

Guidance notes for the completion of your Learner Permit Application Form

Part 1: Personal Details

1. If you previously held a learner permit or driving licence in Ireland you must supply the driver number (this can be found at 4d on the plastic licence or 5 on the paper licence).
2. Select as appropriate
3. This is the first name that will appear on your learner permit. This name must exactly match the Photographic I.D. (see list 1 on page 2 of these notes).
4. This is the surname that will appear on your learner permit. This name must exactly match the Photographic I.D. (list 1 on page 2 of these notes) provided.
5. Please insert name exactly as it appears on your birth certificate.
6. If your surname has changed since your last learner permit was issued you must indicate the reason why and provide supporting documentation (e.g. marriage certificate, divorce/separation confirmation, deed poll confirmation). Original documents are required. For further details refer to www.ndls.ie
7. Your address should be the place where you normally reside; for a student this generally means the family home. The address on the application form must exactly match the evidence of address provided which can be no more than 6 months old at date of application. Please see list 2 on page 2. Please note that student accommodation, business addresses or care of addresses are unacceptable. The name on the proof of address document must exactly match the name on the application form.
8. Your date of birth on the application form must match your Photographic I.D. and/or birth Certificate.
9. Select as appropriate.
10. PPSN is a Personal Public Service, which is a unique identifier that helps you access state benefits, PPSN number is mandatory and must be completed. Proof of PPSN must be provided (see list 1). If you do not have a PPSN or are unable to trace it please contact the Department of Social Protection on 1890 927 999.
Where a customer has applied to the NDLS and has been issued with a licence since 29th October, 2013, there is no requirement to present evidence of PPSN again. If your PPSN has changed then evidence must be provided.
11. If you were born in the Republic of Ireland, please state the county you were born in. If you were born outside the Republic of Ireland please state the Country you were born in.
12. Please enter your contact details. Please note Irish mobile number only are accepted. Should we need to contact you in relation to your application we will use your preferred method of communication. NDLS may in certain circumstances need to use other methods of communication to contact you. We will not give your information to any third party in accordance with the law.

Part 2: Learner Permit Details

- 13(a). Select as appropriate. Refer to Learner permit checklist for documentation required to accompany each application.
- 13(b). This only relates to EU licence holders who may have to undergo a test or training to have a disqualification removed after completing their term of disqualification. Where disqualified in an EU country with a condition that you must pass a driving test/complete driver training, then you can apply for a learner permit.
You should provide a driver statement from the Foreign Licence Authority and the foreign licence if held. You must complete the driving test/driver training within 2 months. You can then apply for exchange of the foreign licence by providing the cert of competency/driver training certificate.

Where disqualified in an EU country with a condition that you pass psychological tests, then you can apply for an exchange of a driving licence and must provide a Medical report.

14. Please select the appropriate categories. A table of categories including a description, minimum age and other conditions for holding a licence can be found on page 4 of these notes. Please note: An applicant can only be provided with licence categories for which they have an entitlement.
15. Insert details of any driving licence issued by another country
16. If your current or most recent issued driving licence or learner permit has been lost/stolen you must complete the Garda declaration and have it stamped at your local Garda station.

Part 3: Organ Donation

17. If you wish to donate your organs you can record this on your learner permit. The permit will contain a code that will make medical professionals aware of your intention. However, in keeping with current legal position, your next of kin will be consulted in the event of any decision of this nature

Part 4: Driver Fitness all mandatory fields

18. A driving licence eyesight report must accompany all first time applications for a learner permit. The code 01 will be added to your learner permit if you are required to wear glasses or lenses for driving. If on a previous permit you answered yes to this question and are now answering no a current eyesight report (dated within one month of application) must accompany your application in order to remove the restriction. An eyesight report is not required where a medical report is provided unless indicated by the doctor.
19-39 and 40C.

If you answer yes to any of these questions a current medical form will be required which must be dated within one month of the date of application.

Every driver over the age of 70 (or who's existing licence expires on the eve of their 70th birthday) applying for a learner permit must provide a driving licence medical report from a Doctor.

Every Group 2 learner permit application must include a driving licence medical report from a Doctor (unless one has been already submitted that covers the full period of the permit or licence and covers the group 2 categories.)

Part 5: Declaration by applicant

41. By signing this declaration you are confirming that all the information given is true and accurate, giving false information is an offence under the Road Traffic Acts and penalties apply.

Fees and payment

The fee for all learner permits is €35. Learner permits for the over 70s are free. Change of personal details are free.

The National Driver Licence Service will accept the following payment methods with your application: Cash, Cheque, Bank draft, Money order, Debit card / credit card / prepaid credit card. The NDLS will only accept one method of payment for each application. The NDLS will only accept one payment for one application – a single payment for multiple applications will not be accepted.

Cheque, bank drafts or money orders must be made payable to 'National Driver Licence Service (NDLS)'. For applications paid for by cheque, please note that those applications will be placed on hold until the cheque clears. The NDLS will process debit and credit card payments in accordance with the Payment Card Industry (PCI) rules. If you wish to use a third party debit or credit card for payment, then the third party must be present in person to make the payment.

List 1: Photographic I.D.

- Irish passport/passport card (current or expired by no more than 12 months)
- Irish licence or learner permit
- Current passport for all non-Irish citizens valid for international use
- Current national identity card for EU/EEA/Swiss citizens
- Irish certificate of naturalisation
- Current UK photo driving licence
- Current public services card
- Current Irish travel document

List 2: Evidence of address

(Evidence document can be no more than 6 months old at date of application and **must exactly** match address on application form)

- Utility bill (i.e. from electricity/water/phone/gas/television service/broadband provider), or other correspondence from a utility company, showing customer's name and address in postal or online version. Mobile phone bills are not acceptable
- Statement or other correspondence from bank/building society/credit union including eStatements where the customer's name and address are detailed. (Statements from store cards/catalogue companies are not acceptable)
- Letter from Department of Social Protection/Revenue
- Other official correspondence from an Irish state agency e.g. government departments; HSE; Register of Electors/polling card; An Garda Síochána; Private Residential Tenancies Board etc.
- Correspondence on headed paper from an educational or training body e.g. a secondary school; university; institute of technology or college; CAO; SUSI; VEC/education & training board; college of further education; SOLAS etc.

List 3: Evidence of PPSN

- Public services card/social services card
- Correspondence from Revenue/Department of Social Protection showing PPSN
- P21/Tax Assessment/ Notice of Tax credits
- Receipt of social welfare / pension payment which shows full PPSN
- Medical card / Drug Payment Scheme (DPS) card / European Health Insurance card
- Payslip/pension remittance or P60/P45 (printed versions of electronic payslips are acceptable)
- C2 card issued to self-employed contractors

List 4: Evidence of residency entitlement

- Irish/UK (incl. Channel Islands & Isle of Man) long-form birth certificate or adoption certificate
- Certificate of entry in the Irish Foreign Births Register
- Irish passport/passport card (current or expired by no more than 12 months)
- Current passport for all EU/EEA/Swiss citizens
- Current national identity card for EU/EEA/Swiss citizens
- Irish certificate of naturalisation
- Current certificate of registration (GNIB card) for non-EU/EEA/Swiss citizens (must be presented with a current passport valid for international use)

NB: In some instances the same document could satisfy more than one requirement. e.g. an Irish/EU passport is adequate as photo ID and evidence of residency entitlement; a letter to you from Revenue showing your PPSN could be used as both evidence of your address and evidence of your PPSN. Provided that the document is dated within 6 months from date of application.

When applying, avoid queues in centres by visiting the **online booking system** at www.ndls.ie. Drivers with either a valid driver number or PPS number can book their visit for a date and time that suits them.

NDLS Centres

Please note: These centres can only process application made in person. Please do not post an application to these centres as it will not be processed

Carlow Unit 1, Ground Floor, Graigue Village Centre, Graiguecullen Co. Carlow

Cavan Unit 5, Cavan Shopping Centre, Main Street, Cavan

Clare Unit 4, Ennis Shopping Centre, Ennis

Cork Commercial Unit 1, Copley Hall, Cotter's Street, off Copley Street, Cork

Cork First Floor, Cork Co-operative Marts, Marsh Road, Skibbereen

Cork Office 17 (Second Floor), Market Square Shopping Centre, Mallow

Donegal Unit 7, O'Boyce's Corner, Port Road, Letterkenny

Donegal Eurohouse, Killybegs Road, Donegal Town

Dublin Unit 9, Leopardstown Shopping Centre, Ballyogan Road, Dublin 18

Dublin Unit H Own Door Offices, Citywest Shopping Centre, Citywest

Dublin Unit 236, Omni Park Shopping Centre, Swords Road, Santry

Dublin Unit 3, Floor 3, Clarehall Shopping Centre, Malahide Road

Galway Ground Floor, Block 1, Cityeast Business Park, Ballybrit Business Park

Galway Clifden (Open Mondays only, 9am to 4pm), Station House Hotel

Kerry Mezzanine Unit, Manor West Shopping Centre, Tralee

Kildare 5B Elm House, Millennium Park, Naas

Kilkenny Unit 2E, First Floor, Cillin Hill Centre, Dublin Road, Kilkenny

Laois Unit 29A, Laois Shopping Centre, Portlaoise

Leitrim Unit 7, Bridge Lane, Carrick-on-Shannon

Limerick Unit 29, Parkway Shopping Centre, Dublin Road, Limerick

Longford Suite 3, Business Centre, Longford Shopping Centre, Longford

Louth Ground Floor Unit 3, Southgate Shopping Centre, Dublin Road, Drogheda

Mayo New Antrim Street, Castlebar

Mayo Belmullet (Open Tuesdays only, 9am to 4pm), Broadhaven Bay Hotel

Meath Unit 3 Finnegans Way, Emmet Street, Trim

Monaghan Office 2, First Floor, Teach O'Cleircin, Old Cross Square, Monaghan

Offaly Room 201, Down Suite, Castle Buildings, Tara Street, Tullamore

Roscommon Unit 1, Racecourse Business Park, Roscommon

Sligo Ground Floor Millennium House, Stephen Street, Sligo

Tipperary Suite 5A, Second Floor, Powerstown House,

Gurtnafleur Business Park, Clonmel

Tipperary 10 Silver Street, Nenagh

Waterford Waterford Shopping Centre, Lisduggan, Waterford

Westmeath Golden Island Shopping Centre, Athlone

Westmeath Unit 1A, Mullingar Shopping Centre, Ashe Road, Mullingar

Wexford 7a The Square, Redmond Square, Wexford

Wicklow Unit C16, Wicklow Enterprise Centre, The Murrough, Wicklow

General Information:

A learner permit is issued to drivers who are learning to drive. You may not apply for a learner permit in respect of that category if you already hold a full driving licence in a category which was issued by the competent authority in a member state of the European Union or the European Economic Area or from any of the “recognised states” for driving purposes. If you hold a licence from another EU/EEA country and wish to apply for a learner permit in a new category you must submit your full licence for recording purposes.

Normal Residency

To apply for a licence you must be able to show that you are normally resident in Ireland; this generally means that you live here at least 185 days each calendar year because of work or personal ties. If you are studying or working abroad you may still be considered normally resident in Ireland provided you return here regularly. Where a person lives some part of the year outside of Ireland the question of personal, family and community ties helps determine whether or not you are normally resident.

Period of Permit:

A first and second learner permit usually last for two years each. If you are taking out a third or subsequent permit you must show documentary evidence of having taken and failed a driving test in the previous two years or hold an appointment for a forthcoming driving test. If you have taken a test you will be given a two year permit while if you hold a test date your permit will only last for one year. If your learner permit has expired for 5 years or more you must start the process afresh and will be considered a new applicant and must resit the theory test.

Driver Theory Test:

For a first application for a learner permit in a particular licence category you will have to take and pass a driver theory test. It is considered a first application if you have not held the category in the last five years. The various permit categories and relevant theory test (s) are set out in the table below. For more details please refer to www.rsa.ie

| Learner Permit category being applied for | Theory Test required |
|---|----------------------|
| AM, A1, A2, A | AM |
| B, BE, W | BW |
| D, DE, D1, D1E | D* |
| C, CE, C1, C1E | C* |

*CPC is required for any drivers wishing to apply for a learner permit who are under 21 for the categories C and CE and under 24 for categories D and DE

Driver Fitness and Medical report requirements:

Drivers must meet a certain standard of medical fitness in order to drive safely. If your doctor advises you to stop driving it is then an offence to continue driving and it also affects your insurance cover. A higher standard of medical fitness is required for drivers of Group 2 vehicles (trucks and buses) as opposed to drivers of Group 1 vehicles (cars, motorcycles and work vehicles).

All medical report forms must be dated within one month of application

Doctors must be registered on the General Register of Medical Practitioners of Ireland

Driver licence medical and eyesight forms can be downloaded from www.ndls.ie or you can get copies in your local NDLS centre

For more information on medical standards for group 1 and group 2 drivers see “Sláinte agus Tiomáint” document on www.rsa.ie.

On a first application for a permit you must provide a driving licence eyesight report. An eyesight report is not required where a medical report is provided unless indicated by the doctor.

Where any question under Health and Fitness in part 4 (excluding 40(a) or 40(b)) of the application form is answered yes a medical is required

On the basis of the information on your application form you may be asked to submit a medical report

Some questions in part 4 of the application form may require advice from your Doctor in order to be answered. The purpose of the questions is to ensure that you are aware of factors that affect your driving. In some cases having a particular condition may mean that you will be granted a permit for a shorter time period (e.g. one year instead of two)

Identity Validation:

All customers of the National Driver licence service are required to present in person to an NDLS centre where their photo and signature will be captured and their identity verified.

All new customers will be required to supply documents to verify their identity. The identity verification process requires the customer satisfy 4 steps; 1. Photo ID, 2. Evidence of address, 3. Evidence of PPSN and 4. Evidence of residency entitlement

Identity documents may be retained by the National Driver Licence Service to enable the processing of the application. Should the Verification Officer in the NDLS centre retain any documents a receipt will be issued and the documents returned when the application is processed. The documents which are accepted are outlined on list 1-4.

One item may serve to satisfy the requirements of 2 lists for example, a correspondence from Revenue can act as proof of address and proof of PPSN

Important information when issued with Learner Permit and wish to sit a driving test

If you are granted a learner permit for vehicles in category A, A2, A1, AM, W or B and have not held a learner permit in the previous 5 years, you must wait a period of 6 months before being able to sit a driving test. If you hold a full driving licence issued by a competent authority of another jurisdiction, in the same category as your learner permit, which shows that you have had an entitlement in that category for at least 6 months then you do not need to wait 6 months before sitting a driving test.

Essential Driving Training (EDT)

Essential driving training (EDT) is a mandatory training course that teaches fundamental driving skills to learner car drivers. EDT is a course of 12 one-hour lessons taken with an approved driving instructor who will record your progress in a specially issued logbook. All drivers whose first learner permit was issued on or after the 4th April, 2011 or who have not held a learner permit in the previous five years prior to application are required to complete EDT before sitting the driving test.

Initial Basic Training (IBT) for Motorcyclists
















Initial basic training (IBT) is a mandatory training course that teaches basic riding skills to learner motorcyclists. The standard course lasts 16 hours and can be broken into four modules, which can be taken at different stages. You will have to complete a motorcycle IBT training course before you can take your bike on the road unsupervised. At the end of the IBT course you will get a certificate of completion which should be kept with your learner permit. You can only take the IBT course with an approved trainer. All category A learner permit holders must complete IBT before driving on the road with the exception of those issued a category A learner permit prior to November 1989 and continue to hold that entitlement.

For more detailed information in relation to IBT please refer to www.rsa.ie

Certificate of Professional Competency (CPC) – trucks and buses

The minimum age for taking out a Learner Permit in Categories, C, CE, D & DE depends on whether you take the CPC test for that licence category (see table on page 4 of these notes). If you are taking CPC you will have to take a CPC test and when taking your driving test there will be a special CPC stage to the test. For more detailed information in relation to CPC please refer to www.rsa.ie

The Table below describes each vehicle in a licence category as well as the minimum age and other conditions that apply to your learner permit for each vehicle. This will help you identify the permit that you want to apply for.

| Licence Categories | Description relating to licence from 19 January 2013 | Minimum age and other conditions for holding a licence |
|---|---|---|
|  AM | Mopeds. Light quadricycles. | 16 |
|  A1 | Motorcycles with an engine capacity not exceeding 125cc, with a power rating not exceeding 11 kW and with a power to weight ratio not exceeding 0.1 kW/kg. Motor tricycles with a power rating not exceeding 15 kW. | 16 |
|  A2 | Motorcycles with a power rating not exceeding 35 kW, with a power to weight ratio not exceeding 0.2 kW/kg and not derived from a vehicle of more than double its power. | 18 |
|  A | Motorcycles. Motor tricycles. | 20 (Progressive access) 24 (Direct access) 21 Motor tricycles |
|  B | Vehicles (other than motorcycles, mopeds, work vehicles or land tractors) having a MAM ¹ not exceeding 3,500 kg, designed and constructed for the carriage of no more than 8 passengers in addition to the driver and where the MAM ¹ weight of the trailer is not greater than 750 kg. The combined MAM ¹ weight of the drawing vehicle and trailer must not be greater than 3,500 kg. Quadricycles (other than those covered by AM) also come under this category. | 17 |
|  BE | Combination of drawing vehicles in category B and trailer where the MAM ¹ of the trailer is not greater than 3,500 kg. | 17 (You must hold a full B licence before getting a BE permit) |
|  W | Work vehicles and land tractors. Defined as any power driven vehicle running on wheels or tracks having at least two axles, the principal function of which lies in its tractive power, which is specially designed to pull, push carry or operate certain tools, machines or trailers used in connection with agricultural or forestry operations, and use of which for carrying persons or goods by road or drawing, on the road, vehicles used for the carriage or goods is only a secondary function. | 16 |
|  C | Vehicles (other than vehicles in categories D or D1, work vehicles or land tractors) having a MAM ¹ exceeding 3,500 kg, and which are designed and constructed for the carriage of not more than 8 persons in addition to the driver. Motor vehicles in this category may be combined with a trailer where the MAM ¹ of the trailer is not greater than 750 kg. | 18 with CPC 21 without CPC (You must hold a full B licence before taking out a C permit) |
|  CE | Combination of drawing vehicles in category C and trailer where the MAM ¹ of the trailer is greater than 750 kg. | 18 with CPC 21 without CPC (You must hold a full C licence before taking out a CE permit) |
|  C1 | Vehicles in category C having a MAM ¹ weight not exceeding 7,500 kg, having passenger accommodation for not more than 8 persons in addition to the driver. Motor vehicles in this category may be combined with a trailer where the MAM ¹ of the trailer is not greater than 750 kg. | 18 (You must hold a full B licence before taking out a C1 permit) |
|  C1E | Combination of drawing vehicles in category C1 and trailer where the MAM ¹ of the trailer is greater than 750 kg and where the MAM ¹ of the drawing vehicle and trailer combined does not exceed 12,000 kg. Combination of drawing vehicles in category B with trailer where the MAM ¹ of the trailer is greater than 3,500 kg and where the MAM ¹ of the drawing vehicle and trailer combined does not exceed 12,000 kg. | 18 (You must hold a full C1 licence before taking out a C1E permit) |
|  D | Vehicles designed and constructed for the carriage of more than 8 passengers in addition to the driver and where the MAM ¹ of the trailer is not greater than 750 kg. | 21 with CPC 24 without CPC (You must hold a full B licence before taking out a D) |
|  DE | Combination of drawing vehicles in category D and trailer where the MAM ¹ of the trailer is greater than 750 kg. | 21 with CPC 24 without CPC (You must hold a full D licence before taking out a DE permit) |
|  D1 | Vehicles in category D designed and constructed for the carriage of not more than 16 persons in addition to the driver with a maximum length not exceeding 8 metres. Motor vehicles in this category may be combined with a trailer where the MAM ¹ of the trailer is not greater than 750 kg. | 21 (You must hold a full B licence before taking out a D1 permit) |
|  D1E | Combination of drawing vehicles in category D1 and trailer where the MAM ¹ of the trailer is greater than 750 kg. | 21 (You must hold a full D1 licence before taking out a D1E permit) |

MAM¹ Maximum Authorised Mass

*This is not a legal definition of licence categories. For more on this and other general licensing information please check our website www.rsa.ie.

1. Maximum Authorised Mass- This is the weight of a vehicle or trailer including the maximum load it can carry in accordance with the manufacturer's design specifications. It is also known as DesignGross Vehicle Weight (DGWV).

In the case of permits and licences for categories C, CE, D and DE (trucks and buses) the minimum age at which you can qualify depends on whether you are taking the Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) test for that licence category. If you are taking CPC you will have to take a CPC theory test and when taking your driving test there will be a special CPC stage to the test. For more information on CPC please see our website www.rsa.ie/cpc. For motorcycle permits in category A, progressive access to a permit at age 20 can only be granted if the rider has already held a full licence in category A2 for two years.