

FAQ on Resumption of CVR testing and COVID-19 Level 5 restrictions

1. Are there any implications for CVR testing when restriction levels 4 and 5 are in place?

No, testing of commercial vehicles has been deemed an essential service and will be continuing as normal and applying appropriate mitigation measures to prevent the transmission of the Covid-19 virus.

2. Am I permitted to travel to another county to have my test or retest carried out?

Yes, as testing of commercial vehicles has been deemed an essential service and you may cross county boundaries to have your vehicle tested.

3. Is going for a test deemed an essential journey?

Yes, a journey to present a vehicle for a CVR test is deemed to be an essential journey.

4. My vehicle is due a test/retest, but I am restricting my movements due to COVID-19 and cannot present for test. What do I do?

You should follow HSE guidelines. If possible and safe to do so, another person may present the vehicle on your behalf. In the interests of road safety, if the vehicle is not presented for retest within 21 days or 4,000kms of the original test, the vehicle will have to undergo a full test again.

5. I am restricting my movements due to COVID-19 and I don't want to ask someone to present my vehicle for me as I have been using it. What do I do?

You should follow HSE guidelines. Present your vehicle for test when it is safe to do so. If a vehicle is late for test, a CRW for less than 12 months will be issued. In the interests of road safety, if a vehicle that required a retest, is not presented for the retest within 21 days or 4,000kms of the original test, the vehicle will have to undergo a full test again.

6. My mechanic has closed due to COVID-19 restrictions and I cannot get my vehicle fixed in time for retest, what do I do?

Vehicle repair has been deemed as an essential service. Therefore, there should be an alternative repair service available. Remember it is a legal requirement to have your vehicle in a roadworthy condition anytime it is used on a public road.

7. There is a delay in getting parts for my vehicle and I cannot make the 21-day retest due to no fault of my own. What will happen?

There are no exceptions to the 21-day retest rule. Repair your vehicle as soon as you can and present it for retest. In the interests of road safety, if the vehicle is not presented for retest within 21 days or 4,000kms of the original test, the vehicle will have to undergo a full test again.

8. I tested positive for Covid-19 and I recently had the vehicle tested. Who do I need to inform?

You are advised to follow HSE guidance available at <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/>

9. How will I receive my test report following the test?

The test report will be left in the vehicle by the tester. You may also ask the CVR testing centre to email you a copy of the report.

10. I have concerns that a tester did not appear to be following social distancing guidelines at a testing centre. Who do I need to complain to?

This should be brought to the attention of the CVR testing centre concerned in the first instance. You can also email authorisations@rsa.ie but note that the RSA has no statutory power to take action against a business for breaches of HSE guidelines. You could also inform the HSA by email at wcu@hsa.ie.

11. If I cannot present my vehicle for a test on time because of restricting my movements due to COVID-19, will my risk rating be affected.

Yes, the normal risk rating will apply.

12. Are CVR testing centres taking precautions to mitigate against the spread of COVID-19?

Yes, all CVR testing centres have implemented comprehensive measures to mitigate against the spread of COVID-19, including all CVR testers wearing required PPE and adhering to HSE guidance on hand-sanitation and social distancing.

13. Will my vehicle be sanitised after the test by the tester?

The CVR tester will use appropriate PPE protection and wipe down surfaces as appropriate. As each CVR test operator has tailored the approach to suit his/her business, it is advisable to discuss this procedure with the CVR test operator in advance of the test to ensure that you are satisfied and clear about the steps that will be taken.

14. Are there any specific COVID-19 related instructions to be followed when presenting a commercial vehicle at a testing centre?

Yes, CVR testing centre personnel should advise you of any specific instructions to be followed when you seek a booking and/or present your vehicle for test e.g. instructions to wait in the vehicle to ensure social distance is maintained in the test centre. The vehicle, both interior and the exterior must be presented in a clean and safe condition for testing. The vehicle presenter should observe social distancing requirements at a testing centre and adhere to all safety precautions in place. Please observe and adhere to all signage and instructions.

15. Will I be required to hand-over documents when I attend at the testing centre?

Individual CVR testing centres will be implementing their own local protocols on hand-over of documents required for the test. Payment should be made by credit or debit cards where possible.

16. I am a vulnerable person – can special arrangements be made for me as regards a test booking

Yes - you should consult your CVR testing centre to make arrangements in this regard. You may also ask another person to present a vehicle for test on your behalf.

17. Do I still need a CRW to tax my vehicle?

The requirement to have a CRW to tax a commercial vehicle has been revoked so you will be able to tax your vehicle without holding a CRW. The obligation to hold a current CRW for a vehicle being used on a public road continues to apply.

18. My vehicle is out of test – what will happen if I am stopped by An Garda Síochána while driving to the CVR testing centre for the test?

Enforcement is a matter for An Garda Síochána. The key priority is that the vehicle is roadworthy at the time you are stopped and your legal obligation to have your vehicle roadworthy at all times has not changed.

General Queries on test due date extensions

19. What vehicles were covered in the extension of the test due dates for commercial vehicles?

1. Any commercial vehicle with a first test due date falling during the period beginning on 28 March 2020 and ending on 30 June 2020, will have its test due date pushed forward by 3 months.
2. Any vehicle with a valid certificate of roadworthiness (CRW) on 28 March 2020 (i.e. test due date on or after 28 March 2020), will have its test due date pushed forward by 3 months.

20. Can I check online if my vehicle's test due date has been updated?

Yes, you can check that your test due date has been extended at <https://operator.cvr.ie/Vehicle/CRWExpiryTestReminder>.

21. Does the extension apply for all subsequent test due dates?

Yes, the regulations reset the test due date for those vehicles with a test due date on or after 28 March 2020 and this new date will then be the test due date for the future e.g. if a vehicle had a test due date of 1 April 2020, this will be extended to 1 July 2020 and if tested on time, its next test due date will be 1 July 2021.

22. When does the extension cease?

This is a single extension of the test due date by 3 months for CVR vehicles that held a valid CRW on 28 March 2020 or are due their **first** test between 28 March 2020 and 30 June 2020 inclusive.

23. Do I need to apply for an extension of the test due date for my vehicle?

No. It is not necessary to do so. The 3-month extension has been applied to all eligible vehicle records on the National Vehicle Driver File retained by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.

24. Will I be issued with a new CRW to cover the 3-month extension?

No, the RSA will not be issuing revised CRWs. The change in the test due date is recorded digitally on the vehicle record contained on the National Vehicle and Driver File. You can check that your test due date has been extended at <https://operator.cvr.ie/Vehicle/CRWExpiryTestReminder>.

25. Should I retain my expired CRW and continue to display it on the vehicle?

Yes – the most recent CRW issued in respect of the vehicle should be retained and displayed on the vehicle, even if it is out of date.

26. My vehicle was overdue a test on 28 March 2020, does the extension apply to that vehicle?

No, the extension will not apply as the CRW for the vehicle expired before 28 March 2020.

27. My vehicle was due its first test in early March 2020, do I get the 3-month extension?

No - if a vehicle's test due date was in early March 2020 but it had not passed its test by 28 March 2020, the vehicle will not be eligible for the extension (on the basis that the vehicle did not have a valid CRW on 28 March 2020).

28. My vehicle is an import from another Member State, does it qualify for the 3-month extension?

Yes – provided that the vehicle had a valid CRW on 28 March 2020.

29. Will the deferral of the test due date have an adverse impact on my RSA Commercial Vehicle Operator Risk Indicator (CVORI)?

In the case of vehicles that qualify for the extension, the deferral of the test due date will not affect their owners CVORI rating.

30. Do my legal obligations change because of the extension to the test due date?

No – your legal obligations relating to maintaining your vehicle in a roadworthy condition while in use do not change.

31. I am purchasing a vehicle; will I be able to see the original CRW expiry date?

When purchasing a vehicle, you are encouraged to request the seller to show you the original CRW.

You can check the current CRW expiry date at

<https://operator.cvrt.ie/Vehicle/CRWExpiryTestReminder>.

Other General Queries

32. Will roadside inspections/checkpoints continue in counties where there are level 4 and level 5 restrictions?

Yes, Roadside enforcement will continue.

33. I have misplaced my CRW, can I apply for a replacement?

The RSA continues to process applications for replacement CRWs and there are no significant delays in this regard. There is no need to apply for a replacement CRW to cover the 3-month extension period.

34. My vehicle is overdue a test? Will I be issued with a 'short' CRW?

Yes, if the vehicle is late for a test, a CRW for less than 12 months will be issued for the vehicle.

35. If I am asked for a CRW when abroad what should I present?

The RSA recommends that the most recent CRW for the vehicle, including trailers, should be presented together with any record of inspection carried out by an enforcement officer in the past three months.

Evidence of repairs, following a roadside inspection, on-going repairs and details of walk around checks conducted should also be carried by the driver to demonstrate on-going compliance.