

1. What are the different categories of licences?

- Category B – Car licence
- Category C – Otherwise known as Rigid and HGV Class 2 licence. Can also pull a small trailer weighing no more than 750KG
- Category C+E - Otherwise known as Articulated, or Artic and HGV Class 1 licence. A tractor Unit with a large trailer weighing over 750KG

2. Why are there changes to HGV driver training?

The government has recently introduced changes to legislation relating to HGV licence acquisition. This is try to address the nationwide HGV driver shortage by fast-tracking licence acquisition.

3. What are the main changes?

Until recently, a Category C test had to be passed prior to attending training on a C+E (Articulated) lorry; this is no longer the case. Anyone who has a Category B (car) licence will be now be able to add a provisional C+E to that licence, and should they choose to, attend a 10-day course completing a minimum of 30 hours practical training (including 2 hrs iDCPC) before their test. This will give them a C+ E licence.

4. Will CTP deliver the 10-day fast track course?

CTP will be delivering the 10-day fast track course in limited numbers from the 1st October 2022 and will retain our other programmes in order to ensure that demand is met from those Service leavers who already have a Cat C licence, and for those who wish to only gain a Cat C licence. The 10 day fast track course is ideal (Although not essential) for those who have entitlement and previous experience driving larger vehicles such as vans and C1 class small lorries, due to the fact that a reversing test will be taken early in the course and previous experience in driving a larger vehicle than a car would be beneficial.

How will CTP deliver HGV driver training?

CTP will offer a:

- a. 10-day Car to C&E Fast Track course
- b. 5-day Cat C licence course
- c. 5-day C+E licence course
- d. 7 day DCPC/ADR.

The time spent on Cat C or C+E training is the same as the fast track course (10 days if completing Cat C and C+E). For Service leavers attending both, this will mean that through CTP, they will develop the driving skills in a more progressive manner starting with Cat B and working towards the C+E licence via the rigid Cat C.

5. What will the test be at the end?

All C+E tests, regardless if the learner is doing a short course having previously achieved a Cat C licence, or attending a fast track course from a Cat B licence, will change from a single road driving test, to now become a split test:

- Part 3a – reversing
- Part 3b – driving on the road
- Part 4- (practical demonstration test) for those who need to complete the initial DCPC

6. How much is the Cat C+E test?

The new test is priced at £155, split between £40 for part 3a and £115 for part 3b (plus £55 for Part 4 iDCPC) total £210

7. Do I need to pass part 3a before attempting part 3b?

All learners must pass part 3a at least 24 hours before attempting 3b. Part 3a, will almost certainly need to be taken as early as possible so that room for retests can be achieved.

8. Will I still be able to complete a Cat C licence if I want to?

Yes, CTP will retain the current format of Category C and Category C+E, delivered over 5 days for each course. You will still be able to attend the Part 4 of the initial DCPC on the CTP Category C Professional Driving Course.

9. I already have a Category C licence. Can I do a 5-day C+E upgrade like before?

Yes, CTP will continue to deliver the 5-day C+E course as normal and the new 3a/b test will be included.

10. Do I need to pass my CTP Category C course before booking onto the C+E?

You no longer need to Pass the Cat C test before booking your C+E course. You will need C+E provisional entitlement on your licence though. You may be able to do this using the DVLA email system see below:

Drivers with a provisional lorry or bus/coach entitlement, issued before 15 November that require these extra provisional entitlements **will need to apply to DVLA by emailing their full name, date of birth and driving licence number to Extraprovisional@dvla.gov.uk** and these drivers will be issued with confirmation of their entitlements to allow them to learn and sit their test.

If you have not yet completed a medical or applied for the provisional, if you select C1 or C you will be given the full C+E provisional until the D2 provisional forms are updated.

11. What funding can I use for my HGV driver training?

CTP HGV Driver training courses are Contract Funded and so are pre-paid by the MOD. The only contributions you will make are 5 or 10 days of your Graduated Resettlement Time (per course attended) and payment for the test fees are currently £210 for category C+E and £170 for Category C (Including Part 4). You may be able to use your SLC for the exam fees; your SRA can advise on this.

12. Can I use ELCAS funding?

Recent changes to ELCAS rules allow Service leavers to use ELCAS funding for HGV Driver training with ELCAS approved providers. Normal ELCAS rules will apply with the Service leaver having to pay a 20% contribution to the training fees; your SRA can advise on this.

13. Do I still need to complete Driver CPC?

Yes, the legislation surrounding the requirement to complete either the Initial or Periodic DCPC has not changed (yet) and the previous requirements relating to new drivers or those with acquired rights remains in place.

You can complete parts 3 and 4 of the initial Driver CPC whilst attending the CTP Category C Professional Drivers Programme and the Car to C&E Fast Track course, or for those who have already completed this or have acquired rights, CTP will continue to deliver the Driver Certificate of Professional Competence with ADR as part of the Contract Funded Programme.

14. Is this new fast track training applicable for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland also?

These changes are valid across England, Wales and Scotland. Rules for Northern Ireland are available here <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/motoring/buses-lorries-trailers-and-caravans>

For further information and the latest Government updates on changes to driving and testing regulations, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/changes-to-hgv-and-bus-driving-tests-from-autumn-2021>