



Foreign Drivers FAQ

Q1. What is the position of a non-Irish licence holder driving in Ireland?

A1. A driver from within the EU is entitled to drive and work in Ireland and all other EU member states; there is no requirement to exchange their driving licence.

A foreign driver (Non EU member state) is entitled to drive in Ireland on a visitor status for up to one year; thereafter they must go through the process of obtaining an Irish driving licence by completing the learner permit theory test and driving test. This is a requirement for all licence categories. The only exception to this rule is where there is a bilateral agreement in place which the Republic of Ireland has with Australia, Gibraltar, Iceland, Liechtenstein, South Africa, South Korea, a driver under this agreement is entitled to exchange his/her licence for an Irish licence.

In addition to the licencing requirements above, all professional drivers – those who drive a bus/truck for a living are required to have and maintain a Driver CPC qualification.

Q2. I am a Transport Haulier with a number of employees from other EU members state, are my obligations as an employer any different to those employees, than to my employees who hold an Irish driving licence?

A2. As an employer, you are obliged to ensure that any driver employed by you has a valid driving licence and if driving a bus or truck professionally, that they hold a valid CPC qualification. An employer with employees from other EU member states must ensure that they hold a valid driving licence in addition to a valid Driver CPC card from Ireland or another member state. They must also ensure that all employees driving for a living maintain their Driver CPC qualification on an ongoing basis. In Ireland all professional drivers are required to maintain their CPC by completing one day of training per year (min 7 hours). As per SI No 359 of 2008 which regulates Driver CPC, a person (employer or other) who causes or permits another who does not hold a valid Driver CPC in relation to a relevant vehicle to drive a relevant vehicle commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding €5,000. In addition a copy of the individual drivers licence is required to be submitted to their Insurance brokers for their own policy records.

Q3. I am an employer with a number of non-Irish drivers working for me. They all have EU licences from various member states and I have been advised they all hold valid Driver CPC qualifications, however not all of them have CPC cards. How can I check they are CPC qualified?

A3. In Ireland all compliant drivers (i.e. those who have maintained their Driver CPC qualification) are issued with a Driver CPC Qualification card which is valid for a maximum of up to 5 years. Drivers are required to complete one day of CPC training per year on an ongoing basis and a new CPC card will be issued to them at the end of each 5 year training cycle. There are similar processes in all EU member states and drivers are issued with either a CPC qualification card or a CPC code (95) is printed on their driving licence, therefore all complaint truck/bus drivers will hold either a valid Driver CPC card or they will have code 95 and an expiry date printed beside each relevant licence category on the back of their driving licence.

Q4. I am an EU licence holder with a full category C/D licence which I got in 2015. I do not have a CPC qualification but I now want to drive a truck/bus for a living in Ireland; what do I have to do?

A4. In order to obtain a Driver CPC qualification and drive for a living in Ireland, you should complete the following steps.

1. Exchange your EU driving licence for an Irish licence, link as follows:
<http://www.ndls.ie/en/Driving-Licence/holders-of-foreign-licences.html>
2. Apply for the two CPC truck/bus theory tests www.drivertheorytest.ie
3. Apply for and complete the 30 minute CPC walk around test, (please note you will not have to complete your driving test again, unless you wish to progress on to a higher category)
<https://www.drivingtest.ie/ApplicantSelfScheduleTesting/Applicants/ApplicationSignIn.aspx>
4. Apply for your Driver CPC card.

It is important that you complete this process in the sequence above, you will then have obtained your CPC qualification and your card will be issued. Following on from this, you will be required to maintain your Driver CPC qualification by completing one day of CPC training per year (classroom based training) each year in order to entitle you to drive professionally.

Q5. I am a professional driver from another EU member state but now working in Ireland as a truck driver since the beginning of 2017, I also have a bus licence. I have a CPC card for categories C & D which expires in Sept 2018. I have already completed 2 days of CPC training in another EU member state. What do I have to do to renew my CPC card when it expires?

A5. As a professional bus and truck driver you are required to complete 6 days of CPC training in each 5 year training cycle in order to maintain your dual qualification (bus & truck). Your CPC expires in September 2018 so you are required to have all of your training completed before this date in order for a new CPC card to issue. You should contact the Driver Education Section in the RSA and forward on details of training completed in the other EU member state(s). The Driver Education Section will make contact with the relevant Authority for confirmation of this training and if all is in order you may be entitled to credits in respect of this training. You will be required to complete the remaining CPC training modules in one of the RSA approved training centres which are located nationwide. For further information on where to complete training please see the full list of approved training organisations on the RSA website -

<http://www.rsa.ie/en/RSA/Professional-Drivers/Driver-Hours/Find-a-CPC-Trainer/>