

YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE

How to Get Your HGV Licence

Everything you need to know — from eligibility to your first day on the road.

Start a rewarding career in HGV driving

Industry bodies estimate that tens of thousands of new HGV drivers will be needed each year to support demand and replace drivers leaving the sector. Whether you are looking for a career change, returning to the road, or upskilling to a higher licence category, this guide walks you through every step of the process — from the medical examination to your first full licence.



Award-Winning School

6 consecutive industry awards
for training excellence.



Male & Female Instructors

Choose an instructor you feel
comfortable with.



DVSA Test-Standard Training

All training is delivered to DVSA
test standards for LGV, HGV,
CPC & PCV.

STEP 1

Choose the Right Licence Category

HGV licences are split into categories based on vehicle weight and configuration. Understanding which category you need is the first step.

Category	Vehicle Weight	What it covers
C1	3,500 – 7,500 kg	Medium-sized vehicles such as large vans, ambulances, and smaller trucks. A popular starting point for many drivers.
C1+E	C1 + trailer	A C1 vehicle towing a trailer where the combined weight exceeds 3,500 kg.
C	Over 3,500 kg	Rigid lorries over 3,500 kg. This is the standard HGV category for most freight and logistics roles.
C+E	C + trailer	Articulated lorries (artics) and drawbar combinations. The highest HGV entitlement, required for most long-haul and distribution work.

Which category should I start with?

Most new HGV drivers begin with Category C (rigid) and progress to Category C+E (articulated) once they have gained experience. If you are interested in ambulance driving or specialist vehicles, Category C1 may be the right entry point. Our team will advise you on the most direct route to your career goal – call us on **01252 447808** for a free consultation.

Did you know?

If you passed your car driving test before 1 January 1997, you may already hold automatic entitlement to drive certain vehicles up to 7,500 kg. Check your driving licence or contact the DVLA to confirm your existing entitlements before booking any training.

Check Your Eligibility & Pass the Medical

Basic eligibility requirements



Minimum Age

You can usually start HGV training from age 18, provided you meet the Driver CPC and licence requirements. Some non-professional or restricted circumstances may differ.



Car Licence

You must hold a full Category B (car) driving licence before applying for any HGV category.



Residency

You must be normally resident in Great Britain. EU/EEA licence holders may need to exchange their licence first.



No Disqualification

You must not be currently disqualified from driving. Some endorsements may affect your application — check with the DVLA.

The D4 Medical Examination

All HGV licence applicants must pass a Group 2 medical examination (form D4) conducted by a registered GP or approved medical practitioner. The examination covers the following areas:

Vision — You must meet the Group 2 standard: at least 6/7.5 in the better eye and 6/60 in the worse eye (with correction if needed). A field of vision test is also required.

Blood pressure — Must be below 180/100 mmHg. Readings above this threshold will require further assessment.

Diabetes — Insulin-treated diabetics may hold an HGV licence subject to annual medical review and DVLA approval. The November 2025 CGM rules now allow continuous glucose monitoring as evidence.

Heart conditions — A history of heart disease, pacemakers, or arrhythmia must be declared. Many conditions are manageable with the right documentation.

Sleep apnoea — Untreated obstructive sleep apnoea is a bar to licensing. Treated and controlled sleep apnoea is generally acceptable.

Epilepsy — A seizure-free period of at least 10 years off medication is required for Group 2 licences.



Renewal frequency

HGV and bus licences normally need renewing every 5 years, and annually from age 65. A Group 2 medical is required at application, at age 45, and on subsequent renewals. Plan ahead — the DVLA recommends applying at least 3 months before your licence expires.

The Training & Test Process

From provisional licence to full entitlement — here is the complete journey.

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Apply for a Provisional HGV Licence (Form D2/D4)

Complete form D2 (application for a provisional driving licence) and form D4 (medical report). Send both to the DVLA in Swansea. Processing typically takes 3–6 weeks, though the DVLA recommends allowing up to 6 weeks. You cannot begin your theory test until your provisional licence is issued.

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Pass the Theory Tests

HGV applicants must pass two separate theory tests: the **multiple-choice test** (100 questions, 85 correct required) and the **hazard perception test** (19 clips, 67 out of 100 required). Both are taken at an approved DVSA test centre. GS Driver Training provides comprehensive theory test preparation materials to all students.

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Complete Your Practical Training

Practical training is conducted in a modern, DVSA-approved training vehicle with a qualified instructor. The number of training days required varies by individual, but most Category C students require 5–7 days before they are test-ready. Category C+E typically requires an additional 2–4 days on top of Category C. Training covers vehicle checks, manoeuvres, road driving, and tachograph operation.

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Pass the Practical Driving Test

The practical driving stage is split into Driver CPC Part 3a (off-road exercises) and Part 3b (on-road driving). You must pass Part 3a before taking Part 3b. A pass means you can apply for your full licence. GS Driver Training has an above-average first-time pass rate thanks to our structured, one-to-one training approach.

What about the Driver CPC?

All professional HGV drivers who drive for hire or reward must hold a Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (Driver CPC). New drivers must pass the **Driver CPC Initial Qualification** (two additional theory modules and a practical demonstration test) before they can drive professionally. Existing licence holders must complete 35 hours of periodic training every 5 years to maintain their CPC. GS Driver Training offers both initial qualification and periodic training courses.

Costs, Timescales & Funding Options

Typical cost breakdown

Item	Approximate Cost
D4 Medical Examination	£50 – £100
DVLA Provisional HGV Licence Application	Free
Driver CPC Part 1a Multiple Choice	£26
Driver CPC Part 1b Hazard Perception	£11
Driver CPC Part 2 Case Studies	£23
Category C Practical Training (5–7 days)	£1,200 – £2,000
Category C+E Top-Up Training (2–4 days)	£700 – £1,200
DVSA Practical Test Fee	£115 (weekday)
Driver CPC Initial Qualification	£300 – £500

Costs are approximate and subject to change. Contact us for a personalised quote.

Funding options



Employer Sponsorship

Many logistics companies will fund HGV training in exchange for a minimum service period. Ask your employer or prospective employer before self-funding.



Skills Bootcamps

Government-funded Skills Bootcamps for HGV drivers are available in some regions. Eligibility varies — check gov.uk for current availability.



Finance Plans

GS Driver Training can discuss flexible payment arrangements to spread the cost of training. Ask us about available options when you enquire.



Recruitment Agency Funding

Some specialist logistics recruitment agencies offer funded training in exchange for placement into roles within their client network.

How long does it take?

From initial enquiry to holding a full Category C licence typically takes 8–14 weeks, depending on DVLA processing times and test availability. Category C+E adds a further 4–6 weeks. We will give you a realistic timeline at your initial consultation.

Ready to get started?

Our team is ready to guide you through every step of the process.



Contact Us

Phone: 01252 447808

Email: gary@gsdrivertraining.com

Web: www.gsdrivertraining.com

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

We offer male and female instructors, flexible scheduling, and one-to-one training throughout.

Courses Available

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



Best HGV Training Company – 6 Consecutive Industry Awards

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

GS DRIVER TRAINING

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Information correct at time of print. Always verify current DVLA and DVSA requirements.