

# GSDRIVERTRAINING

**GS DRIVER TRAINING**  
www.gsdrivertraining.com

YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE

## Category C1 & Ambulance Driver Training

The essential licence for ambulances, patient transport, and medium vehicles.

### Drive ambulances and medium vehicles with a Category C1 licence

Most ambulances, patient transport vehicles, and large specialist vans exceed the 3,500 kg limit of a standard car licence. A Category C1 licence allows you to drive vehicles between 3,500 kg and 7,500 kg — covering the vast majority of ambulances and medium-sized commercial vehicles. GS Driver Training specialises in C1 training for both emergency services and private sector operators.



#### Award-Winning School

6 consecutive industry awards for training excellence.



#### Ambulance Specialists

Experienced in training ambulance and patient transport drivers.



#### DVSA Test-Standard Training

All training delivered to DVSA standards.

# What is the Category C1 Licence?

Category C1 sits between the standard car licence (Category B, up to 3,500 kg) and the full HGV licence (Category C, over 3,500 kg).

| Category  | Vehicle Weight          | Typical vehicles                                                          |
|-----------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| B (car)   | Up to 3,500 kg          | Cars, small vans, light 4x4s                                              |
| <b>C1</b> | <b>3,500 – 7,500 kg</b> | <b>Ambulances, patient transport, large vans, box trucks, horse boxes</b> |
| C1+E      | C1 + trailer            | C1 vehicle towing a trailer (combined weight over 3,500 kg)               |
| C         | Over 3,500 kg           | Rigid lorries – full HGV                                                  |

## Who needs a C1 licence?



### Ambulance Drivers

NHS and private ambulance services. Most frontline ambulances weigh between 4,000 and 6,000 kg fully loaded.



### Patient Transport

Non-emergency patient transport vehicles (PTS) used by NHS trusts, private operators, and voluntary services.



### Specialist Vehicles

Large equipment vans, mobile workshops, horse boxes, and motorhomes over 3,500 kg.



### Medium Freight

Box trucks, curtainsiders, and refrigerated vehicles in the 3.5–7.5 tonne range used in local delivery and distribution.



### Pre-1997 C1 entitlement

If you passed your car test before 1 January 1997, you may already have automatic C1 entitlement (up to 7,500 kg) on your licence. Check your photocard driving licence or contact the DVLA. If you have this entitlement, you may only need to pass a medical and apply to the DVLA to activate it – no practical test required.

# Eligibility & Medical Requirements

## Basic eligibility



### Minimum Age

You must be at least 18 years old to apply for a Category C1 licence.



### Car Licence

You must hold a full Category B (car) driving licence before applying.



### Residency

You must be normally resident in Great Britain.



### No Disqualification

You must not be currently disqualified from driving.

## The D4 Medical Examination

C1 applicants must pass a Group 2 medical examination (form D4). This is the same medical standard required for full HGV and PCV drivers. It is conducted by a registered GP or approved medical practitioner and covers:

**Vision** — Group 2 standard: at least 6/7.5 in the better eye and 6/60 in the worse eye (with correction). Field of vision test required.

**Blood pressure** — Must be below 180/100 mmHg.

**Diabetes** — Insulin-treated diabetics may hold a C1 licence subject to annual DVLA review. CGM monitoring now accepted (November 2025 rules).

**Heart conditions** — Must be declared; many conditions are manageable with the right documentation.

**Sleep apnoea** — Untreated sleep apnoea is a bar to licensing; treated and controlled is generally acceptable.

**Epilepsy** — 10 years seizure-free off medication required.



### Renewal frequency

C1 licences are renewed every 5 years, and annually from age 65. Each renewal requires a new D4 medical. The D4 medical costs approximately £50–£100 depending on your GP or medical provider.

# The Training & Test Process

From provisional licence to full C1 entitlement.

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## Apply for a Provisional C1 Licence (Form D2/D4)

Complete form D2 (provisional licence application) and form D4 (medical report). Send both to the DVLA in Swansea. Allow 3–6 weeks for processing. You cannot begin theory tests until your provisional licence is issued.

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## Pass the Theory Tests

C1 applicants must pass two 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 theory test centre. GS Driver Training provides comprehensive theory test preparation materials.

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## Complete Practical Training

Practical training is conducted in a DVSA-approved training vehicle of the appropriate category. Most C1 students require 3–5 days of training. Training covers vehicle safety checks, manoeuvring, road driving, and – where relevant – patient loading procedures for ambulance roles.

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## Pass the Practical Driving Test

The practical test includes a vehicle safety check, off-road manoeuvres, and an on-road drive. A pass means you can apply for your full C1 licence entitlement. GS Driver Training has an above-average first-time pass rate.

## Do I need Driver CPC for C1?

Driver CPC is required if you drive a C1 vehicle for hire or reward – for example, as a paid ambulance driver or patient transport driver. It is not required for private use of a C1 vehicle. If your employer requires CPC, GS Driver Training can provide the full Initial Qualification and periodic training courses.



### How long does it take?

From initial enquiry to holding a full C1 licence typically takes 4–8 weeks, depending on DVLA processing times and test availability. We will give you a realistic timeline at your initial consultation.

# Costs & Career Paths

## Typical cost breakdown

| Item                                           | Approximate Cost       |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| D4 Medical Examination                         | £50 – £100             |
| DVLA Provisional C1 Licence Application        | Free                   |
| Theory Test – Multiple Choice (DVSA fee)       | £26                    |
| Theory Test – Hazard Perception (DVSA fee)     | £11                    |
| Category C1 Practical Training (3–5 days)      | Contact GS for pricing |
| DVSA Practical Test Fee                        | £115<br>(weekday)      |
| Driver CPC Initial Qualification (if required) | Contact GS for pricing |

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

## Career opportunities with a C1 licence



### NHS Ambulance Service

Frontline ambulance technician and paramedic roles with NHS ambulance trusts across England, Scotland, and Wales.



### Private Ambulance

Private ambulance operators providing event medical cover, repatriation, and non-emergency transport services.



### Patient Transport Services

Non-emergency patient transport roles with NHS trusts and private operators – regular hours and stable employment.



### Medium Vehicle Delivery

Local and regional delivery roles using vehicles in the 3.5–7.5 tonne range – a growing sector with strong demand.



# 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](mailto:gary@gsdrivertraining.com)

**Web:** [www.gsdrivertraining.com](http://www.gsdrivertraining.com)

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

Male and female instructors. Flexible scheduling to suit shift patterns.

## Courses Available

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



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

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

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