

PROVISIONAL LICENCE

Please read the notes on pages 1 to 3 before completing the application form on page 4.
The notes are a summary of the main requirements on applying for a provisional licence.
They do not represent a complete statement of the law.

NOTES

A. PROVISIONAL LICENCE

A provisional licence is a licence issued to enable a person to learn to drive and to apply for a driving test. Driving with a provisional licence is subject to certain conditions in the interests of the safety of the driver and other road users. You must hold a licence for the category of vehicle you are driving (see warning on page 3) and comply with the conditions attached to the licence while you are driving.

B. PERIOD OF LICENCE AND FEE

A provisional licence is generally issued for a period of two years and is subject to a fee of €15.

On or after 1st February, 2002 there shall be a nil fee in respect of an application for a driving licence where the applicant is 70 years of age or more on the commencement day of the licence.

C. DRIVER THEORY TEST

All applications for a first provisional licence must be accompanied by a theory test certificate for the category concerned. Please refer to Information Leaflet DL1.

D. WHO MAY APPLY

You may apply for your first Provisional licence for vehicles in:-

- category A 1, A, B, M or W without any previous driving experience
- category C 1, C, D 1 or D after you have been granted a driving licence for category B
- category EB, EC 1, EC, ED 1 or ED after you have been granted a driving licence for the appropriate drawing vehicle e.g. you must hold a driving licence for category C in order to apply for a provisional licence for category EC.

If you have previously held, or are currently the holder of, a provisional licence in relation to a category of vehicles and if such licence was, or is, your first such provisional licence, you may apply to have a second provisional licence issued in relation to that vehicle category.

However, you **MAY NOT** apply for a third or subsequent provisional licence in respect of a particular vehicle category unless you can submit either of the following with your application -

- (a) evidence of having undergone a driving test in the vehicle category in question in the two year period prior to application, or
- (b) evidence of a forthcoming driving test appointment in respect of the vehicle category in question.

If you submit (a) above with your application, you will be granted a two year provisional licence. If you cannot submit (a) above with your application and instead can only submit (b) above, you will be granted a one year provisional licence.

A person shall be regarded as an applicant for a first provisional licence in respect of a particular vehicle category if s/he has not held such a licence in the preceding five years. In addition, you **MAY NOT** apply for a provisional licence if you are disqualified by age, ill health or otherwise or if you do not have your normal residence in Ireland.

E. NORMAL RESIDENCE IN IRELAND

In this connection, you shall be regarded as having your normal residence in Ireland if, because of personal and occupational ties, you usually live here for at least 185 days in each calendar year. However, if you have personal ties in Ireland and occupational ties in another country which require absences from this country, you may still be regarded as being normally resident in Ireland provided that you return here regularly. Working abroad on a specific task for a definite duration, or attending a foreign university or school, shall not imply that you have transferred your normal residence to another country. Furthermore, you **MAY NOT** apply for a provisional licence in respect of a particular vehicle category if you already hold a full driving licence in respect of that category which was issued by the competent authority in a Member State of the European Union or of the European Economic Area.



Approximate size
of photographs
needed
3.5cm x 4.5cm

F. PHOTOGRAPHS

Your application must be accompanied by two identical passport-type photographs. The reverse side of both photographs should be signed by you.

G. BIRTH CERTIFICATE/PASSPORT

Your application must be accompanied by a birth certificate or passport unless

- you hold a current driving licence or provisional licence, or
- you held a driving licence within the last ten years or a provisional licence within the last five years, or
- you hold a current valid driving licence issued by another Member State of the European Union or another "recognised country".

In certain instances, a certificate of registration may be submitted with a provisional licence application instead of a birth certificate or passport.

H. CURRENT/LAST LICENCE TO ACCOMPANY APPLICATION

Your application for the issue or renewal of a provisional licence must be accompanied by:

- your current or most recently issued driving licence, if you hold a driving licence or held one within the previous ten years, and
- your current or most recently issued provisional licence if you hold a current provisional licence or held one within the previous five years (unless your most recent provisional licence has been superseded by the issue of a driving licence).

I. EYESIGHT REPORT

A first time application for a provisional licence must be accompanied by a satisfactory eyesight report. (ref. D.502)
If an eyesight report is required in your case, you should

- obtain a copy of an eyesight report form (ref. D.502)
- have your eyesight tested by a registered ophthalmic optician or by a registered medical practitioner
- ask him/her to complete the eyesight report.

You must sign the Declaration on the eyesight report form in the presence of an optician or doctor.

J. MEDICAL REPORT

An application for a first provisional licence for category C1, C, D1, D, EC1, EC, ED1 or ED must be accompanied by a medical report (ref. D.501) unless you have previously provided a satisfactory medical report which is still applicable. Your application for a provisional licence for any category must be accompanied by a medical report if –

- you will be 70 years of age or more on the first day of the period for which the licence is being granted
- you suffer from any of the disabilities or diseases listed below
- you have ever suffered from alcoholism or epilepsy
- you are taking, on a regular basis, drugs or medicaments which would be likely to cause the driving of a vehicle by you to be a source of danger.

If a medical report is required in your case you should

- obtain a copy of a medical report form (ref. D.501)
- undergo a medical examination by a registered medical practitioner
- ask him/her to complete the medical report.

You must sign the Declaration on the medical report form in the presence of the registered medical practitioner.

In addition, a person who suffers from serious arrhythmia which has at any stage resulted in loss of consciousness is particularly advised to consult his/her doctor before applying for a licence.

A person who is dependent on or regularly abuses psychotropic substances is disqualified from holding any provisional licence or driving licence. If you have any doubts about your physical or mental fitness to drive you should consult a doctor.

K. EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY

The licensing authority may, in its absolute discretion, request you to provide evidence of identity. Some documents which will be accepted for this purpose are a passport; a birth certificate; a marriage certificate; a certificate of registration; a cheque book; a cheque card; a credit card; a credit union membership card; a bank, building society or savings bank book; a Social Welfare payment book; signing-on card or free travel card; a medical card; an employee or student identity card or a travel document containing your name and photograph. You are advised to bring one of these documents with you if applying in person.

L. WHERE TO APPLY

You should apply to your local licensing authority (Motor Taxation Office) for a provisional licence.

M. L PLATES

All provisional licence holders, with the exception of those who hold provisional licences in category A 1, A, M or W, are required at all times to display L plates on the vehicle which they are driving.

N. ACCOMPANIMENT REQUIREMENTS

All provisional licence holders, with the exception of those who hold provisional licences in category A1, A, M or W or those who hold a second such licence in category B, are required to be accompanied by a qualified driver at all times while driving. A qualified driver is a person who holds a full licence in the vehicle category being driven by the provisional licence holder.

O. MOTORCYCLISTS

A person applying for a first time provisional licence in category A shall be restricted to driving motorcycles with an engine power rating not exceeding 25 kW. On passing a category A driving test, such person shall be further restricted to driving motorcycles with an engine capacity not exceeding 25kW for the first two years after taking out a full driving licence in category A. Only thereafter shall such person be entitled to drive motorcycles with an engine power rating exceeding 25 kW.

DISABILITIES AND DISEASES

A medical report is required if you suffer from any of the following disabilities or diseases –

- alcoholism
- any physical disablement which is likely to affect ability to drive safely
- any illness which requires the regular use of psychotropic substances
- any illness or disease which requires the regular use of medications likely to affect ability to drive safely
- cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, serious diseases of the blood
- diplopia, defective binocular vision or loss of visual field
- encephalitis, multiple sclerosis, myasthenia gravis or hereditary diseases of the nervous system associated with progressive muscular atrophy and congenital myotonic disorders
- epilepsy, diseases of the peripheral nervous system, trauma of the central or peripheral nervous system
- cerebrovascular diseases, lesion with damage to spinal cord and resultant paraplegia
- mental disturbance due to disease or trauma of, or operation upon, the central nervous system
- severe mental retardation, psychosis, psychoneurosis or personality disorders
- serious hearing deficiency
- any disease of the genito-urinary system (including renal disorder) which is likely to affect ability to drive safely.

CATEGORIES OF VEHICLES/MINIMUM AGE OF DRIVER

| Category | Minimum Age | Vehicle |
|----------|-------------|---|
| Al | 16 | Motorcycles with an engine size of 51-125 cc and/or a speed capability over 45 km/h, and with a power rating not exceeding 11 kW, with or without sidecar |
| A | 18 | Motorcycles with or without sidecar |
| B | 17 | Vehicles with passenger accommodation for not more than 8 persons and with a design g.v.w. not exceeding 3,500 kg |
| C1 | 18 | Vehicles with passenger accommodation for not more than 8 persons with a design g.v.w. over 3,500 kg but not over 7,500 kg |
| C | 18 | Vehicles with passenger accommodation for not more than 8 persons and with a design g.v.w. over 3,500 kg |
| D 1 | 21 | Vehicles with passenger accommodation for more than 8 persons but not more than 16 persons |
| D | 21 | Vehicles with passenger accommodation for more than 8 persons |
| EB | 17 | Vehicles in category B with a trailer attached |
| EC1 | 18 | Vehicles in category C1 with a trailer attached - the combination must not exceed 12,000 kg |
| EC | 18 | Vehicles in category C with a trailer attached |
| ED1 | 21 | Vehicles in category D1 with a trailer attached - the combination must not exceed 12,000 kg |
| ED | 21 | Vehicles in category D with a trailer attached |
| M | 16 | Two-wheeled vehicles with an engine size not exceeding 50 cc and/or a speed capability not more than 45 km/h. |
| W | 16 | Work vehicles and land tractors, with or without a trailer attached. |

"Passenger accommodation" means seating accommodation for passengers in addition to the driver.

"Design g.v.w." means design gross vehicle weight (i.e. design laden weight). Manufacturers generally refer to it as gross vehicle weight (g.v.w.) and it is usually displayed on a metal plate attached to the vehicle by the manufacturer.

CODED INFORMATION

Certain additional information or restrictions relating to the holding of a provisional licence may be noted on a licence in coded format. Due to the limited size of the licence, and the consequential limited amount of details that can be noted on it, the codes enable the noting of specific additional information or restrictions relating to a driver on his/her licence that would otherwise not be possible. The codes that may be noted on provisional licences are as follows:-

| | | | |
|-----|---|-----|---|
| 01 | Must wear corrective lenses | 101 | Licence renewable subject to medical report |
| 02 | Must wear hearing aid | 991 | First provisional licence in category |
| 03 | Limb prosthesis/orthesis | 992 | Second provisional licence in category |
| 71 | Duplicate licence | 993 | Third or subsequent provisional licence in category |
| 100 | Restricted to vehicles adapted to suit disability of licensee | 999 | Must be accompanied by qualified driver. |

WARNING

Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1961 - No. 24 of 1961 - provides that any person driving a mechanically propelled vehicle in a public place must hold a current provisional or driving licence in respect of the vehicle category being driven. Any person contravening this requirement is liable to prosecution and penalties.

Section 115 of the Road Traffic Act, 1961 - No. 24 of 1961 - provides that any person applying for a provisional or driving licence shall not furnish false or misleading information in connection with such application. Any person contravening this requirement is liable to prosecution and penalties.

CHECKLIST

Your application for a provisional licence should include:

IN ALL CASES

- a completed application form (ensure that you have signed it)
- two photographs (signed on back)
- your current or most recent driving licence and/or provisional licence
- the appropriate fee

AND IF REQUIRED IN YOUR CASE,

- a birth certificate/passport
- certificate of registration
- an eyesight report or medical report
- evidence that you underwent a driving test.
- theory test certificate.

Remember you may also be asked to provide evidence of identity so bring some acceptable document with you (see note K) if you are calling personally.

