

The overview section summarises the changes. More detail about how they affect existing drivers/riders and those intending to become drivers/riders on or after 19 January 2013 can be found in the Fact Sheets attached.

Please note that most drivers may be affected by more than one rule change, so please read the full overview section to determine which Fact Sheets could affect you.

The Fact Sheets cover:

- Fact Sheet 1: Motorcycles, mopeds and tricycles
- Fact Sheet 2: Vehicles that can be driven and the age restrictions for driving
- Fact Sheet 3: Drivers of buses and lorries (medium and large goods and passenger carrying vehicles) – new driving licence validity periods
- Fact Sheet 4: The new driving licence card design explained
- Fact Sheet 5: Trailer restrictions for car and small vehicle drivers.

For further information go to www.gov.uk/newlicencerules

Changes to Driving Licence rules in Great Britain

Overview of changes

Driving licence rules in Great Britain come from European laws – European second Directive on driving licences (91/439/EEC). From 19 January 2013 a new Directive – the third European Directive on driving licences (EU3D) (2006/126/EC) – will come into force. This will change driving licence rules in Great Britain.

It will introduce a single driving licence model across Europe, and common rules about the design of the licence card itself and the period for which it is valid. This will:

- stop citizens, police forces and those responsible for the issuing of driving licences becoming confused by conflicting rules in different countries, and
- should help prevent criminals producing fraudulent driving licences.

All this will make it easier for countries to accept driving licences issued by other member states and let people living in these countries move more freely around Europe.

New licences issued on or after ¹19 January 2013 will have to meet the terms of this new directive. Member states will:

- issue all new driving licences in the new format – for new learner drivers and those who pass a test, and
- replace all existing valid licences with the new format when customers notify a change, exchange or renew their licence.

¹ A small number of new driving licences may be printed before this date.

How it affects drivers/riders in Great Britain

Existing drivers/riders

The new rules will not take away your entitlement to drive/ride if it was granted before 19 January 2013. However, some of the new rules will affect you. For example, when you update your licence on or after 19 January 2013 we will send you a new style driving licence. Some vehicle categories you are allowed to drive/ride now will be shown differently on your new licence and the validity period will depend on the vehicles you are allowed to drive/ride.

New drivers/riders from 19 January 2013

If you apply for provisional entitlement to drive/ride, or pass a driving test from 19 January 2013, the new rules will apply to you.

The following describes the changes and tells you where you can find out more details.

Fact sheet 1

Motorcycles, mopeds and tricycles

Introduction

New rules on driving licences for motorcycle riders come into force on 19 January 2013. The new rules will apply if you pass a test after that date or if you are an existing rider when you renew or replace your licence.

Mopeds

Existing riders

Until 19 January 2013, our current national rules on moped entitlement will continue to apply and is shown on the licence as category p which covers you to ride mopeds with an engine size up to 50cc with a maximum speed up to 50km/h.

European rules will apply from 19 January 2013. You will not lose the entitlement you have now but it will be displayed differently on any new licence issued to you from that date. It will be shown as:

- category AM (the European category), giving you entitlement to ride mopeds with a maximum design speed over 25km/h but not more than 45km/h, small 3-wheelers (up to 50cc and below 4kW) and light quadricycles (unladen mass less than 350kg design speed over 25km/h and up to a maximum of 45km/h)
- category p, extending the above to include 2 or 3 wheeled mopeds with a higher maximum speed of up to 50km/h (to retain your existing entitlement), and
- category q, extending the above to include 2 or 3 wheeled mopeds with a maximum speed up to 25km/h (to keep your existing entitlement).

You will not need to do anything – your existing entitlement is still valid.

New riders from 19 January 2013

The minimum age to ride these vehicles stays at age 16 years. You will still need to pass Compulsory Basic Training (CBT), theory and practical tests to gain full moped entitlement. If you pass a test in a car or light motorcycle you will receive full entitlement to ride mopeds. However, you will need to pass CBT to ride them on the road. The new moped category will be shown on your licence as:

- category AM (the European category), giving you entitlement to ride mopeds with a maximum design speed over 25km/h but not more than 45km/h, small 3-wheelers (up to 50cc and below 4kW) and light quadricycles (unladen mass less than 350kg design speed over 25km/h and up to a maximum of 45km/h)
- category q, extending the above to include 2 or 3 wheeled mopeds with a maximum speed up to 25km/h.

Motorcycles & tricycles

Existing riders

Your full current motorcycle entitlement will not change under the new rules. However, if you want to ride larger motorcycles, you will need to follow the rules for new riders (see below).

Currently the category B1 is for tricycle and quadricycles which is a sub category of category B (cars).

The definition for category B1 will change. Therefore, when you replace or renew your licence on or after 19 January 2013, it will be shown as category B1 (for quadricycles), and category A (limited to tricycles – restriction code 79).

From 19 January 2013 full category A licence holders will have access to ride tricycles.

New riders from 19 January 2013

If you hold full category A1 and A (motorcycle) you will have the entitlement to ride tricycles.

Category A1 (small motorcycles up to 125cc).

This covers small motorcycles with a cylinder capacity not exceeding 125cc, of a power not exceeding 11kW and with a power to weight ratio not exceeding 0.1kW/kg and motor tricycles with a power not exceeding 15kW.

The minimum age for category A1 remains at 17 years.

You will have to pass theory and practical driving tests to gain this entitlement.

Category A2 (medium motorcycles up to 35kW)

This covers medium sized motorcycles, with or without a sidecar of a power not exceeding 35kW, a power to weight ratio not exceeding 0.2kW/kg and not derived from a vehicle of more than double its power.

The minimum age for this is 19 years.

There are two ways to get this entitlement:

- direct access – if you are aged 19 years or over, you can take theory and practical tests, or
- staged access – if you have 2 years experience on a full driving licence for a category A1 (motorcycle), you can take the practical test.

Category A (large motorcycles unlimited in size)

This covers machines unlimited in size and power, with or without a sidecar, and motor tricycles with a power exceeding 15kW.

There are two ways to get this entitlement:

- direct access – if you are aged 24 years or over, you can take theory and practical tests, or
- staged access – if you are aged 21 years or over and have 2 years experience on a full driving licence for an A2 (motorcycle), you can take the practical test.

If you want to ride tricycles that fall within these categories, you will need to follow the above rules.

Please note: Tests in mopeds with 3 or 4 wheels, category A1 (tricycles) and category A (tricycles) will be available to physically disabled riders only.

Fact sheet 2

Vehicles that can be driven and the age restrictions for driving

On 19 January 2013, new driving licence rules come into force. This includes changes to the description of some vehicle categories and the age at which these vehicles can be driven.

Existing drivers

You will keep the entitlements you had when you passed your driving test and the types of vehicles that applied to those entitlements at that time. To learn to drive or pass a test to drive additional vehicles on or after 19 January 2013, you will have to meet any new minimum age limits, and the entitlement you receive will be as described under the new rules.

New drivers from 19 January 2013

If learning to drive or passing a driving test on or after 19 January 2013 you will have to meet the new minimum age for driving the vehicle and the new category descriptions which applies to them.

Age limits for driving cars and car/trailer combinations will not change.

The minimum age for driving medium and large goods and passenger carrying vehicles (categories C1, C1E, C, CE, D1, D1E, D, and DE) applies to non-professional driving only. For professional driving, some of these vehicles can be driven at a younger age if you have a Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (Driver CPC) – the rules come from the Driver CPC training Directive (2003/59/EC).

The following table describes all categories from 19 January 2013 and shows the new minimum ages that will apply. The green shaded areas indicate a change has been made and the last column describes that change briefly.

		Category	Minimum age	Notes	Change
	<p>Moped</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two-wheel vehicles or three-wheel vehicles with a maximum design speed of over 25km/h and not more than 45km/h. <p>Light quadricycle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With an unladen mass of not more than 350kg, not including the mass of the batteries in the case of electric vehicles, whose maximum design speed is over 25km/h and not more than 45km/h. 	AM	16		New category
	<p>Motorcycles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A motorcycle with a cylinder capacity not exceeding 125cc, of a power not exceeding 11kW and with a power to weight ratio not exceeding 0.1kW per kg. A motor tricycle with a power not exceeding 15kW. 	A1	17		Category description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A motorcycle of a power not exceeding 35kW, with a power to weight ratio not exceeding 0.2kW per kg and not derived from a vehicle of more than double its power. 	A2	19		New category
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A motorcycle of a power exceeding 35kW or with a power to weight ratio exceeding 0.2kW per kg, or A motorcycle of a power not exceeding 35kW with a power to weight ratio not exceeding 0.2kW per kg and derived from a vehicle of more than double its power. A motor tricycle with a power exceeding 15kW. 	A	24	See note 1	Category description
	<p>4 wheeled light vehicles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motor vehicles with four wheels up to 400kg unladen weight or 550kg for vehicles intended for carrying goods. 	B1	17		Category description
	<p>Cars</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motor vehicles with a MAM not exceeding 3500kg and designed and constructed for the carriage of no more than eight passengers in addition to the driver with a trailer up to 750kg. Motor vehicles with a MAM not exceeding 3500kg and designed and constructed for the carriage of no more than eight passengers in addition to the driver with a trailer over 750kg, where the combination MAM is not exceeding 3500kg. 	B	17	See note 2	
	<p>Medium sized vehicles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vehicles between 3500kg and 7500kg, and designed and constructed for the carriage of no more than eight passengers in addition to the driver with a trailer up to 750kg. 	C1	18	See note 3 and note 6	
	<p>Large goods vehicles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vehicles over 3500kg with a trailer up to 750kg, and designed and constructed for the carriage of no more than eight passengers in addition to the driver. 	C	21	See note 4	
	<p>Minibuses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vehicles with no more than 16 passenger seats in addition to the driver and with a maximum length not exceeding eight metres with a trailer up to 750kg. 	D1	21	See note 5 and note 6	Category description
	<p>Buses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any bus designed and constructed for the carriage of more than eight passengers in addition to the driver, with a trailer up to 750kg. 	D	24	See note 5	Min age + category description
	<p>Small vehicles and trailers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combinations of vehicles consisting of a vehicle in category B and a trailer, where the combination does not come within category B, and the MAM of the trailer or semi-trailer does not exceed 3500kg. 	BE	17		
	<p>Medium sized vehicles with trailers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vehicles between 3500kg and 7500kg with a trailer over 750kg and designed and constructed for the carriage of no more than eight passengers in addition to the driver – combined weight not more than 12000kg. Vehicles within category B where the trailer has a maximum authorised mass over 3500kg, as long as the combined MAM does not exceed 12000kg. 	C1E	21	See note 3, 4 and note 6	
	<p>Large goods vehicles with trailers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vehicles over 3500kg and designed and constructed for the carriage of no more than eight passengers in addition to the driver with a trailer over 750kg. 	CE	21	See note 4	
	<p>Minibuses with trailers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vehicles with no more than 16 passenger seats in addition to the driver and with a maximum length not exceeding 8 metres with a trailer over 750kg, provided that the MAM of the combination formed does not exceed 12000kg. 	D1E	21	See note 5 and note 6	Category description
	<p>Buses with trailers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any bus designed and constructed for the carriage of more than eight passengers in addition to the driver, with a trailer over 750kg. 	DE	24	See note 5	Min age + category description

MAM – Maximum Authorised Mass

		Category	Minimum age	Notes	Change
	Moped <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motor vehicles with fewer than four wheels with a maximum design speed exceeding 45km/h but not exceeding 50km/h and which, if propelled by an internal combustion engine, has a cylinder capacity not exceeding 50cc. 	p	16	See note 7	Category description
	Moped <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motor vehicles with fewer than four wheels which, if propelled by an internal combustion engine, has a cylinder capacity not exceeding 50cc and, if not equipped with pedals by means of which the vehicle is capable of being propelled, has a maximum design speed not exceeding 25km/h. 	q	16	See note 7	New category
	Agricultural tractors	f	17	See note 8	
	Roadrollers	g	21	See note 9	
	Tracked vehicles	h	21	See note 4 & 10	
	Mowing machines or vehicles controlled by someone on foot	k	16		
Note 1	Age 24 or 2 years from date of Standard A2 test pass. Tricycle restriction code 79 (tri).				
Note 2	Age 16 if you are getting Disability Living Allowance (Mobility Allowance) at the higher rate.				
Note 3	Age 18 if combination weight is under 7500kg.				
Note 4	<p>You can drive at age 17 if a member of the armed services. You can drive at 18 if one of the following apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> you passed your driving test and Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (Driver CPC) initial qualification you are learning to drive or taking a driving test for this category or Driver CPC initial qualification you are taking a national vocational training course to get a Driver CPC initial qualification, or you had your driving licence before 10 September 2009, you must take the CPC periodic training within 5 years of this date. 				
Note 5	<p>You can drive at age 17 if you are a member of the armed forces. You can drive these vehicles at age 18 if one of the following apply:</p> <p>(1) You are learning to drive or taking a PCV test or Driver CPC initial qualification</p> <p>(2) Having passed a PCV driving test and Driver CPC initial qualification, you can drive if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> driving on a regular service where the route doesn't exceed 50km not engaged in the carriage of passengers driving a vehicle of a class included in sub-category D1. <p>(3) Having passed a PCV test before 10 September 2008 and driving under a bus operator's licence, or minibus permit, or community bus permit and any of the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> driving on a regular service where the route doesn't exceed 50km not engaged in the carriage of passengers driving a vehicle of a class included in sub-category D1. <p>Age 20 after passing a PCV driving test and Driver CPC initial qualification. For further advice you can contact the Driving Standards Agency by phoning 0300 200 1122. Age 21 for categories D and DE if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the vehicle is being used by the fire service or for maintaining public order undergoing road tests for repair or maintenance purposes, or if you were entitled to drive the vehicle before 19 January 2013. 				
Note 6	If you passed your test for category B or B automatic before 1 January 1997 your licence will already show entitlement to C1, C1E (8.25 tonnes), D1 and D1E (not for hire or reward).				
Note 7	National category only.				
Note 8	At 16 you can drive tractors less than 2.45m wide. It must only pull trailers less than 2.45m wide with two wheels, or four wheels that are close-coupled.				
Note 9	At 17 you can drive small roadrollers with metal or hard rollers. They must not be steam powered, weigh more than 11.69 tonnes or be made for carrying loads.				
Note 10	You can drive at 17 if the MAM of the tracked vehicle is not more than 3500kg.				

Fact sheet 3

Drivers of buses and lorries (medium and large goods and passenger carrying vehicles) – new driving licence validity periods

On 19 January 2013, driving licences issued to drivers of medium and large lorries, minibuses, buses and coaches (goods and passenger carrying vehicles) when you pass a driving test or renew your full licence, will be valid for a maximum of 5 years. This affects you if you have passed driving tests for categories C1, C, D1, D, C1E, CE, D1E or DE.

Existing Drivers

If you have passed a driving test in one of the above categories, you will come under the new rules when you next renew your driving licence or when you renew your lorry and/or bus entitlement, whichever is earlier.

If you hold a 10 year licence and apply to replace it as it has been lost/stolen or there is a change to your personal details, you will be issued with the remaining period of your 10 year licence. However, if you choose to renew your licence at any time during the 10 year period, by supplying a new photo, you will come under the new rules and will be issued with a 5 year licence.

New drivers after 19 January 2013

The new rules will apply as soon as you pass your first lorry or bus test.

For all lorry and bus drivers

Once you have been issued with a 5 year licence you will need to renew the licence when it expires (the licence expiry date is shown in 4b). To renew the licence and keep/renew your lorry and/or bus entitlement you will need to complete the medical questions on the D2 application form or the renewal reminder form and advise us which categories you need on your licence. The reminder form you will be sent will advise you if you also need to supply a new photo.

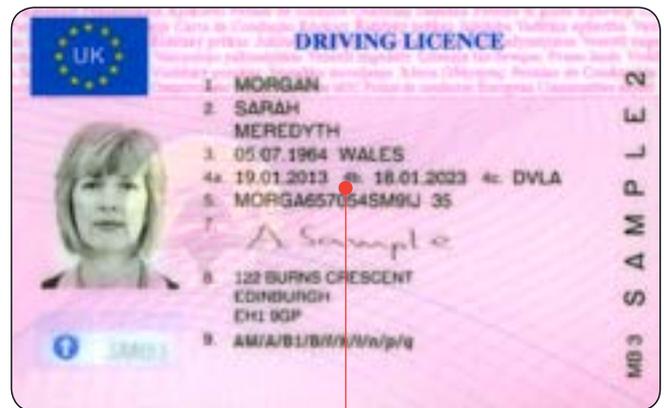
To renew your licence and continue with your lorry and/or bus entitlement on or after age 45, you will also be required to submit a D4 medical examination report.

If you choose not to renew your lorry and/or bus entitlement you should understand that you are giving up your right to drive these vehicles. However, you must still apply to renew your driving licence.

If you currently hold both lorry and bus entitlement, your expiry for both will be aligned when you are issued with your first 5 year licence.

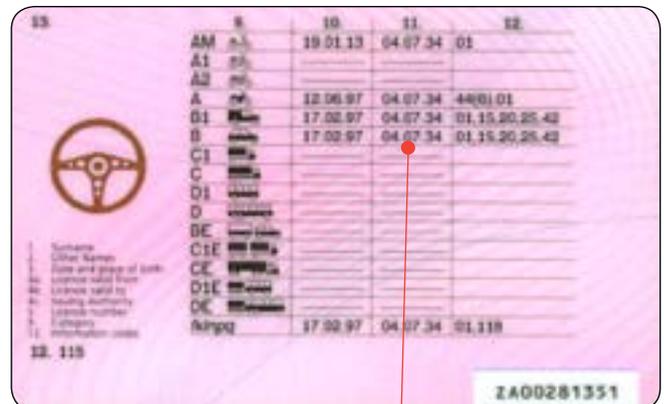
The expiry date of your licence will be shown on the front in section 4b and the expiry date of your entitlement will be shown on the back of your licence.

Front of driving licence



Expiry date

Back of driving licence



Expiry date of entitlement

Note this is a 5 year licence

Fact sheet 4

New licence design

The new driving licence card design explained

On or after 15 October 2012, photo card driving licences issued by DVLA will be in a new format. This will accommodate changes from the new EU3D rules which come into force on 19 January 2013. Current format licences will still be valid and will be replaced gradually as they are renewed and updated.

The new style licence card will look different to the current licence. All vehicle categories will be shown on the back of your licence with dates shown against those you are entitled to drive. You will not be entitled to drive any category of vehicle that has lines shown instead of dates.

However, if you have passed a test in a larger vehicle you may still be entitled to drive/ride smaller vehicles of that type which have lines shown instead of dates e.g. holders of full category A would be entitled to ride a category A2 vehicle.

Categories you have provisional entitlement to drive are shown on the paper counterpart document.

The expiry date of your licence will show on the front in section 4b and the expiry date of your entitlement will show on the back of your licence.

Please see examples overleaf.

Driving licence designs

Current card with new printing design issued between October and December 2012*
 (*Change-over date dependant on current card stock depletion)

4b is now licence expiry date

Date format DD.MM.YYYY

'European Communities model' in banner

Categories separated by a slash



All European categories displayed in table

Legend positioned in bottom left hand corner of card

Overflow, comprising of two rows used for generic codes and codes that do not fit in column 12

Category valid from and valid to date in format DD.MM.YY

Restriction/information codes associated against the category they apply, each separated by a comma

National categories you are entitled to drive



New style EU3D card

All card design changes for the EU3D card as above except those described here

'European Union model' in the banner

Legend positioned along right hand side of card



Current provisional licence design from October and December 2012*
 (*Change-over date dependant on current card stock depletion)

4b is now licence expiry date

Date format DD.MM.YYYY

Categories separated by a slash



All European categories displayed in table

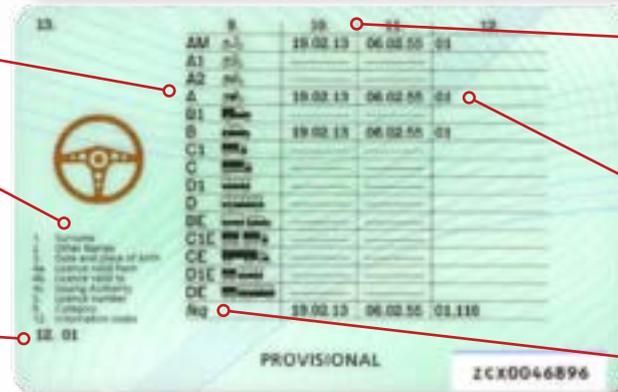
Legend positioned in bottom left hand corner of card

Overflow, comprising of two rows used for generic codes and codes that do not fit in column 12

Category valid from and valid to date in format DD.MM.YY

Restriction/information codes associated against the category they apply, each separated by a comma

National categories you are entitled to drive



New style EU3D provisional licence design

All card design changes for the EU3D card except those described here

Legend positioned along right hand side of card



Fact sheet 5

New rules for towing trailers with a car or small vehicle

Introduction

New driving licence rules come into force on 19 January 2013, for drivers of cars and small vehicles (category B and E) to tow trailers. The new rules will apply if you pass your test after that date.

Existing car or small vehicle drivers

If you already have a licence to drive cars or small vehicles (category B and BE), you'll keep your entitlement to tow trailers. Your entitlement to tow trailers will stay as it was when you passed your driving test. To tow heavier trailers after 19 January 2013, you'll need to follow the rules for new drivers, below.

New drivers from 19 January 2013

Category B

There is no change to category B entitlement to tow trailers.

Category BE

If your trailer weighs over 750kg and the combined trailer and towing vehicle weight is more than 3500kg, you'll need to pass a further test. The trailer you tow must not be heavier than 3500kg. The test will be shown on your driving licence as category BE.

Category C1E

To tow a trailer weighing more than 3500kg with a car or small vehicle (category B), you'll need to pass a test for category C1E.

Find out about DVLA's online services

Go to: www.direct.gov.uk/onlinemotoringervices

