test.

Existing licence holders use to be able to buy a 50CC and with L plates ride the bike, now they will need to take the CBT first, then only ride a bike up to 125 CC.

If the learner driver is under 21 then they may only learn on a learner motor bike (125 CC or not exceed 11 kilowatts of power)

If learner is over 21 they may learn on a larger bike (400cc – 600cc), must have L plates and no passengers, supervised at all times by a certified direct access motorcycle instructor, who can only supervise 2 learners at a time and must be in radio contact, both rider and instructor must wear luminous clothing.

Previously a provisional motorcycle licence was valid for a period of 2 years. On expiry the holder of the licence was precluded from driving motorcycles for 1 year whereupon they could reapply for provisional entitlement for a further period of 2 years.

From 01.2.01 provisional licences are once again valid for life. CBT certificates are further restricted to maintain control, in 1997 they were valid for 3 years (from 2001 valid for 2 years). A full car licence holder or a person who held a provisional licence before 1982 has a lifetime provisional entitlement (age of 70) for motorcycles.

All provisional motor bicycle and moped licence holders must complete a course of training, known as Compulsory Basic Training CBT, before they drive on the roads. This is yet another major change from previous legislation where only new provisional licences holders were required to take a CBT

Note: Trainer to give out **Handout 3: Section 164 of the Road Traffic Act 1988** and give students 5 minutes to read it.

Trainer to use Handout 3: Trainer Notes copy to de-brief.

L	I	T	T	L	6	0	9	2	2	3	K	G	9	R	P
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

T	A	L	B	O	5	6	1	1	0	9	J	A	9	W	W
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

For drivers whose names have less than 5 letters, the blanks will be completed by the figure 9 - for LEE, the licence would show **LEE99**, for HILL, the licence would show **HILL9**, etc

When the driver is female, 50 is added to the month, making 50 - 59 (Jan-Sep) , 60 October, 61 November and 62 December

The final 5 digits give: **the driver's first 2 initials** an **8 or 9** is used, selected at random by DVLA. the final 2 letters are **randomly generated** and are for **DVLA administrative purposes only**.

Before showing this slide, trainer to ask students to take out their own driving licences and answer the following question:

Q. What information is displayed on a British Driving Licence?

Trainer to record student answers on the white board and **then play video clip** (embedded into PPT presentation).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68He2oB1yow&feature=youtu.be> (1 min)

Trainer to de-brief the footage using student contributions and this slide, **which explains how a 'Driver Number' compiled.**

Note: It is important for officers to be able to read a 'driver number' as should a driving licence be produced to them they will need to ask themselves the following:

Does this licence cover:

- This person to drive (Name and age)
- This vehicle (Category)
- On this day (expiry date)

For paper driving licences, officers should check that the driving licence has been signed. (Failure to sign a driving licence is an offence)

Photo card driving licences will contain a scanned copy of the holders signature. This will have either been taken from a previously held licence or from the application form submitted to DVLA.

Trainer to distribute '**Driving Licence Numbers**' exercise sheet to students' allowing sufficient time for completion of the exercise.
Once completed Trainer to check answers with students via round robin.

Provisional Driving Licences



Part III Road Traffic Act 1988 is the primary piece of legislation governing driving licences.

The Motor Vehicles (Driving Licence) Regulations 1999 are regulations which deal with the requirements for full and provisional driving licences and the structure for driving tests and motor cycle training courses.

Provisional licences are generally issued to 'learner' drivers and allow them to drive, albeit with certain restrictions, until a relevant test is passed.

Please note that the holder of a full driving licence, may only have a provisional entitlement to drive other categories of vehicles, e.g. motor cycles. Just because a driver has a full licence it does not mean that they are covered to drive any type of vehicle. It is important to check the categories of the licence to confirm the appropriate entitlements.

Provisional Driving Licences	
A holder of a provisional licence shall NOT DRIVE or RIDE a motor vehicle UNLESS:	
Under the supervision of a qualified driver	
L plates are clearly displayed	
Vehicle must not be being used to draw a trailer	
If solo motorcycle cannot be carrying another person	






Regulation 16 of the Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) Regulations 1999 attaches conditions to provisional driving licences for a particular class of vehicle, which the licence holder shall comply with until he/she passes the appropriate driving test.

16(1) **A provisional licence of any class is granted subject to the conditions prescribed in relation to a licence of that class in the following paragraphs.**

16(2) Subject to the following paragraphs, the provisional licence holder shall not drive a vehicle of a class which he is authorised to drive by virtue of that licence -

(a) except under the supervision of a [qualified driver](#), or driving instructor, who is present with him in or on the vehicle,

A 'qualified driver' is for the purposes of this regulation someone who:

- Is 21 years of age or over
- Holds a relevant licence
- Has the relevant driving experience (minimum of 3 years)
- In the case of a disabled driver, he is supervising a provisional licence holder and would in an emergency be able to take control of the steering and braking functions of the vehicle in which he is a passenger

(b) unless 'L' plates are displayed on the vehicle in such manner as to be clearly visible to other road users from within a reasonable distance from the front and back of the vehicle, or

(c) while it is being used to draw a trailer.

16(3) The condition specified in paragraph (2)(a) shall not apply when the holder of the provisional licence -

(a) is driving a motor vehicle constructed to carry only one person which is not adapted to carry more than one person and is a vehicle in [sub-category B1](#) (invalid carriages), a motor tricycle, a motor vehicle having four wheels and an unladen weight not exceeding 550 kilograms or a motor vehicle of a class included in [category F, G, H or K](#);

(aa) is driving a motor vehicle of a class included in former sub-category B1 which is adapted to carry only one person and has at any time between 1st August 2002 and 1st March 2003, had the use of an NHS invalid carriage that was issued to him by reason of his having a [relevant disability](#);

(b) is riding a [moped](#) or a [motor bicycle](#) with or without a side-car, a [category P](#) vehicle or a [category Q](#) vehicle; or

(c) is driving a motor vehicle, other than a vehicle of a class included in [category C, C + E, D or D + E](#), on a road in an exempted island.

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Road – any highway and any other road to which the public has access and includes bridges over which a road passes

This offence is known as 'driving otherwise than in accordance with a licence' and will include circumstances where a person is:

- Driving without an issued driving licence
- Vehicle is driven/ridden in contravention of any of the restrictions imposed (e.g. provisional licence holders) – note that it does not matter how many restrictions are breached e.g. underage driver, no 'L' plates, no supervisor = 1 offence of driving otherwise than in accordance with a licence.
- Driving/riding under the qualifying age to hold a licence

Driving Licences

Anyone over the age of 70 will need to renew their licence every three years, updating it with any medical conditions. This is free of charge.

If a driver updated their licence with a change of address, name or notified a medical conditions then the updated licence issued will be a photo card licence.

This change means that all licences, including the old style pre-1998 paper licences, will no longer be annotated with new driving convictions and penalty points. Instead, drivers will be able to share their licence details with third parties via a new digital service called "View Driving Licence".

Motorists can go online to view their own driving record at gov.uk/view-driving-licence.



Driving Licences – Additional information

Once issued, unless other restrictions apply, e.g. medical conditions, driving licences are usually valid until the holder reaches the age of 70 yrs.

At this age, it is then necessary for the holder to apply to the DVLA for their licence to be renewed every 3 years.

Once a licence is renewed or updated by the DVLA (e.g change of address) a photo card licence will be issued.

As the paper counterpart to the photo card licence has now become obsolete, all driver records are held electronically by the DVLA. Individuals can access their driving licence details via the website shown.

