

GSDRIVERTRAINING

YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE

Driver CPC: What You Need to Know

Initial qualification, periodic training, and everything in between.

Driver CPC is mandatory for all professional HGV and bus drivers

Whether you are starting your career as an HGV driver or maintaining your existing qualification, the Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (Driver CPC) is a legal requirement for anyone driving for hire or reward. This guide explains what it is, how to get it, and how GS Driver Training can support you every step of the way.



Award-Winning School

6 consecutive industry awards for training excellence.



DVSA-Approved Training

All CPC periodic training delivered to DVSA standards.



Flexible Scheduling

Weekday and weekend courses available across Surrey.

What is the Driver CPC?

The Driver CPC is a qualification introduced across the EU (and retained in the UK post-Brexit) to raise professional driving standards and road safety.

The Driver CPC applies to anyone who drives a vehicle over 3.5 tonnes (HGV/LGV) or a vehicle with more than eight passenger seats (bus/coach) for hire or reward – in other words, professionally. It does not apply to private use of such vehicles.

Two types of Driver CPC (from December 2024)

Type	Who it covers	Periodic training
National CPC	UK-only professional driving	7-hour sessions count in full
International CPC	UK and EU professional driving	Sessions must be at least 7 hours; partial sessions may not count for EU purposes

Who is exempt?



Emergency Services

Police, fire, ambulance, and armed forces drivers using vehicles in the course of their duties are exempt from Driver CPC.



Agricultural & Forestry

Drivers of agricultural or forestry vehicles on public roads within a limited radius of their base are exempt.



Test & Repair

Vehicles undergoing road tests for technical development, repair, or maintenance purposes are exempt.



Non-Commercial Use

Driving an HGV or bus for personal, non-commercial purposes does not require Driver CPC.



Important: Driving without a valid Driver CPC is a criminal offence

If you drive professionally without a valid Driver Qualification Card (DQC), you and your employer can both face prosecution and fines. Always ensure your DQC is in date before starting any professional driving role.

The Initial CPC Qualification

New drivers who have not held a professional driving licence before must pass the Driver CPC Initial Qualification alongside their practical driving tests. The Initial Qualification consists of four parts, which must all be passed before you can drive professionally.

1

Part 1a — Multiple Choice Theory Test

100 multiple-choice questions covering road safety, regulations, and professional driving knowledge. You must score at least 85 out of 100 to pass. The test is taken at an approved DVSA theory test centre. Fee: £26.

2

Part 1b — Hazard Perception Test

19 video clips showing real driving scenarios. You must identify developing hazards by clicking the mouse. A minimum score of 67 out of 100 is required. Taken at the same sitting as Part 1a. Fee: £11.

3

Part 2 — Case Studies

Seven case study scenarios testing your ability to apply knowledge to real-world professional driving situations. You must score at least 40 out of 50. Fee: £23.

4

Part 3a & 3b — Practical Tests

Part 3a covers off-road exercises (vehicle safety checks, manoeuvres). Part 3b is the on-road driving test. You must pass Part 3a before taking Part 3b. These are the same practical tests taken for your HGV or PCV driving licence — passing them satisfies both requirements simultaneously.



Acquired Rights

If you held a professional driving licence before the Driver CPC was introduced (10 September 2008 for bus/coach, 10 September 2009 for HGV/LGV), you may have acquired rights and only need to complete periodic training — not the full Initial Qualification. Contact the DVLA to confirm your entitlement.

Periodic Training: 35 Hours Every 5 Years

Once you hold a Driver CPC, you must complete 35 hours of approved periodic training every five years to keep it valid.

Periodic training keeps your knowledge and skills current and is a legal requirement for continued professional driving. Training must be delivered by a DVSA-approved training centre and recorded on the DVSA's national register. Each completed course is added to your Driver Qualification Card (DQC) record automatically.

How periodic training works



Approved Subjects

Training can cover a wide range of subjects: safe and fuel-efficient driving, load security, customer service, first aid, health and safety, and more.



Session Length

Each session must be at least 7 hours (for National CPC). Sessions can be spread across multiple days — you do not need to complete all 35 hours at once.



Five-Year Cycle

Your DQC shows the expiry date of your current CPC cycle. You must complete all 35 hours before this date or your entitlement to drive professionally lapses.



Driver Qualification Card

Your DQC is issued by DVLA and must be carried when driving professionally. Replacement cards cost £35. The card is renewed automatically when your training record is complete.

GS Driver Training periodic courses

GS Driver Training offers DVSA-approved periodic training courses covering the most popular and practical subjects. Courses are available as full-day (7-hour) sessions and can be booked individually or in blocks. We keep group sizes small to ensure every driver gets maximum value from each session. Call us on **01252 447808** to discuss your training schedule and book your place.



Don't leave it to the last minute

Many drivers try to complete all 35 hours in the final weeks before their DQC expires. Availability can be limited at peak times. We recommend spreading your training across the five-year cycle — one 7-hour session per year keeps you compliant without the last-minute rush.

Costs, Timeline & FAQs

Driver CPC cost summary

Item	Approximate Cost
Part 1a Multiple Choice (DVSA fee)	£26
Part 1b Hazard Perception (DVSA fee)	£11
Part 2 Case Studies (DVSA fee)	£23
Part 3a Off-Road Exercises (DVSA fee)	£55 (weekday)
Part 3b On-Road Test (DVSA fee)	£115 (weekday)
Driver Qualification Card (DQC)	Included with licence application
DQC Replacement	£35
Periodic Training (per 7-hour session)	Contact GS for pricing

DVSA fees correct as of 2026. Training course fees vary – contact us for a quote.

Common questions



Do I need CPC for private use?

No. Driver CPC only applies when driving for hire or reward. Using an HGV or bus for personal purposes does not require CPC.



Can I drive abroad with UK CPC?

A UK National CPC is valid for UK driving only. If you drive in the EU, you need an International CPC. Speak to us about the difference.



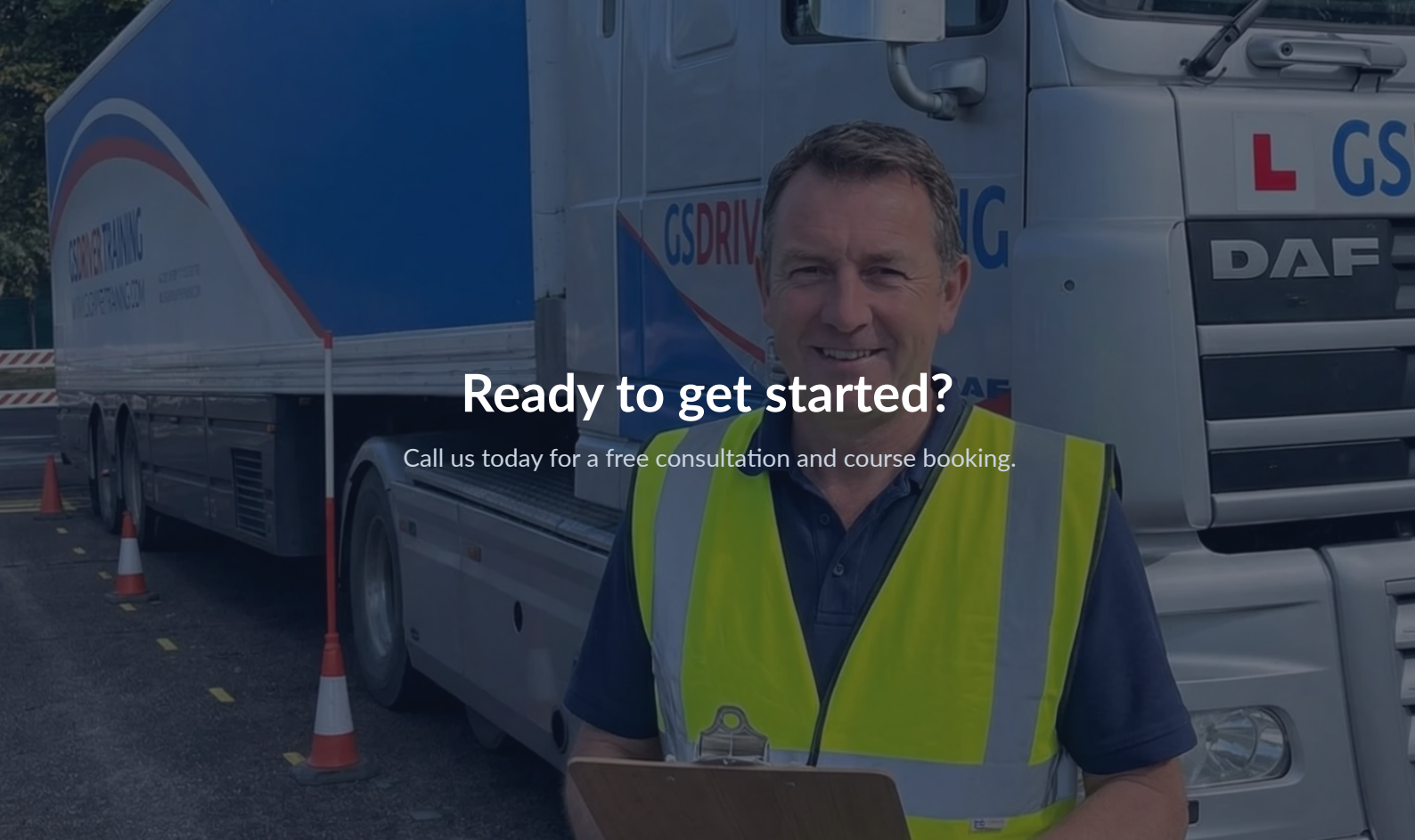
What if my DQC expires?

You cannot drive professionally until you complete the outstanding periodic training hours and your DQC is renewed. There is no grace period.



Does CPC replace my driving licence?

No. You must hold both a valid driving licence for the vehicle category and a valid Driver CPC. They are separate requirements.



Ready to get started?

Call us today for a free consultation and course booking.

Contact Us

Phone: 01252 447808

Email: gary@gsdrivertraining.com

Web: www.gsdrivertraining.com

Training base: Surrey, serving the South East and beyond.

Male and female instructors available. Flexible scheduling to suit your work pattern.

Courses Available

- ✓ Driver CPC Initial Qualification
- ✓ Driver CPC Periodic Training (35 hrs)
- ✓ Category C Rigid HGV
- ✓ Category C+E Articulated
- ✓ Category C1 Medium Vehicles
- ✓ PCV / Minibus / Ambulance
- ✓ Tachograph & Transport Manager

 **Best HGV Training Company – 6 Consecutive Industry Awards**

DVSA Test-Standard Training • Fully Insured • DBS-Checked Instructors • 5-Star Rated

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