

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

How Long Does HGV Training Take?

Realistic timescales for every licence category.

The honest answer: faster than you might think

Many people are surprised by how quickly they can get an HGV licence. The practical training itself is typically just 3–7 days. The total time from deciding to get your licence to holding it in your hand is usually 4–12 weeks — most of that is waiting for DVLA processing and DVSA test slots, not actual training time.



Fast-Track Available

Intensive training packages can get you test-ready in as little as one week.



Flexible Scheduling

Train around your work commitments with flexible booking options.



High Pass Rates

Award-winning instruction means fewer resits and faster qualification.

The Complete HGV Licence Timeline

Here is a realistic week-by-week timeline for getting a Category C (Class 2) HGV licence from scratch. Other categories follow a similar pattern.

- 1 Week 1–2: Medical and DVLA Application**
Book and attend your D4 Group 2 medical examination (£50–£100). Complete DVLA form D2 to apply for a provisional HGV licence. Allow 1–3 weeks for DVLA to process and return your updated licence.
- 2 Week 2–4: Theory Tests**
Study for and pass the three LGV theory tests: Part 1a (multiple choice), Part 1b (hazard perception), and Part 2 (case studies). Most candidates study for 2–4 weeks. Tests can be booked at any DVSA theory test centre.
- 3 Week 4–6: Practical Training**
Once your provisional licence arrives and theory tests are passed, book your practical training with GS. Cat C training typically takes 5–7 days. C+E training (if you already have Cat C) takes 3–5 days.
- 4 Week 5–8: Practical Test**
Book your DVSA practical test (Module 3a + 3b). Current waiting times vary by region — typically 1–4 weeks. GS will book this for you as part of your training package.
- 5 Week 6–10: Receive Your Licence**
On passing your test, DVLA updates your licence within 1–2 weeks. You are now a qualified HGV driver.

 Fast-track: licence in as little as 4 weeks

If your medical is done quickly, theory tests are booked promptly, and a test slot is available, the entire process can be completed in as little as 4 weeks. GS Driver Training can help you move through each stage as efficiently as possible.

Training Duration by Licence Category

Training duration varies by category and by your starting experience. The figures below are for candidates with no prior HGV experience unless stated.

Category	Description	Training days	Total weeks
C1	Medium vehicles 3.5–7.5t	3–5 days	4–8 weeks
C (Class 2)	Rigid HGV from scratch	5–7 days	5–10 weeks
C+E (Class 1)	Artic (Cat C already held)	3–5 days	3–6 weeks
D1	Minibus up to 16 passengers	3–5 days	4–8 weeks
D (PCV)	Full bus licence	5–7 days	5–10 weeks
Driver CPC Initial	4-module qualification	4 days + tests	4–8 weeks

What affects how long it takes?



DVLA Processing Time

The DVLA typically takes 1–3 weeks to process a provisional licence application. This is outside anyone's control.



DVSA Test Availability

Test slot waiting times vary by region and time of year. Currently 1–4 weeks in most areas.



Theory Test Preparation

How long you need to study depends on your learning pace. Most candidates are ready in 2–4 weeks.



Your Driving Experience

Candidates with more driving experience (e.g. van drivers, ex-military) typically need fewer training days.

What to Do While You Wait

The waiting periods (DVLA processing, test slots) are unavoidable — but you can use them productively to prepare and stay on track.



Study for Theory Tests

Use the DVSA official study materials and practice apps. The LGV theory bank has around 700 questions — aim to know them all.



Book Your D4 Medical Early

Do not wait for your provisional licence before booking your medical. Book it as soon as you decide to get your HGV licence.



Research Employers

Use the waiting time to research haulage companies, apply for jobs, and understand what employers are looking for.



Sort Your Funding

If you are applying for a Skills Bootcamp or employer sponsorship, start the application process early — funding can take time to confirm.



Keep Your Car Driving Sharp

Regular car driving keeps your hazard perception skills sharp and makes the transition to HGV easier.



Talk to GS Driver Training

Contact GS to discuss your training plan, get a quote, and reserve a training slot so you are ready to start the moment your provisional arrives.



Start the medical and DVLA application on the same day

You do not need to wait for your medical result before applying to DVLA. Submit your D2 form and book your D4 medical on the same day to save 1–2 weeks.

How to Get Qualified as Quickly as Possible

If you need your HGV licence urgently — for a job offer, a career change, or any other reason — here is how to compress the timeline as much as possible.

1

Book your D4 medical immediately

Do not delay the medical. Book it today. Many private clinics can see you within a few days. Cost: £50–£100.

2

Submit your DVLA D2 application online

The online application is faster than post. Submit it the same day as your medical. Allow 1–3 weeks.

3

Book all three theory tests in advance

You can book theory tests before your provisional licence arrives. Book all three parts at the same time to avoid gaps.

4

Study intensively for theory

With focused study, most candidates are ready for the theory tests within 1–2 weeks. Use the official DVSA practice app.

5

Book practical training with GS immediately

Contact GS Driver Training now to reserve your training slot. Popular slots fill up — do not wait until your provisional arrives.

6

Book your practical test in advance

GS will book your DVSA practical test as part of your training package. Earlier booking means less waiting.

**Call GS today to start your fast-track plan**

GS Driver Training can create a personalised fast-track plan for your specific situation. Call 01252 447808 or email gary@gsdrivertraining.com to get started.



GS DRIVER TRAINING

Your licence could be closer than you think

Call GS Driver Training today to get your personalised timeline.

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

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