

# drivercpc<sup>TM</sup>

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## DRIVERS CPC (EU DIRECTIVE 2003/59)

On 10 September 2008, all drivers of Passenger Carrying Vehicles will be required to attain the 'Drivers' Certificate of Professional Competence' to allow them to continue to drive professionally. With a few exceptions, established drivers will be required to undergo 35 hours of Periodic Training within a five year period from 10 September 2008 until September 2013 (CPC for LGV follows on exactly a year later - e.g.2009 - 2014).

New drivers acquiring their first vocational licence will be required to undergo Initial Qualification, consisting of four Test Modules. Once qualified, these drivers will also be required to undergo 35 hours of Periodic Training every five years' as driver CPC is an ongoing qualification.

## INITIAL QUALIFICATION

Initial Qualification will require candidates to undergo four Modules.

	Module 1 Theory Test	Module 2 Case studies	Module 3 Practical Test	Module 4 CPC Practical Test
Licence Acquisition only	*		*	
Full Driver CPC	*	*	*	*
Upgrade to Driver CPC		*		*

## THE MODULES ARE:

- Two hours 30 minutes theory test
- One hour 30 minutes theory test (case studies)
- One hour 30 minutes practical test
- 30 minutes practical demonstration of vehicle safety

Modules One and Two can be taken in any order, as can modules Three and Four. Candidates must complete module One before they can take module Three and must complete module Two before they can take module Four.

## THEORY TEST MODULE ONE

This module will be taken by candidates who want to acquire either a vocational licence only or a vocational licence and Driver CPC. It is based on the current licence acquisition theory test. From 1st July 2008, it will consist of 100 multiple choice questions and 19 hazard perception clips. Candidates will be allowed two hours 30 minutes to complete this module. The pass mark for the Theory Test will be 85% and the Pass Mark for the Hazard Perception Test will be 20 recognised hazards.

## THEORY TEST MODULE TWO

This module is to be taken only by candidates who want to acquire Driver CPC and will consist of a series of case studies which test the candidates deeper understanding, not just knowledge. Candidates will be allowed one hour 30 minutes to complete this module.

## PRACTICAL TEST MODULE THREE

This module is to be taken by candidates who want to acquire either a vocational licence only or a vocational licence and Driver CPC, and will follow the existing Driving Test procedures for Vocational Licences. The driving element will be extended to last one hour and 30 minutes.

The vehicle used for this module must comply with Minimum Test Vehicle requirements

## PRACTICAL TEST MODULE FOUR

This module is to be taken by candidates who want to acquire Driver CPC, and will consist of a series of questions that will require the candidate to demonstrate their knowledge of vehicle safety issues. This will follow the current proven "show me, tell me" methodology.

## NVT ROUTE

Drivers may be allowed to drive within the UK before obtaining a Driver CPC when they are undergoing a National Vocational Training course (NVT) of at least six months duration. In these circumstances, the exemption from Driver CPC will apply for twelve months from the date of licence acquisition or the date of signing onto the NVT. The driver will be required to complete test modules two and four to gain their Driver CPC. Module two must be taken and passed before module four can be taken. A driver may only use the exemption once. The driver will NOT acquire their Driver CPC simply by undertaking the NVT.

New drivers who undertake a National Vocational Training programme are able to split their licence acquisition and initial Driver CPC acquisition by up to one year whilst still being able to drive professionally. If the initial Driver CPC acquisition is delayed, the driver would have to return to the DSA test centre within one year in order to complete it and carry on driving professionally.

## THERE ARE A NUMBER OF DRIVER CPC EXEMPTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DIRECTIVE. THESE ARE LISTED BELOW:

- Drivers of...
- Vehicles with a maximum speed not exceeding 45 Kph
  - Vehicles used by the armed forces, civil defence, and emergency services
  - Vehicles undergoing road tests for technical development, repair or maintenance
  - Vehicles used in states of emergency

- Vehicles used in the course of driving lessons or examinations
- Vehicles used for non-commercial carriage of passenger or goods – for personal use
- Vehicles used for carrying material of equipment to be used by the driver in the course of his or her work, providing that driving the vehicles is not the drivers' principle activity

Ultimately, it is up to the driver and their employer to decide if they are covered by these exemptions, and if necessary, justify it to the competent authority.

## PERIODIC TRAINING

In order to fulfil the requirement of 35 Hours Periodic Training over a five year period, there are a number of factors that drivers should consider before booking their course.

## Training Providers

All Training Providers must be approved by DSAs 'Joint Approvals Unit for Periodic Training', which sets standards for CPC approved Centres and the courses they offer. For details of approved Training Providers go to [www.drivercpc-periodictraining.org](http://www.drivercpc-periodictraining.org). This site will also provide more info on Drivers CPC.

## LIST OF SUBJECTS

The Directive provides a syllabus consisting of three 'Modules'; 1) Advanced training in rational driving based on safety regulations; 2) Application of regulations; 3) Health, road and environmental safety, service, logistics. Within each of these modules are specific 'objectives' that are relevant to all licences, and some that are licence specific. For PCVs there are fourteen objectives that should be covered by training.

## COURSES

All courses must include no less than seven hours contact with a trainer, and be approved by JAUPT. Each course will also be monitored on a regular basis to ensure that it continues to meet the CPC requirements. There is also a requirement that where a course is longer than seven hours, all training hours of that course should be delivered within a 24 hour period. It is perfectly acceptable to complete all 35 hours of Periodic Training within the first year, or one seven hour period in the first year and then 28 hours in year five. As long as courses are approved, no less than seven hours duration and meet CPC criteria, any combination of courses within the five years can be undertaken. Indeed drivers might find it more convenient to use different training providers for different aspects of the training required.

Although part of the subject matter included in the Directive is driving related, there is no requirement for you to undergo practical driving as part of the course. Many providers are delivering training in a classroom environment; some are just conducting vehicle based tuition and others, both. While searching for your provider, investigate what style of delivery they use and consider what would benefit you most. Remember to check the credentials of the trainers who deliver the course; they too have to be approved, qualified and of a high standard.

## TESTS AND ASSESSMENT

While the Directive does require each candidates Periodic Training hours to be recorded, it does not require a test or assessment at the end of any course. This is a good thing if you are concerned about tests or have been away from a training environment for a while. However, it is good practice to evaluate a candidate's understanding of the content of a course, and to provide reference materials to be taken away for later use. An important point to check when researching the best value training to suit your budget.

## NVQ, BTEC AND OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

As part of the CPC Periodic Training, current qualifications can be used to achieve the appropriate number of hours as long as those courses are approved by JAUPT. Drivers that have already achieved Level 2 NVQ or BTEC status prior to 10 September 2008, would need to undergo further training to meet the requirements. It is possible to undergo the same training course every year, but this would provide little benefit to you or your company, is not felt to follow the spirit of the EU Directive, and those drivers with NVQs/BTECs would already have that qualification anyway. It is far more beneficial to receive training that enhances and develops existing knowledge and experience, and adds real value to you and your company.

## RECORDING OF PT HOURS

All Periodic Training hours must be recorded with the central body before they can be used to acquire the Drivers Qualification Card. Your training provider should do this for you as part of the service, but it is important to check this is done. DQCs will not be issued until all 35 hours PT have been achieved and recorded. Each registration of CPC PT Hours will cost £5, but again this should be included in the cost of your course.

## COSTS OF COURSES

Like all things in life the cost of anything and the 'Value for Money' we attach to it depends on how much we need it. With Driver CPC courses vocational drivers have no choice but to get training if they want to keep driving. The cost of courses will depend largely on location, length of training period, quality and the numbers attending. As a guide to costs it is envisaged that each seven hour course will cost between £100 and £125 per person. Obviously where a coach or bus operator had many drivers the cost could be negotiated and possibly reduced or the service enhanced to provide greater 'value for money'. Over the five year period it would be sensible to reckon on about £500-£600 per person to achieve Driver CPC qualification. It is also possible to conduct training that acquires funding from the relevant Learning and Skills Councils (LSCs) or funding body. As this is a mandatory qualification it is important to discuss with your provider possible funding options. Tangerine would always recommend doing a bit of research before committing to a training provider.



For further guidance and advice on DriverCPC Initial Qualification and Periodic Training go to [www.tangerine.uk.com](http://www.tangerine.uk.com) or contact us today to discuss your requirements. Telephone: 020 8795 3001 or Email: [business@tangerine.uk.com](mailto:business@tangerine.uk.com)