Driver & Vehicle Licensing Agency

Drivers categories and information codes

D889

This leaflet gives general information only. To find out more go to www.gov.uk/browse/driving

Category definitions

Listed below is a description of vehicle categories before and from 19 January 2013.

Categories before 19 January 2013	
P	• A motor vehicle with fewer than four wheels with a maximum design speed exceeding 45km/h but not exceeding 50km/h and which, if propelled by an internal combustion engine, has a cylinder capacity not exceeding 50cc.
A1	• Light motorcycles with an engine size of up to 125cc and a power output of up to 11kW (14.6bhp).
A*	• Medium-sized motorcycles up to 25kW (33bhp) and a power to weight ratio of up to 0.16kW/kg. • Motorcycles with a sidecar and a power to weight ratio of up to 0.16kW/kg.
A	• Any size motorcycle, with or without a sidecar if you have completed the large motorcycle Direct Access Scheme.
B1	• Motor tricycles, quadricycles and three or four wheeled vehicles with an unladen weight no more than 550kg.
B	• Motor vehicle with a Maximum Authorised Mass (MAM) of up to 3,500kg, no more than eight passenger seats with or without a trailer weighing no more than 750kg. • Motor vehicle with a MAM of up to 3,500kg, no more than eight passenger seats with or without a trailer weighing no more than 750kg. The total weight of the vehicle and trailer together can't weigh more than 3,500kg. The weight of the trailer, when fully loaded, can't weigh more than the unladen weight of the vehicle.
C1	• Vehicles weighing between 3,500kg and 7,500kg, with or without a trailer weighing no more than 750kg.
C	• Vehicles over 3,500kg, with a trailer up to 750kg.
D1	• Small passenger-carrying vehicles with 9 to 16 passenger seats with a trailer up to 750kg.
D	• Any bus with more than eight passenger seats, with a trailer up to 750kg.
B+E	• As category B but with a heavier trailer that isn't covered in the descriptions for category B.
C1+E	• Vehicles between 3,500kg and 7,500kg with a trailer over 750kg, designed and constructed for carrying no more than eight passengers as well as the driver with a trailer over 750kg (combined weight not more than 12,000kg).
C+E	• Vehicles over 3,500kg with a trailer over 750kg.
D1+E	• As category D1 but with a trailer over 750kg. The total weight of the vehicle and the trailer together can't weigh more than 12,000kg. The weight of the trailer, when fully loaded, can't weigh more than the unladen weight of the vehicle.
D+E	• Any bus with more than eight passenger seats with a trailer over 750kg.

Categories from 19 January 2013	
AM	**Moped** • Two-wheel vehicles or three-wheel vehicles with a maximum design speed of not more than 45 km/h. **Light quadricycle** • With an unladen mass of not more than 350kg, not including battery mass in the case of electric vehicles, whose maximum design speed is not more than 45km/h.
A1	• A motorcycle with a cylinder capacity not exceeding 125cc, of a power not exceeding 11kW and with a power to weight ratio not exceeding 0.1kW per kg. • A motor tricycle with power not exceeding 15kW.
A2	• A motorcycle of a power not exceeding 35kW, with a power to weight ratio not exceeding 0.2kW per kg and not derived from a vehicle of more than double its power.
A	• A motorcycle of a power exceeding 35kW or with a power to weight ratio exceeding 0.2kW per kg, or • A motorcycle of a power not exceeding 35kW with a power to weight ratio not exceeding 0.2kW per kg and derived from a vehicle of more than double its power. • A motor tricycle with a power exceeding 15kW.
B1	• Motor vehicles with four wheels up to 400kg unladen weight or 550kg for vehicles intended for carrying goods.
B	• Motor vehicles with a MAM not exceeding 3,500kg, designed and constructed for the carriage of no more than eight passengers as well as the driver with a trailer up to 750kg. • Motor vehicles with a MAM not exceeding 3,500kg, designed and constructed for the carriage of no more than eight passengers as well as the driver with a trailer over 750kg, where the combination MAM is not exceeding 3,500kg.
C1	• Vehicles between 3,500kg and 7,500kg, designed and constructed for carrying no more than eight passengers as well as the driver with a trailer up to 750kg.
C	• Vehicles over 3,500kg with a trailer up to 750kg, designed and constructed for carrying no more than eight passengers as well as the driver.
D1	• Vehicles with no more than 16 passenger seats in addition to the driver and with a maximum length not exceeding eight metres with a trailer up to 750kg.
D	• Any bus designed and constructed for carrying more than eight passengers as well as the driver, with a trailer up to 750kg.
BE	• Combinations of vehicles consisting of a vehicle in category B and a trailer, where the combination does not come within category B and the MAM of the trailer or semi-trailer does not exceed 3,500kg.
C1E	• Vehicles between 3,500kg and 7,500kg with a trailer over 750kg, designed and constructed for carrying no more than eight passengers as well as the driver – combined weight not more than 12,000kg.
CE	• Vehicles over 3,500kg, designed and constructed for carrying no more than eight passengers as well as the driver with a trailer over 750kg.
D1E	• Vehicles with no more than 16 passenger seats as well as the driver and with a maximum length not exceeding eight metres with a trailer over 750kg, provided that the MAM of the combination formed does not exceed 12,000kg.
DE	• Any bus designed and constructed for carrying more than eight passengers as well as the driver, with a trailer over 750kg.

Categories before and from 19.1.2013

f Agricultural tractors
g Road rollers
h Tracked vehicles
k Pedestrian controlled vehicles
l Electric vehicle
p Mopeds
q Moped – has a maximum design speed not exceeding 25km/h (new national category introduced 19.1.2013).

*** Unclaimed test pass**

An unclaimed test pass before 19.1.2013 in category A (less than 25kW) will be shown on this certificate as A2 with the test pass date alongside.

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