

GSDRIVERTRAINING

YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE

Category C+E Articulated HGV Licence

Everything you need to know to get your Class 1 HGV licence.

The Category C+E is the highest HGV qualification — and the most in-demand

A Category C+E licence (Class 1 or artic licence) allows you to drive an articulated lorry — a tractor unit pulling a trailer over 750 kg. It opens the door to the highest-paid driving roles in UK logistics. You must already hold a Category C licence before training for C+E. This guide explains every step.



Award-Winning

Best HGV Training Company — 6 consecutive years.



Expert Instructors

Male and female instructors, small groups.



DVSA Test-Standard

All training to current DVSA standards.

What Does Category C+E Allow You to Drive?

The UK has several HGV licence categories. Understanding which one you need — and which you already have — is the first step.

Category	What you can drive	Common name
C1	Vehicles 3.5–7.5 tonnes (e.g. large vans, ambulances)	Medium goods
C	Rigid lorries over 3.5 tonnes (no trailer over 750 kg)	Class 2 / rigid HGV
C+E	Articulated lorries — tractor unit + trailer over 750 kg	Class 1 / artic
C1+E	Vehicles 3.5–7.5 tonnes towing a trailer over 750 kg	Medium + trailer

Why C+E is the most valuable HGV licence



Highest Earning Potential

Class 1 drivers typically earn £35,000–£55,000+ per year, significantly more than Class 2 drivers.



International Opportunities

C+E opens the door to European and international haulage work.



Widest Job Market

The vast majority of haulage job adverts require a C+E licence.



Career Progression

C+E is the natural progression from Cat C and expected by most major logistics employers.

Prerequisites and Eligibility

You must hold a Category C licence before training for C+E

Unlike Category C, which can be trained for from scratch, C+E requires you to already hold a full Category C (rigid HGV) licence. If you do not yet have Cat C, GS can train you for both – starting with Cat C and progressing to C+E.

Full eligibility checklist



Hold Category C Licence

You must hold a full Category C licence (not provisional). This is a legal requirement before C+E training can begin.



Minimum Age 18

You must be at least 18 years old. There is no upper age limit provided you pass the medical.



Pass the D4 Medical

A Group 2 medical examination (DVLA D4 form) is required. Covers vision, blood pressure, heart health, and other conditions.



Provisional C+E Entitlement

Apply to DVLA to add provisional C+E to your licence. This is free and done online or by post using form D2.



Theory Tests

LGV theory: Part 1a multiple choice (£26), Part 1b hazard perception (£11), Part 2 case studies (£23) – if not already held.



UK Driving Licence

You must hold a full UK driving licence (Category B car licence minimum).



Already have Cat C? You can start C+E training immediately

If you already hold a full Category C licence and have passed your theory tests, you can go straight into C+E practical training. Contact GS Driver Training to discuss your situation and get a tailored training plan.

Step-by-Step: From Cat C to C+E Licence

- 1

Hold a Full Category C Licence
Ensure your Cat C licence is full (not provisional). If you need Cat C first, GS can train you for both in sequence.
- 2

Apply for Provisional C+E Entitlement
Apply to DVLA to add provisional C+E to your licence (form D2 or online). This is free. Allow 1–3 weeks for processing.
- 3

Pass the Theory Tests (if not already held)
LGV theory: Part 1a multiple choice (£26), Part 1b hazard perception (£11), Part 2 case studies (£23). Valid for 2 years.
- 4

Book Your Practical Training with GS
GS will assess your current driving standard and create a tailored training plan. C+E training typically takes 3–5 days for experienced Cat C drivers.
- 5

Take the Practical Test
The C+E practical test has two parts: Module 3a (off-road exercises — reversing, uncoupling/recoupling) and Module 3b (on-road driving). Test fee: £115.
- 6

Receive Your Full C+E Licence
On passing, DVLA updates your licence to show full C+E entitlement. You are now qualified to drive articulated lorries professionally.



Driver CPC — required for paid work

To drive professionally (for hire or reward), you must also hold a Driver CPC qualification. If you do not already have it, GS can include the CPC Initial Qualification modules in your training package.

What Does C+E Training Cost?

Costs below assume you already hold a full Category C licence. If you need Cat C first, add approximately £2,500–£3,500.

Item	Cost	Notes
DVLA provisional C+E application	Free	Form D2 online or post
Theory – Part 1a (multiple choice)	£26	DVSA fee, if not already held
Theory – Part 1b (hazard perception)	£11	DVSA fee, if not already held
Theory – Part 2 (case studies)	£23	DVSA fee, if not already held
D4 medical examination	£50–£100	GP or approved doctor
C+E practical training (3–5 days)	£1,500–£2,500	Varies by experience level
Practical test – Module 3a + 3b	£115	DVSA fee
Approximate total (C+E only)	£1,725–£2,775	Excluding Cat C prerequisite

Typical timescale



DVLA Application

1–3 weeks to add provisional C+E to your licence.



Theory (if needed)

2–4 weeks of study plus test booking time.



Training to Test

3–5 days training + 1–4 weeks test waiting time.



Funding options available

Skills Bootcamps may provide fully funded C+E training for eligible candidates. Employer funding, recruitment agency sponsorship, and personal finance options are also available. Ask GS for details.



Ready to get your C+E licence?

Call us today to discuss your training options and get a personalised quote.

Contact Us

Phone: 01252 447808

Email: gary@gsdrivertraining.com

Web: www.gsdrivertraining.com

Training base: Surrey, serving the South East.

All Courses Available

- ✓ Category C+E Articulated (Class 1)
- ✓ Category C Rigid HGV (Class 2)
- ✓ Category C1 Medium Vehicles
- ✓ PCV / Minibus / Ambulance
- ✓ Driver CPC Initial Qualification
- ✓ Driver CPC Periodic Training
- ✓ Tachograph & Compliance



Best HGV Training Company – 6 Consecutive Industry Awards

DVSA Test-Standard Training • Male & Female Instructors • 5-Star Rated • DBS-Checked

GS DRIVER TRAINING

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