

Q. Will Irish drivers with CPCs issued in the UK before Brexit continue to have their CPCs recognised in Ireland after a hard Brexit?

As and from 29th March 2019, UK driving licences and CPC qualifications issued in the UK will no longer be recognised in any of the 27 EU member states. Any driver with a UK licence and CPC card who is resident or working in Ireland is advised to exchange their licence and CPC card for an Irish licence and CPC card in advance of this date. The expiry date on the UK CPC card will be honoured on the Irish CPC card. The driver is then required to have five days of CPC training completed in advance of the expiry date in order to obtain a renewal CPC card. Credit may be given where CPC modules have been completed in the UK up to the 29th March 2019, however the training modules must be in keeping with the objectives of the EU Directive (2003/59/EC) similar to the Irish CPC syllabus.

Q. If the original CPC, theory test and drivers licence was issued in the UK can retraining be done or is the full training from the beginning needed for the Irish person to be issued with the Irish CPC (assuming there IS a driver licence exchange agreement with the UK in place

If there is a driver licence exchange agreement in place (which Ireland can put in place with third countries under provisions in the Road Traffic Act 1961) The UK CPC holder will only need to do the compulsory periodic retraining in order to maintain the CPC qualification and obtain a renewal CPC card.

Q. If the original CPC, theory test and drivers licence was issued in the UK but becomes invalid as of the withdrawal date, can retraining be done or is the full training from the beginning needed for the UK licence and UK CPC holder to be issued with the Irish CPC (assuming there is no driver licence exchange agreement with the UK in place.

Assuming **no** driver licence agreement is in place the UK driver can exchange his existing UK driving licence and CPC card for an Irish driving licence and Irish CPC card before the 29th March 2019. RSA Driver Education section will issue a replacement CPC card and honour the expiry date on the UK CPC card. The driver should have also exchanged their driving licence for an Irish driving licence and the Irish driver number will be the recorded driver number on the CPC card. The driver will then be required to complete one day of CPC training per year on an ongoing basis in order to maintain his/her Driver CPC qualification. Where the expiry date on the CPC card is less than 5 years from the exchange date, the driver will be required to have his/her five days of training completed in advance of the renewal date. As mentioned above, credit may be given where CPC modules have been completed in the UK up to the 29th March 2019, however the training modules must be in keeping with the objectives of the EU Directive (2003/59/EC) and similar to the Irish CPC syllabus. Alternatively if the driver exchanges his/her UK driving licence and CPC card for a driving licence & CPC card from any other EU member state in advance of 29th March 2019 and subsequently relocates to live/work in Ireland s/he will be entitled to maintain their CPC qualification by completing CPC training in Ireland.

Where a driver does not exchange his/her driving licence and CPC card by the 29th March 2019 and there is no driver licence exchange agreement, the UK licence and CPC qualification will cease to be recognised from that date. If the driver wishes to drive a bus/truck professionally s/he will be required to re-qualify, i.e., 1. Complete and pass category B learner permit theory test; 2. Obtain learner permit; 3. Complete EDT lessons (possibly reduced EDT); 4. Successfully complete category B driving test and obtain licence; 5. Successfully complete learner permit/CPC bus/truck MCQ theory test; 6. Successfully complete bus/truck case study theory test; 7. Successfully complete bus/truck driving test; 8. Successfully complete bus/truck CPC practical test; 9. Obtain bus/truck driving licence and CPC qualification card. From this point on the driver would be required to complete one day of CPC training per year on an ongoing basis in order to maintain their driver CPC qualification.

The driver is required to have an Irish PPS number and an Irish contact address in order to be registered on the RSA CPC system.