

**Department of Transport  
Gibraltar**



# **Driver Certificate of Professional Competence**

**Information Booklet**



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## Introduction

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### **What is Driver CPC?**

Driver CPC is a Certificate of Professional Competence for professional bus and lorry drivers. Its purpose is to set and maintain high standards of safety and driving among drivers of lorries and buses.

Driver CPC was introduced in Gibraltar on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2008 for bus drivers and the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2009 for lorry drivers. From these dates on professional drivers will need to take part in periodic training.

If you are a new driver you will have to undertake the Driver CPC theory and practical driving tests before getting a Driver CPC qualification. If you already have a licence for a bus or lorry (D/C licence) you are deemed to hold Driver CPC by acquired rights, however you must complete your periodic training within five years of the introduction of CPC in order to maintain your CPC entitlement.

### **Is Driver CPC the same as Transport Manager CPC?**

Transport Managers CPC is completely separate to Driver CPC and is a qualification requirement for all Transport Managers applying for a Road Haulage Operators Licence or a Road Passenger Transport Operators Licence.

The Transport Managers CPC course focuses on national and international requirements for professional competence and involves set up, operating and maintenance of a transport company.

Driver CPC focuses on health and safety, Eco driving and road safety and its aim is that all professional drivers have good driving and safety standards and that those standards are maintained throughout their professional driver's career. The Department of Transport is responsible for the introduction of the Driver CPC.

### **Why is the Department of Transport implementing Driver CPC in Gibraltar?**

The Department of Transport has introduced Driver CPC in Gibraltar because a European Directive 2003/59/EC says that professional drivers must get better training. At the moment many professional drivers in the EU are working without the benefit of training or the opportunity to regularly refresh their skills.

## Information for drivers

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### **How does Driver CPC affect existing drivers (Holders of C/D licences)?**

If you had a full licence for a lorry or bus before Driver CPC came into force which was the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2008 for buses and the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2009 for lorries, you have acquired rights. However, you must do 35 hours of periodic training over the next five years. Your driving licence is evidence of your acquired rights to CPC.

### **How does Driver CPC affect new drivers?**

If you want to become a professional bus driver after the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2008 or a professional lorry driver after the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2009 you will have to do a Driver CPC examination. The examination includes:

- o two hour multiple choice theory test,
- o two hour case study theory test,
- o 90 minute driving test, and
- o 30 minute practical test.

Once you have completed and passed the four parts of the Driver CPC examination you can apply for a driving licence in that category together with the Driver CPC code.. You will then have to do 35 hours of periodic training over the next five years to maintain your Driver CPC.

You will have to pass all 4 exams to receive your Driver CPC.

### **What is Periodic Training?**

Periodic training is training that all professional drivers must complete at least 35 hours training every five years to keep their Driver CPC.

The training covers areas such as road safety, environmental driving and issues involving the health and well being of professional drivers. It does not involve a driving test or assessment.

Periodic training will help you improve your knowledge and skills to make sure that you are a driver of the highest professional standard. It will also help you to keep up to date with the changes in the industry and to benefit from training throughout your professional career.

### **What does the CPC theory and case studies tests involve?**

The new Driver CPC theory test is a multiple choice test and consists of 100 multiple choice questions, with 61 correct answers needed to pass. This test can last up to two hours.

The case studies consist of three short scenarios which describe various situations which a driver might face and there are 15 questions on each case study (45 in total). To pass this test the driver must give correct answers to 28 of the 45 questions; a minimum of at least 5 questions must be passed on each case study. This test can last up to two hours.

It will be possible to take both tests on the same day.

### **Where can I get information to assist me in passing the CPC theory tests?**

Revision material for the CPC theory tests is available from the Department of Transport.

### **What does the CPC Practical Knowledge test involve?**

The practical knowledge test involves a 30 minute test on areas such as safety; passenger comfort; legal matters relating to driving; vehicle loading and stability; ability to deal with an emergency and physical risks involved in driving.

This test is usually taken directly after the driving test; the vehicle used for the driving test is required for this session.

## Bus drivers/Lorry drivers

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### **How does Driver CPC affect me as a Professional Driver?**

If you are already a professional bus driver on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2008/ professional lorry driver on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2009, you will get acquired rights for Driver CPC. Your licence should have the date of issue before the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2008 (for bus drivers), or 10<sup>th</sup> September 2009 (for lorry drivers), which will be evidence of you driver CPC.

You will then have to do 35 hours of periodic training over the next five years in an approved training centre. When you complete all your periodic training within the five years you will get the corresponding Community code on your driving licence. If you do not complete the 35 hours of periodic training within the five years you cannot work as a professional driver. There are penalties for drivers who drive professionally without their Driver CPC qualification.

### **How do I become a professional bus driver after the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2008 / professional lorry driver after the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2009?**

To become a professional bus driver after the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2008 / professional lorry driver after the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2009, you will have to pass two theory tests (2 hours each), a 90 minute driving test and a 30 minute practical knowledge test. You need to pass the two CPC theory tests before you take the driving test and practical knowledge test.

When you pass all four parts of the Driver CPC exam you will get your bus or lorry category driving licence together with the corresponding Community code.

In order to maintain your Driver CPC, you will have to do 35 hours of periodic training over the next five years in an approved training centre.

## Other information about Driver CPC

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### When do I NOT need Driver CPC?

If you drive any of the vehicles listed below, you do not need Driver CPC. These are:

- o vehicles not allowed to travel at more than 45 kilometres per hour;
- o vehicles used or controlled by the Defence Forces, Civil Defence, the Fire Service and forces responsible for maintaining public order;
- o vehicles undergoing road tests for technical development, repair or maintenance, or new or rebuilt vehicles which have not been put into service;
- o vehicles used in states of emergency or for rescue missions;
- o vehicles used for driving lessons for anyone who wants to get a driving licence or a CPC;
- o vehicles used for carrying passengers or goods for personal use and not for business; and
- o vehicles carrying materials or equipment that the driver uses as part of their work, as long as driving the vehicle is not the driver's main activity.

### What do I do if I am both a professional bus and lorry driver?

If you have both a bus and lorry licence, you will have to do six days of training in five years (42 hours of periodic training in 5 years). There are four training modules which must be completed by both bus and lorry drivers; there is one module which is specific to bus drivers; and one which is specific to lorry drivers. A driver with both a bus and a lorry licence to maintain will be required to complete all six modules every five years. *Please see appendix 2 for a list of all six training syllabus titles.*



## **What are the benefits of Driver CPC?**

Both professional drivers and the transport and road haulage industries will benefit from the introduction of Driver CPC in Gibraltar. Some of these benefits are:

### **Better, safer drivers**

- o Driver CPC means that professional drivers will have better driving skills. This will lead to less accidents on our roads and protect more vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, motorcyclists, cyclists, children and older people. It will also save employers the costs of vehicle repair and loss of trade.

### **Career paths for professional drivers**

- o The drivers' profession will be regulated to make sure that all professional drivers have the skills they need to work in the industry. The introduction of Driver CPC will create a level playing field for the road haulage and passenger transport industries. Quality standards will improve and they will be monitored and maintained to a high quality which matches the best in Europe.

### **Healthier drivers**

- o There are concerns for all professional drivers about their health, lifestyle, eating habits, symptoms and effects of fatigue and stress and work life balance. Periodic training will help address these issues.

### **Environmental and economic benefits**

- o The "Momenta Report" for the Department for Transport in the UK (on the Safe and Fuel Efficient Driver Training Programme Autumn 2005) showed that the right driver training would reduce fuel consumption by an average 9.5%. Even reducing it by 5% would save 169,000 tonnes of oil a year, or about 192 million litres. Reduced fuel consumption combined with better use of load transportation will reduce costs. Every tonne saved would save about £ 1000.

## **Why did the Department of Transport choose the test only option?**

The Department of Transport looked at all options the EU Directive gave countries to implement Driver CPC. The Department of Transport chose the test only option so that the new professional drivers can prepare for the test in a way that best suits their individual learning style.

The test only option is likely to have the least impact upon the industry in recruiting new drivers.

## Appendix 1

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### Drivers with Acquired Right

- o Acquired rights by having your bus licence on or before the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2008 / lorry licence on or before the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

- o Date of issue of licence is proof of acquired rights.

- o Complete 35 hours of training in each five year period.

- o The corresponding Community code will be added to your driving licence once you complete your training.

## Appendix 2

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### CPC Periodic Training Syllabus Titles:

Course Title	Length of Course	Compulsory Training
Control of Vehicle and Eco Driving Techniques	7 hours	Yes
Minimising Risks and Managing Emergencies in the Transport Industry	7 hours	Yes
Health and Safety of the Professional Driver	7 hours	Yes
Role of the Professional Driver in the Transport Industry	7 hours	Yes
The Professional Lorry Driver	7 hours	Yes, if you are a professional lorry driver
The Professional Bus Driver	7 hours	Yes, if you are a professional bus driver

## Appendix 3

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### Becoming a Professional Driver – Initial Qualification

