

## Renewing a driving licence if you drive minibuses

### Summary

This factsheet provides information for anyone who drives a minibus and who is renewing their car driving licence because:

- they are aged 70 or over or
- they have a medically restricted licence.

Drivers whose licences are due for renewal must be able to meet higher medical standards in order to keep their entitlement to drive minibuses. In general, car licences expire when a driver reaches the age of 70 but drivers with a medically restricted licence may be affected sooner.

Three months before a licence expires, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) will send a renewal reminder to a driver. The reminder explains how drivers can seek to retain their entitlement to drive minibuses.

If you wish to continue to drive minibuses you must meet higher medical standards than for driving a car. You will need to undergo a medical examination and your doctor must complete a D4 medical form in support of your application to renew your licence. Charges vary but can be up to £150.

Either you or the organisation you drive for will need to pay for the medical. Drivers who have any doubts about meeting the required standard may want to discuss their health with their doctor beforehand.

The medical standards for driving are set out in a booklet titled 'At a glance Guide to the current Medical Standards of Fitness to Drive' – this has the reference INF4D. It is available on the government's website [www.direct.gov.uk/motoring](http://www.direct.gov.uk/motoring) . It is primarily for General Practitioners and Consultants but can be viewed by anyone.

## **Drivers aged 70 or over**

Your driving licence entitlement will expire when you reach the age of 70 and if you want to continue to drive, the entitlement will need to be renewed by the DVLA. You can continue to drive a minibus only if you pass a medical to the higher 'PCV' standards.

To renew a previously held D1 entitlement you must enclose a D4 medical form, completed by your doctor, in support of your application. When your new licence arrives, check that it shows the D1 entitlement. It will be shown as D1 79 (NFHR) – directly equivalent to D1 (101) previously shown.

Most drivers reaching the age of 70 will hold D1 entitlement as well as B. A few drivers may only hold B entitlement - primarily covering cars and other vehicles with up to eight passenger seats. These drivers are likely to be in one of the following groups:

- people (of mature years) who passed their driving test relatively recently - from 1997 onwards
- those who passed a driving test abroad and only obtained a UK driving licence in 1997 or later
- people with a medically restricted licence.

If you have reached 70 and only hold B car-driving entitlement but wish to continue driving minibuses on a voluntary basis you also need to enclose a D4 form, completed by your doctor. In this case, when your licence comes back it will show the entitlement as B(120). This means that you have met the higher medical standard for driving a minibus. You must still meet all the other conditions that apply to driving a minibus on a B licence, as listed later in this Fact Sheet.

If a driver aged 70 or over fails to meet the medical requirements when renewing a driving licence, or chooses not to have a medical examination, **s/he will not be able to continue to drive a minibus.**

If a driver passes the higher medical standard, they will need to take another medical examination when their licence next expires (in three years) to continue to drive a minibus.

## **Drivers aged under 70 with a medically restricted licence**

There are some people whose medical conditions that mean that they cannot legally drive a minibus. One example is people with diabetes who need to inject insulin. The DVLA Factsheet INF40 provides information about these conditions or you can find information and useful notes in the DVLA leaflet INF4D.

Many other people with medically restricted licences are able to drive minibuses but will need to renew their licences before they reach the age of 70.

Changes introduced in 1997 mean that drivers who passed their driving test before 1997 will not automatically retain their D1 (101) – or D1 79 (NFHR) – entitlement to drive minibuses when they renew their licence. When their licence expires, these drivers can choose to have a medical examination in order to keep their entitlement to drive minibuses. Drivers with medically restricted licences may also need to renew their licences at specified intervals.

Alternatively, these drivers may choose not to meet the higher medical standards. When renewed, they will only retain category B entitlement on their licence and will lose D1. They can, however, still drive a minibus (with up to 16 passenger seats) if they can meet **all** of the following conditions, regardless of when they passed their car driving test:

- the minibus is used for social purposes on behalf of a non commercial body but not for hire or reward (unless operating under a permit);
- the driver is aged 21 or over;
- the driver has held a car driving licence (category B) for at least 2 years;
- the driver is providing his/her service on a voluntary basis;
- the minibus maximum weight (MAM or GVW) is not more than 3.5 tonnes or 4.25 tonnes for an accessible minibus fitted with a ramp or passenger lift; and
- there is no trailer attached to the minibus.

Note that this means they cannot drive the larger, heavier minibuses. See *Fact Sheet 1: [Driving a Minibus: Advice on Driver Licensing](#)* – this gives some information on the weights of popular minibuses.

When drivers with medically restricted licences reach the age of 70 they will need to renew their licences in the same way as other drivers. Similarly, they will need to meet higher medical standards if they wish to continue driving minibuses, whether with D1 or B entitlement. Please see the advice for drivers aged 70 or over, shown earlier in this Factsheet.

### **Where can I get further information?**

- Community Transport *Fact Sheet 1 'Driving a Minibus: Advice on Driver Licensing'* available from Hampshire County Council's Community Transport Team 01962 847042 Email: [community.transport@hants.gov.uk](mailto:community.transport@hants.gov.uk)
- DVLA Factsheet INF28 'Driving a Minibus' available to download from [www.direct.gov.uk/motoring](http://www.direct.gov.uk/motoring)
- DVLA Factsheet INF40 'Renewing your car driving licence' available to download from [www.direct.gov.uk/motoring](http://www.direct.gov.uk/motoring)

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