

Communication



Government announces temporary removal of the D4 medical for licence renewals

30/04/2020

Questions & Answers

Q1) What was announced by the Secretary of State?

- They made temporary provisions for existing lorry drivers aged 45 and over to forego the need for a D4 medical in order to renew their driving entitlement.
- These changes are temporary and will only apply if the licence has not expired before 1st January 2020. If the driver does not have a medical condition affecting their ability to drive safely, a licence will be issued, but it will only be valid for one year and the driver must submit a completed D4 when the licence is due for renewal in 12 months.

PLEASE NOTE: This temporary change does NOT apply to any application to renew small lorry (C1) and minibus (D1(101)) entitlement included on car licences issued before 1997.

Q2) Why has this change been made?

- With NHS staff rightly focused on the nationwide response to Covid-19, these temporary provisions will ensure that those who are fit to drive can continue their crucial role in providing key services around the country.

Q3) What about drivers whose licence has expired before 1st January 2020?

- If their licence has expired before 1st January 2020, the exemption from providing a D4 will not apply.

Q4) Will a full 5-year licence be issued?

- No, only a one-year licence will be issued if the application is made without a D4 report. Drivers must reapply after that period and obtain a D4 medical report. Drivers with health issues will still need to declare these, and those who declare a medical condition on their application will not have their licence renewed. All drivers must ensure they are medically fit to drive.

Q5) I am a Vocational driver and need to make a paper application, where do I send it to?

- A D47 renewal application will have been sent by DVLA but in the absence of this a D2 form can be obtained from the Post Office or alternatively you can call the dedicated Key Worker line at DVLA's Contact Centre on 03007906103 and they will post one out.
- All online vocational licence processes are unavailable at this time. Only paper application will be accepted during Covid-19.
- Please note that the address for Vocational licence renewal applications is as follows: DVLA, Longview Road, Swansea SA99 1B, and not the address on the D47 or D2 form.

Q6) What about those drivers who have already applied?

- DVLA are prioritising these applications and they will be processed as soon as possible.

Q7) How will DVLA keep track of which drivers haven't been for a medical?

- They will maintain driver records and will have an up-to-date record of drivers who have been issued with a one-year licence without a D4. When the one-year licence is due for renewal, a D4 will be required.

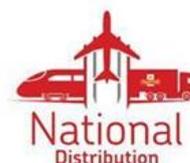
Q8) What will Vocational drivers who wish to renew their licence need to do now?

- They will need to apply in the normal way (apart from providing a D4 medical report). Lorry driving licence renewals are sent to drivers 56 days in advance and DVLA urge all affected drivers to apply as early as possible.

Q9) I have already had a medical but haven't yet sent it in?

- Any application supported by a D4 in the normal way will have their licence application treated as normal and be issued with a licence valid for up to 5 years. In accordance with existing processes, the licence may be shorter to allow for review of any relevant medical condition.

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Q10) Photographs on licences have to be renewed every 10 years and I am unable to obtain a photo for this.

- DVLA are aware of the difficulties in obtaining photos at the current time and are considering this issue.
- DVLA Guidance is due to be released shortly.

Q11) Where can I get further information about driver fitness?

- [SHE Instruction 8.2](#). Drivers must be licenced, fit and competent to drive.
- Where any driver develops a relevant condition, or has a change in an existing condition, they must immediately declare this to their manager and must not wait for the periodic health declaration.
- Where a driver makes a declaration, the manager must **immediately remove them from driving duties pending an OH referral** to provide RMG with advice as to whether they are fit to perform their duty safely.
- **Their GP or a DVLA medical does not satisfy this requirement and the DVLA licence decision is irrelevant.**

Q12) If the driver has not declared any medical condition and sent the D47P renewal application to DVLA without D4 medical, can the driver continue to drive while they await the issue of a licence?

- Providing the driver has a valid driving licence and they have not been told by a doctor or optician not to drive, then they can continue to drive while DVLA are processing their application.

Q13) If the driver has declared the same medical condition and the condition has not changed and sent the D47P renewal application to DVLA without D4 medical, can the driver continue to drive while they await the outcome of DVLA's medical enquiries?

- The application will be assessed by a DVLA caseworker;
 - ✚ **If the condition does not affect driving**, a new licence will be issued.
 - ✚ **If the condition does affect driving**, DVLA will ask for a D4 medical to be completed before a new licence will be issued.
- Under Section 88 of The Road Traffic Act 1988 this may allow drivers to continue driving even though they do not hold a current driving licence.
- To continue driving under Section 88, they must meet all of the following criteria found here: [Gov.uk/DVLA-Section88](#)
 - ✚ **If they meet the criteria**, then contact DVLA Drivers Medical enquiry keyworker line on 0300 790 6103 to check if they can drive with the medical condition.
 - ✚ **If they do not meet the criteria**, they cannot drive and refer to **Q15 – 17** on how to book a medical and driving a 7.5t consideration.
 - ✚ Also refer to [SHE Instruction 8.2](#). Drivers must be licenced, fit and competent to drive. More information on this topic can also be found in **Q11**.

Q14) If the driver has declared a new medical condition and sent the D47P renewal application to DVLA, can the driver continue to drive while they await the outcome of DVLA's medical enquiries?

- The application will be assessed by a DVLA caseworker;
 - ✚ **If the condition does not affect driving**, a new licence will be issued.
 - ✚ **If the condition does affect driving**, DVLA will ask for a D4 medical to be completed before a new licence will be issued.
- Under Section 88 of The Road Traffic Act 1988 this may allow drivers to continue driving even though they do not hold a current driving licence.
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✚ Also refer to [SHE Instruction 8.2](#). Drivers must be licenced, fit and competent to drive. More information on this topic can also be found in [Q11](#).

Q15) If the driver does require a drivers' medical, am I able to book one?

- Optima will arrange the medical as soon as restrictions allow. Therefore, OH referrals should continue to be submitted and it will be arranged as soon as possible.
- Face to face medicals are taking place, however these are becoming increasingly difficult to resource whilst clinics are closed.
- If there is a **suitable room** on site that Optima can use, there needs to be enough space for a 6m eye test as a minimum.
- If the referral must go ahead, please make it clear on the referral.
- ✚ Drivers' medical is urgent.
- ✚ There is a suitable room on site that Optima can use.
- ✚ There is enough room to ensure social distancing of 2m and enough space for a 6m eye test to be completed.
- If there is **no suitable room** on site, employees can also contact their GP's because some are offering the service and drivers can claim the cost back through T&S.

Q16) If the driver does not meet the Section 88 criteria, can they drive a 7.5t vehicle?

- To continue driving they must have C1 on their licence and obtained it before 1st January 1997, but also complete a telephone referral for the driver for OH to check their medical condition.

Q17) How do I book a referral?

To submit a referral please follow the steps below.

- **Register for an OH account** – [click here](#) to register (this only needs to be done once so if you have registered for another referral recently you won't need to do this). You will receive notifications on progression of the referral and will be advised when the report is available for you to access via the portal.
- **Obtain employee consent & availability** – an employee must consent to being referred and know the reasons for the referral - [HRS can't proceed if this isn't in place](#)
- **Call the OH Referrals helpline** with PSP open at the employee's record, or email to AdviceCentreOH@royalmail.com confirming that the above steps are completed & you will receive a call back. The referring manager should have a good understanding of the case history to complete the referral.

The OH referral team are available on **0345 6060603**, option 2, option 3 Monday to Friday from 8.30am – 4.00pm (except Tuesday when the lines open at 9.00am)