

Step by Step guide to becoming a fully qualified LGV driver



There are several things to be considered before starting the process to become a fully qualified LGV (large goods vehicle) driver.

AGE

The minimum age at which you can obtain an LGV licence is 18 years. Between 18 and 21, LGV drivers must hold an initial Driver CPC qualification (regardless of whether the licence is intended to be used professionally or otherwise). For drivers over 21 years of age, the Driver CPC qualification is only a necessity if the licence is being used professionally.

HEALTH

STEP ONE

Before you apply for your provisional licence you will need to take a medical. This can be arranged with your local doctor, online or by your company or training provider. DMP Training can post you the relevant form (D4) or it is obtainable from the DVLA website www.gov.uk

PROVISIONAL ENTITLEMENT

After passing your medical it will be time to apply for your provisional LGV entitlement. In this example we will look at gaining the category C licence which is a rigid vehicle above 7.5 tonnes.

STEP TWO

Although application is free, you will need to fill in a form D2, also available from DMP Training or the DVLA website (www.gov.uk). Your completed application form should be sent to the DVLA at Swansea, accompanied by your completed D4 (medical form). The application form will also remind you to send your photocard driving licence.

Ensure that you read and complete the form carefully so as not to delay your application which will take between 10 to 14 days to process. This short delay will offer an ideal time to prepare for the theoretical parts of your test.

There are several theoretical tests to pass in the licence acquisition process.

STEP THREE

Once you have received your provisional licence, you can book your two-part theory test online (Modules 1a and 1b). You will also be able to book your Driver CPC Initial Case study (Module 2) test online at this stage.

THEORY TESTS

Module 1A

To pass the theory test (Module 1A) you are required to answer 100 multiple-choice questions. You must get at least 85 correct to be awarded a pass. The theory test exam lasts one hour and 45 minutes. The cost for the test is £26.

To help you pass this module DMP Training can support you with online training materials.

Module 1B

The Hazard Perception Test (Module 1B) consists of 20 hazard clips. You are required to identify potential hazards as and when they appear on the screen. The required pass mark is 67 out of 100. The cost for this test is currently £11.

To help you pass this module DMP Training can support you with online training materials.

If you fail the hazard perception test but have passed the theory test, then you only need to re-sit the hazard perception test, and vice versa.

Once you have passed both parts of the LGV licence theory tests your certificate will be valid for two years from the date of passing the first part of the test.

Case Study Theory Test (Driver CPC Module 2)

The Driver Certificate of Professional Competence is a qualification that all LGV drivers must take to be able to drive commercially, and any LGV drivers under 21 years of age, regardless of vehicle use. The test must be sat at a DSA-approved Theory Test Centre. The cost is £23.

You will be asked a variety of questions with multiple choice answers. The exam will use diagrams, video clips, text and audio to help illustrate the questions. Each test will consist of seven case studies and you will be asked six to eight questions per case study.

You will need to study for these tests, DMP Training can support you with online training materials.

PRACTICAL TESTS

STEP FOUR - Module 3 (Practical Test)

There are many good training providers around to prepare you for the practical driving test. Shop around, but remember the cheapest is not always the best. Look for a provider with a proven track record and compare first-time pass rates.

You will also need to consider the structure of the training provider. Is it a well-established local provider or a broker who relies on sub-contracted trainers? Both structures offer different potential advantages and possible drawbacks, so please ensure you make the correct choice for your own needs.

In general, it will take around five days of intensive driving to prepare you for your test. The test itself lasts approximately 90 minutes and takes in various types of road. This is carried out by a Driving Standards Agency (DSA) examiner.

If you want to use your LGV licence to earn a living, there is one more part of the initial qualification Driver Certificate of Professional Competence you will need to pass.

Module 4 (Practical Test Associated Knowledge) (Driver CPC)

Module 4 is a separate practical test that lasts for approximately 30 minutes. This test can be carried out at our approved test centre facility here in Rougham, Just off junction 45 of the A14. It is anticipated that approximately three hours of training will be required to prepare adequately for this exam. The DSA examiner will ask certain questions about vehicle and load, safety and security. You must demonstrate your answers using a vehicle and various restraining devices.

For example, part of the Module 4 test might be to carry out a pre-use vehicle check or demonstrate how you would secure a load using various restraining devices. Pre-training is essential to ensure success. The pass mark for Module 4 is 80%. However, you must get at least 75% in each subject area (five areas) to ensure success.

Once you have passed Module 4 you will be awarded a Driver CPC qualification and can drive professionally. This will be valid for five years. You must then complete 35 hours periodic training within those five years and every five years thereafter.

Congratulations!

You are now a qualified LGV driver with a Category C licence and Driver CPC qualified.

We also deliver Categories B+E and C1+E

