

# DRIVING LICENCE



Please read the notes on pages 1 to 3 before completing the application form on page 4. The notes are a summary of the main requirements on applying for a driving licence. They do not represent a complete statement of the law.

## NOTES

### A. WHO MAY APPLY?

You may apply for a driving licence if:

- \* you hold a driving licence which will expire within one month and you wish to renew it, or
- \* you held a driving licence which expired less than 10 years ago and you wish to renew it, or
- \* you hold a driving licence and you wish to have an additional category of vehicles added to it and a driving test is not required, or
- \* you have recently passed a driving test, or
- \* you are exchanging a current valid driving licence issued by another member State of the European Union or of the European Economic Area or another "recognised state". See Section K.

Provided that you are not disqualified by age, ill-health or otherwise from applying for or holding a driving licence.

### B. THEORY TEST CERTIFICATE

If you applied for a first provisional licence in the period 25 April 2001 to 10 June 2001, you must submit a theory test certificate for the relevant licence category, with your driving licence application, unless you have already submitted such a certificate.

### C. NORMAL RESIDENCE IN IRELAND

An applicant for a driving licence must be normally resident in Ireland. In this connection, you shall be regarded as having your normal residence in Ireland if, because of personal and occupational ties, you usually live here for at least 185 days in each calendar year. However, if you have personal ties in Ireland and occupational ties in another country which require absences from this country, you may still be regarded as being normally resident in Ireland provided that you return here regularly. Working abroad on a specific task for a definite duration, or attending a foreign university or college, shall not imply that you have transferred your normal residence to another country.

### D. PERIOD OF LICENCE

- \* If you are under 60 years of age you may apply for a 10 year or 3 year licence
- \* If you are over 60 but under 67 years of age you may apply for a licence which will expire when you reach 70 years of age or for a 3 year licence
- \* If you are over 67 but under 70 years of age you may apply for a 3 year licence
- \* If you are over 70 years of age you may apply for a 3 year or 1 year licence, subject to certification of fitness to drive by your doctor.

The deciding age is your age on the first day of the period for which the licence is being granted.

A one year licence may be granted in exceptional circumstances where, for medical reasons, a longer term of licence cannot be granted.

### E. FEE

The fee for a driving licence is:

1 year licence €5	10 year licence €25
3 year licence €15	Licence up to age 70 (not more than 10 year) €25

On or after 1st February, 2002 there shall be a nil fee in respect of an application for a driving licence where the applicant is 70 years of age or more on the commencement day of the licence.

### F. PHOTOGRAPHS

Your application must be accompanied by two identical passport-type photographs. The reverse side of both photographs should be signed by you.



Approximate size  
of photographs  
needed  
3.5cm x 4.5cm

### G. CURRENT/LAST LICENCE TO ACCOMPANY APPLICATION

Your application for the issue or renewal of a driving licence must be accompanied by:

- \* your current or most recently issued driving licence, if you hold a driving licence or held one within the previous ten years, and
- \* your current or most recently issued provisional licence, if you hold a provisional licence or held one within the previous five years (unless your most recent provisional licence has been superseded by the issue of a driving licence).

### H. LOST/STOLEN LICENCE

If your most recent licence was lost or stolen, you must complete a lost licence declaration form (Form D8 "A") at your local Garda Station. This form must then be forwarded to the Motor Taxation Office with your application.

### I. HEALTH AND FITNESS

Your application must be accompanied by a medical report if:

- \* you are applying for a driving licence in respect of any of the categories C1, C, D1, D, EC1, EC, ED1 or ED unless you have previously provided a medical report which is still applicable
- \* you will be 70 years of age or more on the first day of the period for which the licence is being granted

- \* you suffer from any of the disabilities or diseases listed on this page
  - \* you have ever suffered from alcoholism or epilepsy
  - \* you are taking, on a regular basis, drugs or medicaments which would be likely to cause the driving of a vehicle by you to be a source of danger.
- If a medical report is required in your case you should
- \* obtain a copy of the medical report form (ref. D501)
  - \* undergo a medical examination by a registered medical practitioner
  - \* and ask him/her to complete the medical report

[You must sign the Declaration on the medical report form in the presence of the registered medical practitioner].  
Please note that it is not necessary to answer questions 19-25 if your application is accompanied by a medical report.

In addition, a person who suffers from serious arrhythmia which has at any stage resulted in loss of consciousness is particularly advised to consult his/her doctor before applying for a licence.

A person who is dependent on or regularly abuses psychotropic substances is disqualified from holding any provisional licence or driving licence.

If you have any doubts about your physical or mental fitness to drive you should consult a doctor.

#### J. EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY

If applying in person, the licensing authority may in its absolute discretion, request you to provide evidence of identity. The types of documentation which are acceptable in this connection are specified in regulations. Examples of the types of documentation that will be accepted in this connection include a passport; a birth certificate; a marriage certificate; a certificate of registration; a cheque book; a cheque card; a credit card; a credit union membership card; a bank, building society or savings bank book; a Social Welfare payment book; a signing-on card or free travel card; a medical card; an employee or student identity card.

#### K. EXCHANGE OF LICENCE

If you are exchanging a current licence or a licence which has expired for less than 10 years issued by another member state of the European Union or of the European Economic Area, or a current licence or a licence which has expired for less than one year issued by a country designated as a "recognised state" for driving licence exchange purposes, you must also submit Declaration form D.900. This form, which is essentially a declaration that the licence which you are surrendering for exchange purposes is both current and valid, is obtainable from your local Motor Taxation Office.

#### L. WHERE TO APPLY

You should apply to the licensing authority (Motor Taxation Office) in the County/City in which you reside for a driving licence.

### CHECKLIST

Your application for a driving licence should include:

#### IN ALL CASES

- \* A completed application form (ensure that you have signed the label on page 4)
- \* two photographs (signed on back)
- \* your current or most recent driving licence and/or provisional licence
- \* the appropriate fee

#### AND, IF REQUIRED IN YOUR CASE,

- \* A medical report
- \* A Certificate of Competency, if you have recently passed a driving test.
- \* Declaration re lost/stolen licence (Form D8 "A")
- \* Driver Theory Test Certificate

Remember that you may also be asked to produce evidence of identity so bring an acceptable document with you if you are calling personally (see note J).

### DISABILITIES AND DISEASES

A medical report is required if you suffer from any of the following disabilities or diseases

- \* alcoholism
- \* any physical disablement which is likely to affect your ability to drive safely
- \* any illness which requires the regular use of psychotropic substances
- \* any illness or disease which requires the regular use of medications likely to affect ability to drive safely
- \* cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, serious diseases of the blood
- \* diplopia, defective binocular vision or loss of visual field
- \* encephalitis, multiple sclerosis, myasthenia gravis or hereditary diseases of the nervous system associated with progressive muscular atrophy and congenital myotonic disorders
- \* epilepsy, diseases of the peripheral nervous system, trauma of the central or peripheral nervous system
- \* cerebrovascular diseases, lesion with damage to spinal cord and resultant paraplegia
- \* mental disturbance due to disease or trauma of, or operation upon, the central nervous system
- \* severe mental retardation, psychosis, psychoneurosis or personality disorders
- \* serious hearing deficiency
- \* any disease of the genito-urinary system (including renal disorder) which is likely to affect ability to drive safely

## CATEGORIES OF VEHICLES/MINIMUM AGE OF DRIVER

Category	Minimum Age	Vehicle	Category	Minimum Age	Vehicle
A1	16	Motorcycles with an engine size of 51-125cc and/or a speed capability over 45km/h, and with a power rating not exceeding 11kw, with or without sidecar	D	21	Vehicles with passenger accommodation for more than 8 persons
A	18	Motorcycles with or without sidecar	EB	17	Vehicles in category B with a trailer attached
B	17	Vehicles with passenger accommodation for not more than 8 persons and with a design g.v.w. not exceeding 3,500kg	ECI	18	Vehicles in category C1 with a trailer attached – the combination must not exceed 12,000kg
C1	18	Vehicles with passenger accommodation for not more than 8 persons and with a design g.v.w. over 3,500kg but not over 7,500kg	EC	18	Vehicles in category C with a trailer attached
C	18	Vehicles with passenger accommodation for not more than 8 persons and with a design g.v.w. over 3,500 kg	EDI	21	Vehicles in category D1 with a trailer attached – the combination must not exceed 12,000kg
D1	21	Vehicles with passenger accommodation for more than 8 persons but not more than 16 persons	ED	21	Vehicles in category D with a trailer attached
			M	16	Two-wheeled vehicles with an engine size not exceeding 50cc and/or a speed capability not more than 45km/h
			W	16	Work vehicles and land tractors, with or without a trailer attached

“Passenger accommodation” means seating accommodation for passengers in addition to the driver. “Design g.v.w.” means design gross vehicle weight (i.e. design laden weight). Manufacturers generally refer to it as gross vehicle weight (g.v.w.) and it is usually displayed on a metal plate attached to the vehicle by the manufacturer.

## CODED INFORMATION

Certain additional information or restrictions relating to the holding of a driving licence may be noted on a licence in coded format. Due to the limited size of the licence, and the consequential limited amount of details that can be noted on it, the codes enable the noting of specific additional information or restrictions relating to a driver on his/her licence that would otherwise not be possible. The codes that may be noted on driving licences are as follows:-

01	Must wear corrective lenses	40	Modified Steering
02	Must wear hearing aid	42	Modified rear-view mirrors
03	Limb prosthesis/orthesis	43	Modified driving seat
10	Modified transmission	45	Motorcycles with side-car only
15	Modified clutch	70	Exchange of recognised driving licence
20	Modified accelerator system	71	Duplicate licence
25	Modified braking system	73	Tricycles and quadricycles only
30	Modified combined braking and transmission accelerator system	78	Restricted to vehicles with automatic transmission
35	Modified controls layout	100	Restricted to vehicles adapted to suit disability of licensee
		101	Licence renewable subject to medical report

All of the codes listed above, with the exception of codes 100 and 101, are harmonised European Union codes and are consequently recognised and understood in all Member States of European Union and of the European Economic Area

## WARNING

Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1961 – No. 24 of 1961 – provides that any person driving a mechanically propelled vehicle in a public place must hold a current provisional or driving licence in respect of the vehicle category being driven. Any person contravening this requirement is liable to prosecution and penalties.

Section 115 of the Road Traffic Act, 1961 – No. 24 of 1961 – provides that any person applying for a provisional or driving licence shall not furnish false or misleading information in connection with such application. Any person contravening this requirement is liable to prosecution and penalties.

