



Information Note

How to qualify as a HGV driver in Ireland

HGV Driver Licencing, Testing and Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC)

To drive a Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) in Ireland, drivers require a HGV driving licence (Irish category C/C1/CE/C1E).

To learn to drive a category C (truck) or category C1 (light truck or large van) vehicle in Ireland, you must already hold a full, valid category B (car or light van) driving licence.

To learn to drive a category CE (truck with trailer or articulated truck) or C1E (small truck or large van with trailer) vehicle in Ireland, you must already hold a full, valid category C (truck) driving licence.

Additionally, in order to drive a HGV professionally in Ireland, a driver must hold a valid Irish Driver CPC (Certificate of Professional Competence) card and a Driver Card (also known as digital tachograph card or Digi card;

<https://www.rsa.ie/services/professional-drivers/tachographs-information>).

Further information on getting qualified in all categories of driver licence is available from the RSA at this link: <https://www.rsa.ie/services/learner-drivers/get-qualified>.

To prepare for your driving test, the Road Safety Authority (RSA) recommends that all new first-time category C learner permit holders take lessons with an RSA Approved Driving Instructor. Training is available from many driving schools around the country.

Educational offerings

In addition, there are a range of educational institutions offering courses for prospective HGV drivers. These are courses that will help to prepare new entrants to the profession in becoming fully qualified HGV drivers.

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris, and Minister of State for Skills and Further Education, Niall Collins, [announced](#) investment in higher education, student supports, apprenticeships and skills as part of a series of measures as part of Budget 2022.

A new apprenticeship programme in HGV driving and a number of traineeship programmes are already available.



In 2018, the Irish Road Haulage Association in conjunction with Waterford Wexford ETB launched the Professional HGV Training Programme. Further information about the programme is available at this link: <http://www.irha.ie/professional-hgv-training-programme/>.

The Institute of Technology Sligo in partnership with the Freight Transport Association Ireland (FTAI) announced in April 2021 the country's first academic qualification for commercial driving, supported by SOLAS and the Higher Education Authority (HEA), in a bid to attract new entrants into the profession. Further information is available at this link: <https://www.itsligo.ie/it-sligo-partners-with-fta-ireland/>. The first apprenticeships start in January 2022.

At least 14 of the 16 Education and Training Boards (ETBs) around the country offer HGV driver training courses. There are over 50 HGV driving courses, including traineeships, which take place around the country across the network of ETBs. Prospective learners contact their local ETB directly in order to obtain information regarding application procedures for these courses. Further information is available at www.fetchcourses.ie.

Additional information

Information on courses available for becoming an HGV driver and other Logistic and Supply Chain careers are included in the "[Overview of Existing Education and Training Provision in Logistics and Supply Chain](#)" document published by the Logistics and Supply Chains Skills Group, chaired by the Department of Transport.

The following private jobs website also provides a good guide to HGV driving as a career in Ireland: <https://www.cv-library.ie/career-advice/start/career-guides/how-become-hgv-driver/>.

Road Transport and Freight Policy Division
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