



## **Important Notice on Driver CPC During COVID-19 Outbreak**

### **Important notice for CPC Training Organisations, Trainers, Professional Drivers**

As you are all aware, there was an extension put in place for drivers who had a Driver CPC card due to expire between 1st February and 31st August 2020 only, and for no other drivers; however, given the extraordinary circumstances of Covid-19, professional drivers who hold a valid Driver CPC card with a future expiry date will not be penalised if they do not complete their annual training by the 9th September 2020. (The majority of drivers in this situation will have a CPC card with an expiry date of 9th Sept 2023 (bus) or 9th Sept 2024 (truck). Drivers should endeavour to complete any outstanding CPC training by the 9th of September 2021.

Please note that where a driver who qualified for the 1st February-31st August extension, did not complete their outstanding training within the seven months grace period, they no longer have an entitlement to Driver CPC. For example if a CPC card expired on the 5th of February 2020, the grace period for completing outstanding CPC training ended on the 5th September 2020. Due to the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 crisis, professional bus and truck drivers may encounter some difficulty in undertaking their annual CPC training at the current time.

Directive 2003/59/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>[1]</sup> lays down rules applicable to the initial qualification and periodic training of drivers of certain road vehicles for the carriage of goods or passengers. Those drivers must hold a certificate of professional competence and must prove they have completed the periodic training by holding a driving licence or a driver qualification card, on which the training is registered. Due to the difficulties in completing the periodic training and in renewing certificates of professional competence certifying that training as a consequence of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the COVID-19 outbreak, which started as of 1 February 2020 in some Member States, it is necessary to extend the validity of those certificates for seven months after their expiry date, in order to ensure the continuity of road transport.

It is important to note that no new or replacement cards will be issued with the new temporary expiry date.

Drivers will then be required to complete any outstanding periodic training. On completion of the required training, renewal Driver CPC card's will be issued as normal with an expiry date of 5 years from the date of expiry of their current Driver CPC card.

This is not an amnesty for drivers who did not take training and allowed their CPC cards to expire.

### **Are Driver CPC training courses operating?**

Please contact the operator of your training course directly to enquire if there is any impact to their service. If you are looking to take part in training and your local organisation is not running course, please check with alternative organisation on our website [here](#)

Please note that where Driver CPC training does take place, a minimum of 7 hours classroom time must be adhered to at all times.

### **I have completed my CPC training, will I get my CPC card?**

If you have completed all necessary Driver CPC training (5 CPC training modules if you are

maintaining bus or truck; or 6 CPC training modules if you are maintaining bus and truck) and the CPC Training Organisation have uploaded all your training records to the RSA CPC system, your Driver CPC card will be issued as normal to your contact address. Please

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<sup>[1]</sup> Directive 2003/59/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 July 2003 on the initial qualification and periodic training of drivers of certain road vehicles for the carriage of goods or passengers, amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 3820/85 and Council Directive 91/439/EEC and repealing Council Directive 76/914/EEC (OJ L 226, 10.9.2003, p. 4).

check your contact details on MYCPC to ensure that the RSA have your most up to date address on file.

**Are there any extensions to Driver CPC cards during the period of the COVID-19 outbreak?**

Due to the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 crisis, professional bus and truck drivers may encounter some difficulty in undertaking their annual CPC training at the current time. In order to ensure a continuous flow of goods within the EU, drivers with valid Irish Driver CPC cards that are due to expire during the current Covid 19 outbreak will be granted an extension of a maximum of six months up to the 26th September 2020. It is important to note that no new or replacement cards will be issued with the new temporary expiry date.

Drivers will then be required to complete any outstanding periodic training in advance of the 26th of September 2020. On completion of the required training, renewal Driver CPC card's will be issued as normal with an expiry date of 5 years from the date of expiry of their current Driver CPC card.

**My CPC card is was due to expire the week 9<sup>th</sup> March?**

The RSA will adopt some discretion for cards that expired from week commencing the 9th of March but not before. This is not an amnesty for drivers who did not take training and allowed their CPC cards to expire.

**I am a Driver CPC training organisation and I'm looking for advise on whether I should continue the training.**

Please refer to the HSE website for advice and guidelines on social distancing and keeping you, your trainers and drivers safe. See [here](#)

**Can I do my CPC courses in the North of Ireland as they are now conducting them online?**

There is no on-line training in the South and therefore we are unable to recognise this training as we cannot bench-mark it against training delivered in the South. We will exchange valid CPC cards issued in the North for an Irish CPC card up to the expiry date of the NI card.