

Q Why did the motorcycle licence rules change on 19 January 2013?

A It is recognised that motorcyclists are particularly vulnerable and the new licensing rules are a step towards making the progression to riding larger motorcycles safer for young riders.

Q I have a full Category A (motorbike) driving licence which issued before 19 January 2013, did the changes which came in on 19 January 2013 affect me?

A If you hold the highest class of full motorcycle driving licence (category A) then you are not affected in any way. The restriction of 25kW remains on your licence for a period of two years if you have passed your test and received your Category A licence from the Motor Taxation Office before the 19th January 2013. Once you have held your full category A driving licence for two years, the restriction is lifted from your full licence automatically. When you renew your licence you will be given a category A motorcycle licence.

Q I am aged 16 or over and have passed my theory test for a Moped category AM licence and I want to take out a full category AM licence.

A You have to take out a learner permit, do Initial Basic Training (IBT), wait six months and take a driving test. When you pass your test you will get a category AM (moped) licence.

Q I am aged 16 or over and have passed my theory test for an A1 licence and I want to take out a full A1 driving licence.

A You have to take out a learner permit, do Initial Basic Training (IBT), wait six months and take a driving test. When you pass your test you will get an A1

licence, You must present to the driving test with a motorcycle of minimum of 120cm³ and no greater than 125cm³.

Q I am aged under 24 and have passed my theory test for an A licence and I want to take out a full category A licence.

A. If you did not hold a learner permit in Category A before the 19th January 2013, you will be unable to sit your test as the minimum age for direct access to Category A is now 24.

As you do not meet the minimum age of 24 for Category A, but you hold a Category A learner permit issued before the 19th January 2013, you have the following options:

- (a) You can sit your driving test for Category A2 and present your current Category A learner permit at the test. The representative vehicle which you must bring to an A2 test is between 25 and 35kW. However, as your current Category A learner permit restricts you to riding a motorcycle of 25kW, you will be required to present to the driving test with a motorcycle of 25kW exactly. If you pass your driving test, you will be issued with a Category A2 certificate of competency which you can exchange for a Category A2 full licence at any NDLS centre.
- (b) You can apply for the Category A2 learner permit if this suits you, which allows you to ride a motorcycle of 25 to 35kW. You will be required to present to the driving test with a motorcycle of between 25 and 35kW. If you pass your driving test, you will be issued with a Category A2 certificate of competency which you can exchange for a Category A2 full licence at any NDLS centre.

As you have completed the 6 months on your pre-19th January Category A learner permit, and you decide to apply for an A2 learner permit, this will be taken into account for the purposes of sitting your driving test – you will not need to wait another six months if you get an A2 learner permit.

Q I am aged over 18 (but under 24) and hold a learner permit for Category A – what does this mean for me?

A. See answer to question above.

If you wish to apply for a category A2 learner permit (having held a category A1 full license for a period of 2 years), you will have the option of applying for your learner permit for category A2, and completing a course of training which will allow you upon successful completion apply directly for your full licence in Category A2. This prescribed training course is a newly developed IBT module. Alternatively, you will have the option to progressively access to a category A2 licence, having held your full A1 licence for two years, by completing a driving test and the training. You will be required to wait six months for this test.

Q I currently hold a learner permit which issued before 19th January 2013 in Category A and am aged 18-23. I'm hoping to sit my test soon, but what happens if I can't sit the test before this learner permit expires?

A If your learner permit expires, and you are under the minimum age of 24 for Category A, then you will be unable to renew it for that category. However, you will be able to get a learner permit in Category A2. As you already hold a theory test you must firstly take out an A2 learner permit, provided you are minimum 18 years of age. You must then do IBT or a progression module if you have already taken IBT as part of an earlier licence, and pass a driving test.

If you apply for an A2 learner permit having held an A1 full license for a period of 2 years, you will have the option of applying for your learner permit for A2, and completing a course of training which will allow you upon successful completion apply directly for your full licence in Category A2. This prescribed training course is a newly developed IBT module. Alternatively, you have the option to progressively access to your A2 licence, having held your full A1 licence for two years, by completing a driving test and IBT. You will not be required to wait six months for this test.

Q How much is the fee for the motorbike category driving test?

A The fee for the A2 driving test is the same as other categories of motorcycle, €85.

Q What types of motorcycle are in the various licence categories?

A The Table below sets out the motorcycle types in each category.

Licence Category	What type of Motorcycle
AM	Mopeds and three wheeled vehicles with maximum design speed greater than 25km/h but not greater than 45km/h as well as light quadricycles. The minimum age at which a learner permit can be taken out for this category is age 16.
A1	Motorcycle less than 125cm ³ , power rating not less than 11kW with a power to weight ratio no greater than 0.1kW/kg. The minimum age at which a learner permit can be taken out for this category licence is age 16.
A2	Motorcycle less than 35kW, a power/weight ratio not greater than 0.2kW/kg and not derived from a vehicle more than double its power. The minimum age at which a learner permit can be taken out for this category is age 18.
A	All motorcycles including those greater than 35kW. The minimum age at which a learner permit can be taken out for this category is age 20, where an A2 licence has been held for 2 years. Direct access is possible at age 24.

Q Who must take a theory test before applying for a motorcycle licence?

A If you have never taken a motorcycle theory test you must now sit a theory test before you get a first learner permit. Any person who took out a first motorcycle learner permit (or formerly a provisional licence) since April 2001 will have passed a theory test and need not do so again in order to get a learner permit in the motorcycle category, provided the learner permit in the

category has not expired for a period of more than 5 years.. For information or to book a driver theory test you can visit www.theorytest.ie

Bus & Trucks

Q. What are the minimum age requirements?

A. From the 19th January 2013, the age at which you can take out a learner permit or full licence for a truck or bus changed – for trucks, it has been raised from 18 to 21, and for buses it has been raised from 21 to 24. It does not affect previous holders of a full licence in those categories. It does not affect drivers who have a Driver Certificate of Professional Competency (CPC) qualification.

Q. What truck and bus categories does this apply to?

A. For trucks, it applies to C and CE (but not C1 and C1E). For buses, it applies to D and DE (but not D1 and D1E).

Q. I currently hold a learner permit for a C (or CE) and I'm aged under 21; and I won't be driving professionally. What does this mean for me?

A. If you are aged 18-20 and you have not exchange your certificate of competency to date, you cannot be issued with your full C or CE licence as the new minimum age for that category is 21. However, if you are in this situation, you may wish to consider completing driver CPC, as the minimum age limit does not apply to those completing driver CPC and remains at 18. You can also obtain the category C1 or C1E driving licence if this suits without doing CPC and then on reaching the age of 21 you can then apply for a category C or CE without the need for a further test.

If your learner permit is due to expire in the category C or CE which was issued before the 19th January, and you have not undertaken your test, you may be

unable to take out another learner permit until you reach the age of 21 unless you take the driver CPC route – this enables you to sit your test from 18 years on.

Q. I currently hold a learner permit for a C (or CE) and I'm aged under 21 because my learner permit was issued before 19th January 2013; and I will be driving professionally. What does this mean for me?

A. If you are a professional driver, you will be completing CPC for the truck.

Q. I currently hold a learner permit for a D (or DE) issued before 19th January 2013 and I'm aged under 24; and I won't be driving professionally. What does this mean for me?

A. If you passed your test before the 19th January 2013, and did not exchange your certificate of competency to date for a full licence you cannot be issued with your full D or DE licence as the new minimum age for that category is 24. However, you will be able to complete driver CPC, as the minimum age limit does not apply to those completing driver CPC and remains at 21. You can also obtain the category D1 or D1E driving licence if this suits without doing CPC and then on reaching the age of 24 you can then apply for a category D or DE without the need for a further test.

If your learner permit is due to expire in the category D or DE which was issued before the 19th January, and you have not undertaken your test, you may be unable to take out another learner permit until you reach the age of 24 unless you take the driver CPC route – this enables you to sit your test from 21 years on.

Q. I currently hold a learner permit for a D (or DE) issued before 19th January 2013 and I'm aged under 24; and I will be driving professionally. What does this mean for me?

- A. If you intend to be a professional driver, you will be completing driver CPC for the bus.

For further information on CPC refer to www.rsa.ie