



# Safety Bulletin

February 2019

## Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC)

The Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (Driver CPC) is a qualification for professional lorry drivers. It has been introduced across Europe with the aim of improving road safety and helping to maintain high standards of driving.

This training is important because it will help lorry drivers refresh their skills and keep them up to date.

### What does this mean?

Driver CPC was introduced for all lorry licences (C1/C1E/C/CE) in September 2009. All drivers who held these licences at this date have to complete 35 hours of drivers CPC each 5 year period so when it came in in September 2009 they had to complete their first 5 year block by September 2014 then the next 5 year block September 2019 then so on in 5 year blocks.

Drivers who passed their lorry tests after 9<sup>th</sup> September 2014 should have completed what is known as initial drivers CPC. This is made up of two tests; module 2 driver CPC case studies, and module 4 which is a practical demonstration test covering load security, vehicle checks and emergency situation handling. Once the initial CPC card has been granted, this will be issued for 5 years, you then have to also complete the 35 hours of driver CPC training every 5 years, this means that the CPC period will not go in sync with those who already held their licences prior to September 2009.

In addition to the above scenario a number of drivers who never completed their driver CPC by 2014, this could be for a number of reasons, possibly due to not being in the industry at that time, however if they are looking to now go back to driving, there are two options open – either complete the first block of 5 CPC courses which will backdate their card to September 2014 and then do another block of 5 to keep their CPC current to 2019 and then still have another 5 to do between 2019 and 2024 OR they can do the module 2 and 4 (initial Driver CPC) route as described above.

### What does the training cover?

The training covers various aspects of professional driving. If you work in forestry you could ask if the training provider can carry out the training modules with forestry detail.

Exactly what's covered in your training will depend on the type of work you do, but it might include

- ecosafe and fuel-efficient driving;
- defensive driving techniques;
- first aid;
- health and safety;
- drivers' hours regulations;
- using tachographs.

Training is different in [Ireland](#)



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### **If you miss your training deadline**

It's illegal to drive professionally [if you have not done your training by your deadline](#)

### **Renewing your licence?**

Your deadline is shown on your card.

If you're over 45 or older you'll need to renew your large goods vehicle (LVG) every 5 years. After the age of 65, you'll need to renew every year.