

Truck/Bus Licence

The change here relates to the age at which you can qualify for a licence for the larger trucks and buses. There is no change for light trucks and buses, those currently covered by categories- C1, EC1 and D1, ED1- aside from minor name changes, mentioned already, where on licences after 19 January the letter E will follow the licence category e.g. C1E, D1E etc.

The age for taking out a licence for a truck or bus covering current licence categories, C, CE and D, DE is to be increased. In the case of C and CE it will increase from age 18 to 21, and for D and DE it is to increase from age 21 to 24. The current ages of 18 for (C,CE) and 21 for (D,DE) will continue to apply to those taking out a licence under Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) rules. CPC rules apply to those drivers who drive or intend to drive professionally.

Full licences issued after the 19 January 2013 in bus and truck categories will expire after five years, as opposed to the current ten year expiry date. All current licences at that date will last until expiry date on the licence and will thereafter expire every five years. A medical report will be needed with every renewal of a truck or bus licence.

Truck/Bus Transition Arrangements

If you are under age 21 and want to take out a licence for a truck without Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) for either C or EC you must have taken your driving test and exchange your certificate of competency at your local NDLS Office for a full licence before 19 January 2013.

If you are under age 21 and you do not exchange your certificate of competency until after the 19th January, you will be unable to be issued with a full C or CE licence as the new minimum age for that category, 21, will now apply. However, if you are in this situation, you will be able to look at completing driver CPC, as the new minimum age limit does not apply to those completing CPC and remains at 18. You can also obtain the category C1 or CE1 if this suits.

Similarly, if you are under age 21, you currently hold a learner permit for Cat C or CE before the 19th January, and you sit your test after the 19th January 2013, you will be unable to get a full C or CE licence until you reach the age of 21 or you have completed driver CPC.

If you are under age 24 and want to take out a licence for a bus without driver CPC for either D or DE you must have taken your driving test and exchange your certificate of competency at your local NDLS Office for a full licence before 19 January 2013.

If you do not exchange your certificate of competency until after the 19th January aged 21-23, you will be unable to be issued with your full D or DE licence as the new minimum age for that category, 24, will now apply. However, if you are in this situation, you will be able to look at completing driver CPC, as the new minimum age limit does not apply to those

completing driver CPC and remains at 21. You can also obtain the category D1 or D1E if this suits.

Similarly, if you are under age 24, you currently hold a learner permit for Cat D or DE before the 19th January, and you sit your test after the 19th January 2013, you will be unable to get your full D or DE licence until you reach the age of 24 – unless you complete driver CPC.

[For more information on how these changes may affect you, please see our FAQ's which have been designed to help you understand the changes as they may apply to you.](#)