

# SERVICES AND INFORMATION FOR NEW MOTORISTS

## Introduction

If you are taking to the roads for the first time, this document will provide you with some useful advice and information that will help you to get started.

You will find information about the following:

- Your first Guernsey Driving Licence
- Provisional Driving Licences
- “L” Plates
- Compulsory Basic Training for Motorcyclists (CBT)
- Booking your Theory Test
- Booking your Practical Test
- Speed limits
- Driving and the Disabled
- Other useful information

## Applying for your first Guernsey Driving Licence

You will need to come to the Driver & Vehicle Licensing Edward T Wheadon House office to apply for your first licence. You will need to fill in a Driving Licence application form and have proof of your identity i.e. using your passport, or if you don't hold one, a completed “Identification check form”. All forms are available at <https://gov.gg/drivinglicence>

We will take your photograph and give you information about activating your online account so that you can access all our online services. These include renewing your licence, adding additional categories, changing your name or address and accessing your registered vehicle details and more.

Your Guernsey Driving Licence will be posted to you within two weeks, however, you are eligible to drive immediately.

## About your provisional Driving Licence

Please remember that you may only drive a motor vehicle with a provisional driving licence when you are being supervised by a person who has held a full driving licence in the relevant category for at least one year.

However, if you are driving a moped, a light motorcycle, a motorcycle, an agricultural tractor, a road repairing machine or a motorised tricycle or a quadricycle (categories P, A1, A, F, G or B1) under the terms of your provisional licence, then you do not need to be supervised. The same is true if you are driving an electrically propelled vehicle within category L, if it is only designed to be occupied solely by the driver. Please note that you can only ride a moped or motorcycle on

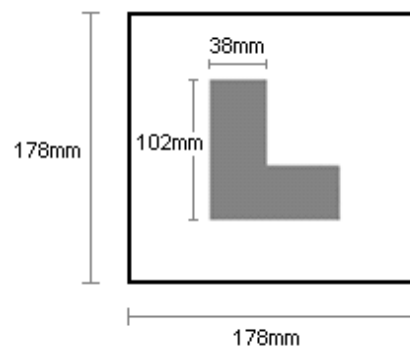
the road once you have successfully completed a Compulsory Basic Training course. (CBT)  
Further information below.

The validity of your provisional driving licence will vary, depending on your age and the category of vehicle which it authorises you to drive. Please check your licence carefully to make sure you are aware when your licence will commence and expire.

Drivers of mopeds, light motorcycles, motorcycles, agricultural tractors, road repairing machines, motorised tricycles or quadricycles or electrically propelled vehicles within category L are asked to pay particular attention to the validity of their provisional driving licences as they are valid for a maximum of two years.

### **Information about L plates**

Having been issued with a new provisional licence, the next step is to ensure that you are displaying the correct learner plates on your motorvehicle or Motorcycle. When driving under a provisional driving licence “L” plates must be displayed on the front and rear of your vehicle in a vertical or near vertical position and on a flat surface so that they are clearly visible to other road users from the front and back of the vehicle. “L” plates that are wrapped around the forks or on the front mudguard of a motorcycle or mounted on the flat bonnet of a car are not acceptable.



It is important that you are aware of the need to display legally sized “L” plates. It is an offence to reduce the size of a standard plate in any way and then display it on your motor vehicle or motorcycle. Candidates for driving tests must ensure that they are displaying legally sized “L” plates or they will not be permitted to proceed with the test.

The figure “L” must be red on a white background and the size should be as in the diagram above. They can be obtained from most garage forecourts and motor accessory shops.

### **Compulsory basic training for motorcyclists (CBT)**

If you hold a provisional licence category in P (moped), A1 (light motorcycle) or A (motorcycle), then you **must not** drive or ride your motorcycle on a public highway unless you have successfully completed an approved training course for motorcyclists (CBT) and have been issued a certificate of completion. (The only exemption is that applicants who have held a full “A1” licence for at least 12 months and who wish to upgrade to an “A” licence, do not need to undertake any such additional training.)

If you wish to upgrade your existing category of motorcycle licence to a higher category of licence, or have previous motorcycling experience, may only need to complete the “Direct Access” training course. This is a shortened course, which lasts approximately 2 hours.

You will only qualify for a direct access course if you can satisfy the instructor (through discussion and practical demonstration) that you have sufficient proficiency, competency and previous experience **and** if you satisfy one or more of the following criteria:-

- Have carried out a full CBT within the last 5 years
- Have previously carried out a full CBT course and have held a valid provisional or full motorcycle licence within the last 5 years and state that you have ridden during this period.

For all the above criteria, the experience must have been gained on a manual motorcycle if you wish to ride a manual motorcycle. If you have only had previous experience of riding an automatic motorcycle you will be required to carry out the full CBT course if you wish to ride a geared motorcycle.

Motorcyclists wishing to renew a provisional motorcycle licence must apply within the period one month prior to the expiry of their licence. Applications made after the expiry date cannot be accepted and the licence holder will have to wait a period of one year before they are able to renew in that category.

Applicants renewing their existing category of provisional motorcycle licence may continue to drive or ride their motorcycle on the public highway but **MUST** re-sit the “Direct Access” training course **within the first month** of the renewed licence. Failure to do this within the first month will **invalidate the applicant’s driving licence**. An applicant will then have to wait until the licence expires and then wait a further 12 months before renewing your licence in the same category.

If a CBT course is undertaken on an automatic motorcycle, you will be limited to riding an automatic machine only. If a CBT course is carried out on a manual motorcycle, it will cover you to use both a manual and an automatic motorcycle.

Your motorcycle must be delivered to the course centre at the old St Peter Port School at Les Ozouets. If you purchased your machine from a dealer, they will be happy to make the necessary arrangements for this.

*When attending the course you must:*

- Demonstrate that you are able to meet the minimum eyesight requirements of being able to read a vehicle number plate from 22.5 metres.
- Produce both a valid provisional driving licence and a certificate of third party insurance.
- Have a motorcycle that is in a roadworthy condition and is carrying a legally sized “L” plate at the front and rear.
- Have a riding helmet that conforms to BSI 6658-85/ECE 2205 and be wearing appropriate clothing and footwear.
- Have the necessary fee, which will vary depending on whether the full or shortened course is being undertaken.

Details of the training course and associated fees are available on the Guernsey Motor Cycle Training Scheme’s website [www.gmts.gg](http://www.gmts.gg) . Bookings can be made online or by telephoning 257679.

If you are a holder in Guernsey of a provisional licence in category “A” and have no previous motorcycling experience, then you will not be permitted to undertake your training with a

motorcycle with an engine exceeding 250cc. You will need to make your own arrangements to undertake the training with an appropriate motorcycle.

Owners of the *Funtech 50 Scootcar* are advised that these vehicles may not presently be used to undertake training and you will need to make your own arrangements to undertake it on an alternative machine within category “P”.

**Motorcycle provisional licence holders are also reminded that they have to hold the relevant licence category for the type of a motorcycle they are riding. For example, a rider that holds a provisional A1 category licence is not permitted to ride a 50cc motorcycle that fits within a category P. Also, a rider must have passed a CBT course for the appropriate category of provisional licence and motorcycle they are using.**

***Note: Only a full licence covers holders to ride lower category motorcycles. (i.e. a full A Category licence covers P and A1 Category machines, and a full A1 licence covers a P Category machine.)***

### **Booking your theory test**

All theory tests in Guernsey are run at the Driver & Vehicle Licensing, Edward T Wheadon House office, St Sampson, whilst Alderney tests are held at the Alderney States Office. Guernsey theory tests should be booked online at <https://traffic.gov.gg> If you need to cancel the test or relocate it to another day, this can be done online. **However, if there is less than 3 days’ notice the booking can’t be relocated and if cancelled you will lose your fee unless you are unable to attend on medical grounds and a doctor’s certificate is provided.**

Alderney tests must be booked at the Alderney States Office.

The theory test is a computer based multiple choice exam intended to test your road sense and awareness, including the rules of the road, respect for other road users, vehicle maintenance, safety and security. It also includes a hazard perception element intended to test your ability to identify developing hazards using video clips.

Theory tests carry a fee of £47 but categories C & D cost £67 and payment must be made at the time of booking. Your provisional driving licence must be valid on the date of your theory test.

There are four classes of theory test – the one that you will need to take will depend on the category of provisional licence you hold.

### Multiple Choice Element

Table 1

Category of Test	Questions	Pass mark
A=Motorcycle - P, A1, A	50	43 +
B=Motor Car - B1,B,BE,F, L, G	50	43 +
C=Goods Vehicle - C1,C1E,C,CE	100	85 +
D=Passenger Vehicle - D1,D1E,D,DE	100	85 +

Each theory test asks some specific questions relating to the category of vehicle for which you are being examined, as well as questions that apply to all road users.

## Hazard Perception Element

Table 2

Category of Test	Clips	Hazards	Pass mark
A=Motorcycle - P, A1 or A	14	15	44 +
B=Motor Car - B1,B,BE,F, L, G	14	15	44+
C=Goods Vehicle - C1,C1E, C, CE	19	20	67+
D=Passenger Vehicle D1,D1E,D,DE	19	20	67 +

### Does everybody have to take the theory test?

Most candidates who are learning to drive or ride will have to sit a theory test for that category before taking their practical test and obtaining a full licence. The exceptions are:

- If you currently hold a full licence and are upgrading your licence within the same category group e.g. P to A1 or B to BE, and have previously passed a theory test containing both multiple choice and hazard perception elements in that category group.
- For example, if you hold a **full** category P moped driving licence, having passed a motorcycle theory test on or after 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016 when the hazard perception element was introduced and then a practical moped test, you would not have to take the motorcycle theory test again before taking a practical test for a category A1 or A motorcycle.
- Foreign exchangeable licences. If you hold a full driving licence issued from a different authority outside of Guernsey then it may be valid for exchange for an equivalent Guernsey licence without the need for a theory or practical test to be taken. However, if you cannot exchange your licence then you will need to take and pass a theory test before you can book a practical driving test. You can find more information on whether or not your licence would be exchangeable from our leaflet "Advice and information for new Guernsey Residents", which can be found here, <https://gov.gg/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=101707&p=0>

If you have special needs that you believe may affect your test, ie you are a wheelchair user or you have significant learning difficulties, please make this known at the time of booking via the special needs request section in the online booking system.

We will then endeavour to make special arrangements for these needs to be accommodated for your test session.

You will have the option of an English voice-over if you consider it easier to understand the spoken word. However, this facility does not constitute special assistance and you will **not** need to contact us in advance in this regard. This facility will be offered as an option at the test centre, just make the invigilator aware of this requirement before the test commences.

In preparing for your test, you must read the important information contained in the document entitled "The Guernsey Theory Driving Test", which you will find at <https://gov.gg/drivingtests>

## Practical Driving Test

In most circumstances if you wish to take a practical driving test in any category you will have to have passed a separate theory test before you can book a practical test. (see above)

Driving tests can normally only be taken after you have held your provisional driving licence for at least one month, unless it is being taken to obtain a full licence after a period of disqualification for a Schedule 1 offence when the one month waiting period does not apply.

Tests can be booked on line at: <https://traffic.gov.gg> If you need to cancel the test or relocate it to another day, this can be done online. **However, if there is less than 3 days' notice the booking can't be relocated and if cancelled you will lose your fee unless you are unable to attend on medical grounds and a doctor's certificate is provided.**

Alderney tests must be booked at the Alderney States Office.

Before you prepare for your practical test you must read important information contained in the document entitled "The Guernsey Practical Driving Test" which you will find at <https://gov.gg/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=111807&p=0>

## Are you aware of the maximum speed limits for certain types of vehicles?

Drivers are reminded of the legislation governing the maximum speed limits for vehicles of the following type:

- Trailers (*Speed limit of motor vehicle to which trailer is attached*)
- Steam boilers, tar boilers, concrete mixers, material spreaders and other trailers of any kind whatsoever with metal wheels **8mph**
- Heavy trailers of the low loader type **12mph**
- Caravan homes, horse and cattle boxes & two-wheeled trailer of any kind whatsoever **20mph**
- An omnibus **25mph**
- A motor vehicle exceeding two tons unladen **25mph**
- An articulated vehicle **25mph**

## Driving and the disabled

If you are disabled and are thinking of driving a car, we suggest that you first obtain advice about the modifications which may be necessary to the vehicle and the type of car best suited to your needs. You should consider doing some off-road training before applying for a provisional driving licence.

We operate a Disabled Persons Parking Badge Scheme for people who, because of age, illness or disability, have difficulty in walking any distance, or who are blind and require assistance in walking. The badge permits the driver of a vehicle carrying a disabled person to park for up to two hours in half-hour and one-hour parking spaces, and to use special spaces allocated for

disabled parking. Badge holders must obey all other parking regulations and are not allowed to park on yellow lines.

Badges issued in Guernsey are recognised in many other countries, including the United Kingdom. We will be happy to offer further advice in this respect.

If you would like to apply for a Badge, please visit <https://gov.gg/driving-medical-conditions-bluebadge> for information and an application form. The application form will need to be accompanied by a passport size photograph of the applicant and **may also** need to be accompanied by a doctor's medical certificate dependant on the criteria.

## **Other useful information**

### Accidents

Unfortunately, accidents do happen from time to time and it is important that you do know what to do. If you are involved in an accident, then you must stop immediately and exchange name, address and registration number details with the owner of any other vehicle involved or anyone else who reasonably needs these details. If you do not give these details at the time, then you must report the accident to the Island Police as soon as possible within the next twenty four hours.

If anyone is injured, you must report the accident to the Island Police as soon as possible within the next twenty four hours. You will also need to produce your certificate of insurance and full driving licence at the time (or, in any case, within seven days) to a Police Officer or anyone else who has a reasonable need to see it. In case of doubt about what you should do, then contact the Guernsey Police on 725111.

### Fitness to drive

If there is any change in the condition of your health which is likely to affect your ability to drive, you must report the details to Driver & Vehicle Licensing as soon as possible. Your eyesight must meet the standard required at the time of taking your driving test and at all subsequent times when driving.

### Parking

Disc parking clocks are available for purchase from our Edward T Wheadon House office, the Visitor Information Centre, the Police Station, most garages and a number of other retail outlets.

Residents parking permits are available for car owners for vehicles registered in an area which is covered by disc zone restrictions. Further details on the concessions that these permits offer and an application form can be obtained in our offices or can be downloaded by visiting <https://gov.gg/residentsparking> .

Vehicles parked at night must show lights, unless they are parked in a disc zone or approved parking space. Single parking lights are not allowed.

## Pedestrian areas

Vehicles are prohibited from some of the streets in the centre of Town, such as the High Street, unless a permit has been obtained from Traffic & Highways Services beforehand.

## Beaches and Headlands

There are strict regulations about driving on the beaches during the summer without a permit. Car parks are provided at most beaches and headlands. Please do not drive or park on any grass area.



## **Eco-safe driving/riding is a recognised and proven style of driving and riding that contributes to road safety whilst reducing fuel consumption and emissions.**

On your driving test, an assessment is made of your ability to drive/ride in a way that demonstrates recognition of the principles of 'eco safe driving/riding'.

Be an 'eco-safe' driver or rider and contribute to road safety as well as reducing your fuel consumption and vehicle emissions. Making changes to your driving or riding style will also save you money.

The driving examiner will assess control and planning and at the end of the test will give you feedback, as guidance, on how efficiently you're driving.

## **Control**

Always try and use the vehicle controls as smoothly as possible, with particular attention to:

Starting and moving away – Accelerating - Using gears - Driving/riding at an appropriate speed.

This will reduce wear and tear on your vehicle/motorcycle and will help in reducing CO2 emissions.

## **Planning**

Reduce harmful emissions by anticipating road and traffic conditions. Act in good time, rather than reacting to them at the last moment, especially:

Showing hazard awareness and planning - Making use of engine braking - Stopping the engine when appropriate

## **Tips for 'eco-safe' driving and riding**

- Check your tyres and keep them at recommended pressures.



- Don't carry unnecessary weight.
- Remove roof-racks or luggage boxes when not needed to reduce air resistance.
- Don't exceed speed limits and accelerate gently.
- Consider using cruise control where it would be appropriate.
- Turn off your engine if you're likely to have a prolonged wait.
- Use air conditioning only when you need to.
- Plan your route to avoid known congestion points.
- Try to travel during off-peak times.

You will **not** fail the test because you do not demonstrate purely eco-safe driving/riding techniques and any purely eco-safe driving faults accrued during the natural drive at this time will **not** be included in the final total of driving faults. This may however be introduced fully into the body of the test at some point in the future.