



What is Driver CPC?

Driver CPC is a training qualification for Large Goods Vehicle (LGV) and Passenger Carrying Vehicle (PCV) drivers who drive professionally throughout the UK. It has been developed as part of EU Directive 2003/59 which is designed to improve the knowledge and skills of professional LGV and PCV drivers throughout their working life.

There are two parts to the legislation:

Initial qualification that must be achieved by new LGV and PCV drivers along with their vocational licence to enable them to use their licence professionally. Periodic training, which involves all professional drivers undertaking 35 hours of training every 5 years.

When do you need to act?

It's time to act now! Driver CPC for PCV needs to be completed by 10th September 2013 and LGV needs to be completed by 10th September 2014.

Why has it been introduced?

To improve the knowledge and skills of lorry and bus drivers by contributing to and enhancing; road safety the road freight and passenger transport industries (better staff performance, better recruitment and retention and more economical vehicle usage) professional drivers (skill levels and maintenance, career opportunities and professionalism) the environment (reduced fuel consumption and vehicle wear)

Why is it important?

Driver CPC has been introduced across Europe to improve all professional drivers' knowledge and skills within the industry.

Which drivers of which vehicle does it affect and from when?

New drivers acquiring a PCV vocational entitlement (D1, D1+E, D, D+E licence) after the 10th September 2008 and/or an LGV vocational entitlement (C1, C1+E, C or C+E licence) after the 10th September 2009 will have to obtain the 'Initial Driver CPC' in addition to their licence to drive professionally.

Existing drivers who already hold a vocational licence on the 10th September 2008 (PCV) or the 10th September 2009 (LGV) are exempt from the Initial Driver CPC. This is known as "acquired rights" or often referred to as "grandfather rights". However, these drivers still have to take periodic training consisting of 35 hours every 5 years.

Is Driver CPC mandatory?

Yes. It is mandatory for all professional PCV and LGV drivers whose primary role is driving for a living.

How does Driver CPC differ from Managers CPC?

CPC (Certificate of Professional Competence) is a qualification needed to operate an 'O' Licence. Whereas this new legislation is called Driver CPC, its full title is Driver Certificate of Professional Competence. This should not be confused with CPC.

What size of fleet is included?

Any size of fleet is included within the Driver CPC legislation. If a company has professional PCV or LGV drivers, then they must complete Driver CPC to validate their driving licence.

Are there any exemptions?

Yes, as detailed below:

Vehicles with a maximum speed not exceeding 45 Km/h

Vehicles used by the armed forces, civil defence, and emergency services

Vehicles undergoing road tests for technical development, repair or maintenance

Vehicles used in states of emergency

Vehicles used in the course of driving lessons or examinations

Vehicles used for non-commercial carriage of passenger or goods – for personal use

Vehicles used for carrying material or equipment to be used by the driver in the course of his or her work, providing that driving the vehicles is not the drivers' principal activity

Does the 35 hours training have to be completed in one go or over time?

In the United Kingdom there are no rules to say how drivers should take the 35 hours driver CPC training, as long as a total of 35 hours of training are completed within the 5 years.

Do I have to complete a 7 hour course in 1 day?

All courses will be 7 hours long. However, it can be divided into two 3½ hour courses and completed within a 24 hour period, e.g. if the first 3½ hour course takes place on a Monday between 9:00 am and 12:30 pm, the second 3½ hour course will have to be completed no later than Tuesday at 12:30 pm. Each course time (7 or 3½ hours) does not include breaks.

Is the training practical or theory?

The course can be Practical or Theory based.

Who can deliver CPC training?

Only approved courses taken with approved training centres will count towards periodic training. The approval process for courses is managed, on behalf of the Driving Standards Agency (DSA), by the Joint Approvals Unit for Periodic Training (JAUPT)

How many people can be trained at once?

Numbers may vary as this does depend on the training provider, however, AA DriveTech recommends no more than 10 participants per workshop and a maximum of 2 participants for practical on-road sessions (subject to the maximum seating capacity available in the vehicle)

Do I need to keep a log of my training?

All training records will be kept on the DSA computer. However, the driver should also keep their own records on the training they have received as well as the training required to complete the 35 hour Driver CPC training requirement.

Do I need a separate Driver CPC card or will my current driving licence be updated?

After completing 35 hours of Driver CPC training, the driver will be issued with a separate Driver CPC card, known as a Driver Qualification Card (DQC).

