

# Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC)

**The Driver CPC is an EU requirement and from 10th September 2008 you will not be able to drive the vehicles of licence class D1, ED1, D and ED (buses) and from 10th September 2009 you will not be allowed to drive vehicles of class C1, EC1, C and ED without having first obtained your Driver CPC.**

**IT IS ABOUT SETTING** and maintaining high standards among drivers of trucks and buses with the ultimate goal of reducing fatalities and serious injuries on Irish roads. In Ireland in 2005 there were 46 deaths and 80 serious injuries caused by crashes involving either trucks or buses.

From these dates, in addition to holding a driving licence, all new bus and truck drivers will have to hold the Driver CPC.

Drivers who already have a full licence of classes C1, EC1, C and EC (trucks) and D1, ED1, D and ED (buses) when the new rules come into force will automatically be entitled to a Driver CPC without having to sit any more tests.

New drivers do not need to hold a **full** driving licence before undertaking the Initial Qualification for the CPC; however, a driver must hold a full driving licence in the appropriate category along with the CPC in order to drive professionally. While several options are available in the Directive 2003/59/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 15 July 2003, the RSA wishes to introduce the Driver CPC with the minimum of disruption to the industry and the

economy and has decided to adopt the following option for obtaining the initial qualification for the Driver CPC.

- The candidate will undergo a 4 hour theoretical test covering all the subjects in the Driver CPC syllabus. This test will consist of multiple choice and/or direct questions as well as 3 half hour case studies. The case studies will be developed after the consultation process and examples will be made available to the public.
- The candidate will also do a practical test lasting 2 hours which will have 2 parts:
  - a) A Driving test lasting at least 90 minutes on the road.
  - b) A 30 minute test covering the candidate's knowledge of safety, a practical demonstration of the candidate's knowledge of the vehicle and its components and their knowledge of documentation required to drive professionally.

While this option for obtaining a driver CPC does not involve mandatory

training, it will be up to the candidate to prepare adequately in order to pass the tests. The RSA anticipates that demand for training will lead the driver training industry to develop training courses for candidates wishing to obtain the Driver CPC.

As much of the content of the current driving test is contained in the Driver CPC practical test, it is intended to combine the current driving test and the Driver CPC practical test. At present, the practical driving test lasts for approximately an hour (depending on conditions). The Driver CPC practical test will contain all the elements of the current driving test over an extended test route.

All drivers will have to renew their CPC every 5 years following 35 hours of periodic training.

The Road Safety Authority (RSA) is the administrative body in Ireland for the new Driver Certificate of Professional Competence and they are currently carrying out a consultation programme to give stakeholders their opportunity to have their say.

Source and more details can be found on the RSA website: [www.rsa.ie](http://www.rsa.ie) ■