

The new Driver CPC (Driver Certificate of Professional Competence) should not be confused with the existing CPC (Certificate of Professional Competence) which is designed for Transport Manager etc., and companies who are applying for O (Operator) Licences. Drivers will still need* to obtain a Driver CPC, even if they hold a 'Management' CPC.

Driver CPC for PCV (D1, D1+E, D & D+E) commenced on 10th September 2008.
Driver CPC for LGV (C1, C1+E, C & C+E) commenced on 10th September 2009.

*A Driver CPC is required for all drivers who wish to be a professional driver (i.e. you wish to drive for a living). Examples of the exemptions are:-

- used for non-commercial carriage of passengers or goods, for personal use;
- undergoing road tests for technical development, repair or maintenance purposes, or of new or rebuilt vehicles which have not yet been put into service;
- used in the course of driving lessons for the purpose of enabling that person to obtain a driving licence or a Driver CPC;
- carrying material or equipment to be used by that person in the course of his or her work, provided that driving that vehicle does not constitute the driver's principal activity
- with a maximum authorised speed not exceeding 45 km/h;
- used by, or under the control of, the armed forces, civil defence, the fire service and forces responsible for maintaining public order;
- used in states of emergency or assigned to rescue missions

(An example of a driver (also known as "incidental driver") would be a brick layer who drives a load of bricks from the builder's yard to the building site and then spends their working day laying bricks. In this case, driving a lorry is incidental to their main occupation.)

Two routes to obtain a Driver CPC

- 1) Existing drivers (passed PCV driving test before 10th September 08 or LGV driving test before 10th September 09), 35 hours of Periodic Training in each five year period.
- 2) New drivers obtaining their Vocational Licence (driving test taken as from 10th September 08), pass CPC Case Study and CPC Practical Demonstration Test. Details as follows.

To obtain a Vocational Driving Licence (Swansea issued driving licence) you will need to pass:-

Part 1a – Licence Acquisition Theory Test, Multiple Choice, 100 questions, 2 hours. - £35.00

Part 1b – Licence Acquisition Theory Test, Hazard Perception, 19 clips, 45 minutes. - £15.00

Part 3 – Licence Acquisition Practical On-road Driving Test, 1 ¼ hour to 1 ½ hours. - £115.00 (weekday)

To obtain a Driver CPC (Swansea issued Driver Qualification Card) you will need to pass:-

Part 2 – Driver CPC Case Study, 7 case studies with 6 to 8 questions in each, 1 ¼ hours. - £30.00

Part 4 – Driver CPC Practical Demonstration Test, 30 minutes. - £55.00 (weekday)

Part 2, Case Study is an online test, taken at a normal DSA Theory Test centre and can be taken at any stage of the training but must be before the part 4 Practical Demonstration Test. Part 4 can be taken before the part 3 Practical On-road Driving Test but after passing the part 2 Case Study.

Until the system is full developed, we would imagine that most clients will follow the following route:-

- a) Obtain Provisional Driving Licence
- b) Pass Theory Test (Parts 1a & 1b) – On Line at Theory Test Centre
- c) Optional – Pass Driver CPC Case Study Test (Part 2) – On Line at Theory Test Centre
- d) Pass Practical On-road Driving Test (Part 3) – DSA Driving Test Centre
- e) Receive Full Vocational Licence from Swansea. Must retain Provisional Licence if planning to take Parts 2 and/or 4 within 3 to 4 weeks of passing part 3.
- f) Pass Case Study Test (Part 2) if not taken at c) – On Line at Theory Test Centre
- g) Pass Practical Demonstration Test (Part 4)
- h) Receive Driver Qualification Card (DQC) from Swansea. Must be carried at all time whilst driving professionally.