

# Goods Vehicle Operator Licensing

## Guide for Operators

This guide and the application forms for operator licensing are available on the Transport Office website. In addition, the site can provide help and information to transport operators, local authorities, partner organisations, hire companies and the public. Also available on line are the Traffic Area Office publications “Notices & Proceedings” and “Applications & Decisions”.

Check out the website at [www.transportoffice.gov.uk](http://www.transportoffice.gov.uk)

Alternatively, operator licensing advice can be obtained by telephoning the VOSA National Telephone No: 0300 123 9000 (Calls provided by BT are charged at a low rate. Charges from other providers may vary).

**The main purpose** of Goods Vehicle Operator Licensing is

- to ensure the safe and proper use of goods vehicles and
- to protect the environment around operating centres.

**The licensing system** is run in the following way:

- Great Britain is divided into eight Traffic Areas. Northern Ireland is covered by a separate licensing system.
- The person who issues licences in each area is called the '**Traffic Commissioner**'. This is an independent person appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport.

The licensing provisions are found in the Goods Vehicles (Licensing of Operators) Act 1995 (the Act), the Goods Vehicles (Licensing of Operators) Regulations 1995, and the Goods Vehicles (Licensing of Operators) (Fees) Regulations 1995.

**This guide** seeks to answer many of the questions asked about goods vehicle operator licensing. If you need more information, please contact the VOSA Contact Centre on 0300 123 9000.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS GUIDE DOES NOT PROVIDE LEGAL ADVICE - FOR THAT YOU WOULD NEED TO SEEK INDEPENDENT PROFESSIONAL ADVICE**

# CONTENTS

## **Part 1**

Who needs an operator's licence?	3
----------------------------------	---

## **Part 2**

How do I get a licence ?	5
--------------------------	---

## **Part 3**

Requirements for a licence	8
----------------------------	---

## **Part 4**

Operating centres	11
-------------------	----

## **Part 5**

Objections, representations and complaints	13
--	----

## **Part 6**

The issue of a licence	16
------------------------	----

## **Part 6A**

Self Service Registration	18
---------------------------	----

## **Part 7**

Changes to a licence	19
----------------------	----

## **Part 8**

Holding companies and subsidiaries	23
------------------------------------	----

## **Part 9**

Appeals to the Transport Tribunal	24
-----------------------------------	----

## **Part 10**

Disciplinary action	26
---------------------	----

## **Appendix 1**

Traffic Area Offices	28
----------------------	----

## **Appendix 2**

Vehicles which do not need to be on an operator's licence	30
---	----

<b>Appendix 3</b>	
Weight thresholds	32
<b>Appendix 4</b>	
Professional competence	33
<b>Appendix 5</b>	
Convictions	37
<b>Appendix 6</b>	
Summary of the guide to maintaining roadworthiness	39
<b>Appendix 7</b>	
Environmental factors and conditions	41
<b>Appendix 8</b>	
Advertisement form for use with GV79	43
<b>Appendix 9</b>	
Advertisement form for use with GV81	44
<b>Appendix 10</b>	
Public inquiries	47
<b>Appendix 11</b>	
Fees and refunds	49
<b>Appendix 12</b>	
Advice on community authorisations	52
<b>Appendix 13</b>	
Relevant legislation	53
<b>Appendix 14</b>	
Useful Government publications	54
<b>Appendix 15</b>	
Enforcement Office addresses	55

# PART 1

## Who needs an operator's licence?

### WHO NEEDS AN OPERATOR'S LICENCE?

- 1.1 You need an operator's licence to carry goods (or burden) connected with any trade or business if you "USE" a motor vehicle on a road with:
- A gross plated weight of more than 3.5 tonnes; or
  - if it has no gross plated weight, an unladen weight of more than 1525kg.
- 1.2 The use of vehicle combinations also requires a licence. Further details on weights, including relevant combination weights, are in Appendix 3.

### WHO IS THE USER OF A VEHICLE?

- 1.3 You use a vehicle if you are the driver and are the owner, or the vehicle is in your lawful possession under an agreement for hire, hire purchase, or loan.
- 1.4 You also use a vehicle if the driver is your servant or agent.

**NB YOU NEED AN OPERATOR'S LICENCE EVEN IF YOU USE A VEHICLE ONLY FOR A SHORT PERIOD, 2 OR 3 WEEKS OR EVEN JUST ONE DAY.**

### ARE THERE ANY GENERAL EXCEPTIONS?

- 1.5 Yes. You do not need a licence to use certain types of vehicles or to carry out certain functions. An outline of these exemptions is listed in Appendix 2.
- 1.6 **IF IN ANY DOUBT ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT YOU NEED A LICENCE CONTACT THE VOSA CONTACT CENTRE ON 0300 123 9000.**

## WHAT KIND OF LICENCE DO I NEED?

1.7 An operator's licence can be issued in one of three formats:

- Restricted
- Standard National
- Standard International

1.8 To carry your own goods in the course of your trade or business you need a *restricted* licence. You must not carry goods for other people for hire or reward if you have a restricted licence. *If you do, you could be fined and lose your licence.*

1.9 A *standard national* licence allows you to carry your own goods in Great Britain, **AND** to carry goods for other people for hire or reward in Great Britain. Even if you carry other people's goods only occasionally, you must have a standard national licence. You can be fined if you use your vehicles for international hire or reward work when your licence covers you for national operations only. However, a standard national licence allows you to haul loaded trailers to or from ports within Great Britain as part of an international journey as long as your motor vehicles do not actually leave Great Britain.

1.10 A *standard international* licence allows you to carry your own goods, and goods for other people for hire or reward, both in Great Britain and on international journeys. Operators who are issued with international licences will also receive Community Authorisations which are required for all hire or reward operations in, or through European Union countries. These have replaced the need for community permits, bilateral permits between member states and permits for transit traffic through the EU but not permits for travel to or through non-EU countries where these are still required. See Appendix 12 for further information.

# PART 2

## How do I get a licence?

### HOW DO I APPLY FOR A LICENCE?

- 2.1 To apply for a new licence you need to complete a Form GV79. This form is available from the VOSA Contact Centre Tel 0300 123 9000, or it may be downloaded at [www.transportoffice.gov.uk](http://www.transportoffice.gov.uk). The completed form, with the application fee (see Appendix 11), must be sent to the Traffic Area in whose are you have an operating centre. Details of the Traffic Areas and their address is at Appendix 1). If you have operating centres in more than one Traffic Area then you must make separate applications and pay separate fees to each Traffic Area. In such circumstances you may wish to seek further advice before applying from the VOSA Contact Centre on 0300 123 9000.
- 2.2 If you are not sure how to fill in the form you can contact the VOSA Contact Centre for help or, for example, a Trade Association such as:
- The Freight Transport Association, Hermes House, St John's Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. TW4 9UZ (Tel: 01892526171); and
  - The Road Haulage Association, Roadway House, 35 Monument Hill, Weybridge, Surrey. KT13 8RN (Tel: 01932841515)

### DO I HAVE TO ADVERTISE MY APPLICATION?

- 2.3 You must advertise your application in a local newspaper circulating in each place where you are applying to have your operating centres. This gives anyone owning or occupying buildings or land in the vicinity of the operating centre an opportunity to make a representation against your application on environmental grounds. See Part 5.
- 2.4 Your **GV79** application form contains a blank advertisement form and tells you how to fill it in (a copy is at **Appendix 8**). You can choose the size of the advertisement yourself, but it must be big enough to be easily read. The advertisement must appear **at least once** within the period running **from 21 days before to 21 days after** you make your application. Tear out the whole page of the newspaper showing your advertisement and send it straight away to the Traffic Commissioner. The page sent should contain the date and name of the paper. This will enable the caseworker dealing with your application to check that you have advertised correctly. If when your advertisement appears you have not yet sent in your application form, you should do so without delay.
- 2.5 If you do not advertise your application properly, or within the correct period, the Traffic Commissioner may not be able to consider your application. You should check also that the total number of vehicles and trailers you have applied to be authorised to use

in your advertisement. In addition to your advertisement, the Traffic Commissioner will publish details of your application in a publication called “Applications and Decisions”. This is sent to various organisations including Local Authorities, Police and Trade Associations who have a statutory right to object to the grant of your application.

- 2.6 For information on advertising applications to vary an existing licence see Part 7 and Appendix 9.

### **WHEN SHOULD I APPLY FOR A LICENCE?**

- 2.7 You should apply at **least 9 weeks** before the date when the licence is needed. This allows time for the Traffic Commissioner to make any enquiries thought to be needed. In straightforward cases a licence should be issued within those 9 weeks.

### **NB IT IS ILLEGAL TO OPERATE BEFORE A LICENCE IS ISSUED. WHAT IF I NEED TO START OPERATING URGENTLY?**

- 2.8 Write to the Traffic Area Office giving reasons why you want to operate urgently. The Traffic Commissioner may issue an interim licence, but can only do so if you have applied for a full licence. A fee will be charged for the issue of the interim licence and for each vehicle specified for use. When the fee is paid a vehicle identity disc will be sent to you for display on the windscreen.
- 2.9 *Remember:* an interim licence does not guarantee that you will get a full licence. Until you get a firm decision on that, you would be unwise to make any long term commitments.
- 2.10 The decision on whether or not to issue an interim licence will be made as soon as possible after the request, and a complete application is received. However, there may be occasions when the Traffic Commissioner will delay making a decision until the 21 day representation period for the advertisement has elapsed.

### **HOW MANY VEHICLES SHOULD I APPLY TO USE?**

- 2.11 Your licence, if issued, will authorise you to use a maximum total number of motor vehicles and, if applicable, trailers, including semi-trailers. The number you apply for should take into account the number of vehicles you intend to use straight away and allow for some extra motor vehicles to cover increases in business and emergencies, such as breakdowns. This is particularly important if you use only a few motor vehicles. These extra motor vehicles are commonly referred to as ‘the margin’. See Part 7.7 for more information about the use of vehicles under ‘the margin’.



## HOW LONG DOES MY LICENCE LAST?

2.12 Under the system of continuous licensing, introduced on 1 January 1996, your licence once issued is yours for life unless you operate outside the terms of your licence, surrender it, or fail to pay the required fees to keep the licence live.

2.13 Please note:

- that a Traffic Commissioner can take disciplinary action at any time to curtail, suspend, or revoke your licence;
- that if you do not pay the required fee on time your licence will automatically terminate;
- that the Traffic Commissioner has the opportunity to review the suitability of the operating centres on your licence every 5 years. For further information on reviews see paragraphs 4.5 to 4.16.

2.14 Continuous licensing means that you do not have to apply for a new licence every 5 years. Instead your TAO will contact you every 5 years with a summary of the information it holds on record. You will be asked to confirm that information is correct and to pay the required continuation fee by a specified date. This fee will keep your licence in force and pay for the discs you will need to display in your vehicles.

2.15 **REMEMBER: IF YOU DO NOT PAY YOUR FEES ON TIME YOUR LICENCE WILL AUTOMATICALLY TERMINATE AND YOU WILL HAVE TO STOP OPERATING AND APPLY FOR A NEW LICENCE.**

## DO I NEED TO RE-ADVERTISE AT ANY STAGE?

2.16 Assuming your licence is not revoked for any reason you will only have to advertise again if you are applying for a new operator's licence in another Traffic Area, or to have your current licence varied in some way (see Part 7).

## IF I AM AN EXISTING LICENCE HOLDER DO I NEED A NEW-STYLE LICENCE DOCUMENT AFTER 1 JANUARY 1996?

2.17 From 1 January 1996 all five year licences automatically became continuous, except in those cases where a licence had previously been prematurely terminated for disciplinary reasons. The expiry date on your present licence became your operating centre review date. The Traffic Commissioner will take the opportunity to issue you with new-style licence documentation when your review date is reached, or before that if you apply for a major variation to your licence. You need take no action.

## PART 3

# Requirements for a licence

### WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR GETTING A LICENCE?

3.1 **For any type of licence**, you will have to satisfy the Traffic Commissioner that:

- you and, if you have any, your partners or directors, are fit to hold a licence - see paragraph 3.3;
- you will have proper maintenance facilities of your own, or arrangements with a garage and enough money to keep your vehicles fit and serviceable - see paragraphs 3.6 and 3.7;
- you will have an operating centre suitable for your vehicles, bearing in mind such things as its size, location, availability and means of access - see Part 4 for more details about operating centres; and
- you will have proper arrangements to ensure that the rules about drivers' hours are followed and that vehicles are not overloaded - more details can be found in the booklet 'Drivers Hours and Tachograph Rules for Goods Vehicles in the UK and Europe', which can be obtained free of charge from various sources. See Appendix 14.

3.2 **For a Standard licence**, you will also have to satisfy the Traffic Commissioner that:

- you have enough resources to set up and run properly your road haulage business - see paragraph 3.8;
- you, or a partner in your business who is responsible for the transport operations, are professionally competent; or you have in your employment one or more professionally competent transport managers who have continuous and effective responsibility for managing the transport operations of your business - see paragraphs 3.9 to 3.12; and
- you, and all partners, directors and transport managers are of good repute - see paragraph 3.3.

### HOW ARE FITNESS AND GOOD REPUTE DECIDED?

3.3 In deciding fitness (all applicants), the Traffic Commissioner will take account of certain convictions. These include convictions for vehicle overloading, defective vehicles, or unauthorised use; also convictions connected with vehicle plating and testing or drivers'

hours. You must give details of any such convictions on the application form - see Appendix 5.

- 3.4 In deciding good repute (standard licence applicants only), the Traffic Commissioner will take account of any convictions covered by paragraph 3.3 above, and also any other relevant information. This includes any convictions that you or any partners, directors, transport managers or servants or agents have had in the UK or abroad. Details of convictions must be given on the application form - see Appendix 5.
- 3.5 If you or any partners, directors or transport managers are convicted of any offence after your licence application is sent in, you **must** give details to the Traffic Commissioner. Convictions after a licence has been issued **must** also be reported to the Traffic Commissioner immediately. Convictions after a licence application has been sent in and also after a licence has been issued, **must** be reported to the Traffic Commissioner - see Appendix 5.

### **WHAT ARE THE VEHICLE MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS?**

- 3.6 You must satisfy the Traffic Commissioner that you will keep your vehicles fit and serviceable at all times. The Traffic Commissioner will want to see a copy of any maintenance contract or letter of agreement with a garage if you do not do this work yourself. Examples of the forms used for vehicle safety inspections will be required by the Traffic Commissioner regardless of whether or not the work is carried out by a garage. **The “Guide to Maintaining Roadworthiness”**, produced by the Department for Transport in partnership with the transport industry, gives full advice about the requirements for maintenance arrangements. Copies are available from The Stationery Office and other sources. See Appendix 14.

### **WHAT ARE THE FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS?**

- 3.7 For all types of licence, the Traffic Commissioner has to be satisfied that you have adequate financial resources to keep your vehicles fit and serviceable. You are asked to give details on the application form of any recent bankruptcy, insolvency, liquidation or disqualification in relation to a company. Applicants are asked for details of financial resources and to give supporting evidence (such as bank statements and statement of assets, or most recent accounts).
- 3.8 For a standard licence, the financial requirements go still further. You will also need to satisfy the Traffic Commissioner that you have adequate financial resources to start up and run the road haulage business properly. As well as assets (such as your vehicles and premises) there must be enough working capital (such as cash, loan facilities, or other assets that can be turned quickly into cash) to cover all expenses that are likely to arise before any money is earned to meet them. An applicant for a standard licence may be asked for details of your expected income and expenditure. The VOSA Contact Centre can provide details of the level of funding required.

## WHAT ARE THE PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE REQUIREMENTS?

- 3.9 There are 2 levels of professional competence - one for a standard national licence and another for a standard international licence.
- Professional competence is established by:
  - holding a green certificate (GV203) issued by the Traffic Commissioner before 31 December 1979 stating that the holder was in responsible road transport employment under an operator's licence before 1 January 1975 (known as "grandfather rights"). If you do not already hold such a certificate, you cannot now claim one; or
  - passing the Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) examinations set by the Oxford, Cambridge and Royal Society of Arts Examinations Board (OCR); or
  - holding certain diplomas and qualifications from professional institutes.
- 3.11 As proof of professional competence, you must forward your *original* RSA or OCR CPC institute membership card etc or GV203 to the Traffic Commissioner with your application. This will be returned to you.
- 3.12 Appendix 4 gives more information about the professional competence requirements, including a list of the recognised qualifications and how to obtain a Certificate of Professional Competence.

## DO THESE RULES HAVE TO BE MET AT ALL TIMES?

- 3.13 The criteria of good repute, financial standing and professional competence which are incorporated in our domestic operator licensing system are set out in European legislation. There is a continuing requirement to meet these criteria. New rules on access to the profession came into effect in October 1999. These enable Traffic Commissioners to carry out interim checks at five yearly intervals to ensure that operator licence holders comply with these rules.

# PART 4

## Operating centres

### **WHAT IS MEANT BY AN “OPERATING CENTRE”?**

- 4.1 An operating centre is where your vehicles are normally kept when not in use. The operating centre should provide sufficient off street parking for all your vehicles and trailers.

### **WHAT CONSTRAINTS ARE THERE IN ACCEPTING A SITE AS AN OPERATING CENTRE?**

- 4.2 When you apply for a licence, you will be asked to list your proposed operating centres, with information about the vehicles which are to be kept there. The Traffic Commissioner will need to be satisfied that your operating centres are suitable - for example, that they will be big enough, with safe access, and in an environmentally acceptable location. If you do not own the operating centre you may be asked to provide evidence that you are entitled to use it.
- 4.3 In deciding environmental suitability, the Traffic Commissioner must, by law, take into account certain factors - these are listed in Appendix 7.
- 4.4 You will need additionally and separately to ensure that your proposed operating centre use meets the requirements of planning law. If you are unsure about the planning position you should consult your planning authority. Authorisation under an operator's licence does not convey any approval under planning law, and likewise approval under planning law is not a pre-condition for approval by a Traffic Commissioner.
- 4.5 If more details about your operating centres are needed, the Traffic Commissioner may send you an additional form - GV79E - to complete.

### **ONCE ESTABLISHED ARE OPERATING CENTRES PROTECTED IN ANY WAY?**

- 4.6 Yes: there are safeguards for established operating centres.
- 4.7 In certain circumstances a Traffic Commissioner may not refuse an application on environmental grounds (other than for parking). If any of the operating centres you propose to use is currently on another operator's licence and is being transferred to your licence, then these provisions may apply to you.
- 4.8 There are also restrictions on action that can be taken against operating centres at time of review (see following paragraphs).

## **WHAT IS MEANT BY A “REVIEW” OF MY OPERATING CENTRES?**

- 4.9 The review is a check by the Traffic Commissioner on the continued suitability of an operating centre.
- 4.10 The Traffic Commissioner will have the opportunity to review all the operating centres on your licence every 5 years. It will be entirely at the discretion of the Traffic Commissioner whether or not to carry out a review. If your operating centres are not reviewed then they are secure for another five years unless you do not pay the required fees, operate outside the terms of your licence, or apply for a major variation.

## **WHAT HAPPENS IF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSIONER DOES REVIEW MY OPERATING CENTRES?**

- 4.11 If the Traffic Commissioner does decide to review one or all of the operating centres on your licence you will be told. At review he may decide that no action is required but he has powers to act if necessary.
- 4.12 If an operating centre is found on review to be unsuitable the Traffic Commissioner has the power to attach conditions or vary existing ones for environmental and road safety reasons. The Traffic Commissioner must give you the opportunity to make representations about the effect that any conditions would have on your business before any conditions are attached.
- 4.13 At review the Traffic Commissioner also has the power to remove an operating centre from the licence. He would be able to do this for non-environmental reasons (for example road safety considerations), or because the operating centre was environmentally unsuitable by reason (only) of the parking of vehicles used under the licence at or near the centre in question.
- 4.14 There is a right of appeal conferred on the licence-holder where he is affected by added or varied conditions, or the removal of an operating centre. See Part 9, “Appeals to the Transport Tribunal” for further information.

## **SPECIAL PROVISION FOR TRANSFER OF OPERATING CENTRES.**

- 4.15 If your application for a new licence, or for a variation to an existing licence, involves the transfer onto your licence of an operating centre currently on another operator's licence, and:

- that other operator is giving up his use of that operating centre;
- the operating centre is not shared by other operators; and
- you are prepared to use it on the same terms as the existing licence holder,

you may be able to use a method that enables you to do this without advertising. For more information you should contact the VOSA Contact Centre.

# PART 5

## Objection, representations, and complaints

### WHO CAN OBJECT TO AN APPLICATION FOR A NEW LICENCE OR MAJOR VARIATION?

- 5.1 The following have a right to object to the granting of an application for a licence or variation to a licence:
- a Chief Officer of Police
  - a local authority (but not a Parish Council)
  - a planning authority
  - the British Association of Removers
  - the Freight Transport Association
  - the General and Municipal Workers Union
  - the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers
  - the Road Haulage Association
  - the Transport and General Worker's Union
  - the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers
  - the United Road Transport Union
- 5.2 An objection must be in writing and must state the grounds on which it is made. These may relate to the qualities of the applicant and any operating centre he proposes to use. Objections to operating centres may be on environmental or non-environmental grounds, or both. At the same time as the objection is sent to the Traffic Commissioner, a copy must be sent to the applicant. The objection must reach the Traffic Commissioner no later than 21 days after the application is published in the Traffic Commissioner's publication "Applications and Decisions", copies of which are available for download from [www.transportoffice.gov.uk](http://www.transportoffice.gov.uk).

## **WHO CAN MAKE A REPRESENTATION AGAINST AN APPLICATION FOR A NEW LICENCE OF VARIATION?**

- 5.3 The owners or occupiers of land, or buildings, in the vicinity of an operating centre, who feel that the use of a site as an operating centre will prejudicially affect their use or enjoyment of their land, have the right to make representations to the Traffic Commissioner about an application for a new licence or a variation. Representations may be made only on environmental grounds and it is up to the Traffic Commissioner to decide, in the light of local circumstances, the geographical limit of “the vicinity” of an operating centre.
- 5.4 Like an objection, any representation against the issue of a new licence or variation must be made in writing and state the grounds on which it is made. At the same time as it is sent to the Traffic Commissioner, a copy must be sent to the applicant. The representation must reach the Traffic Commissioner within 21 days of the date the applicant’s advertisement appeared in the local paper.
- 5.5 A free guide to making representations is available for download from [www.transportoffice.gov.uk](http://www.transportoffice.gov.uk) or from the VOSA Contact Centre.

## **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

- 5.6 The Traffic Commissioner will consider all objections and representations made against an application. If the objections and representations are valid you will be given the opportunity to comment on the matters raised. This is usually done at a Public Inquiry. Having assessed all the information the Traffic Commissioner may:
- grant your application as applied for; or
  - grant your application and attach conditions or undertakings; or
  - refuse the application.

If there is to be a Public Inquiry, the Office of the Traffic Commissioner staff will tell you where and when it will take place. It will be held on a weekday and may take place at the Office of the Traffic Commissioner or somewhere near to the operating centre (see Appendix 10 for what happens at a Public Inquiry).

## **CAN ANYONE COMPLAIN ABOUT MY OPERATING CENTRE ONCE MY LICENCE HAS BEEN ISSUED?**

- 5.7 Yes. Anyone can complain at any time about the suitability of an operating centre after it has been specified on your licence. The Traffic Commissioner then has the opportunity to review those centres at five year intervals (see the sections on operating centre review in Part 4 ). If the Traffic Commissioner does decide to review he may impose or change conditions on your licence for road safety or environmental reasons, or he may remove an operating centre altogether.



- 5.8 You will be told by the Traffic Commissioner if he intends to review any of your operating centres. If the decision is taken not to review an operating centre then it is secure for another 5 years provided you pay your licence fees when they are due, and the Traffic Commissioner does not have to take disciplinary action.
- 5.9 If you wish to make a major variation to the way in which you use an operating centre specified in your licence you will need to make an application for change in the usual way. In most cases such an application would need to be advertised in a local newspaper.

## PART 6

# The issue of a licence

### WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE TRAFFIC COMMISSIONER MAKES HIS DECISION?

- 6.1 If the Traffic Commissioner grants your application you will be asked to pay a further fee by a due date. The licence documents will not be issued until the fee has been paid and the licence does not come into force until the licence documents are issued. **If the fee is not paid by the due date the grant ceases to have effect.**
- 6.2 You are advised to read your licence document, and associated notes, carefully. The licence document will include:
- details of the licence holder and the licence number;
  - details of the type of licence issued and the total number of motor vehicles and trailers authorised for use under it;
  - details of the specified operating centres;
  - the names of transport managers (as appropriate);
  - conditions and undertakings; and
  - a list of the registration marks of the motor vehicles you have specified.
- 6.3 Identity discs will be issued for each specified motor vehicle for which a fee has been paid. Each disc will show:
- the operator's name;
  - the vehicle registration mark;
  - the operator's licence number;
  - the disc expiry date; and
  - the type of licence.

- 6.4 The disc must be displayed on the windscreen of the vehicle to which it belongs - it may not be used on any other vehicle. The discs are colour coded as follows:
- Orange - Restricted licence
  - Blue - Standard National licence
  - Green - Standard International licence
- 6.5 If you lose your licence documents or a vehicle disc(s) the Traffic Commissioner must be told in writing immediately. If the Traffic Commissioner is satisfied with your explanation, a replacement will be issued free of charge. Where the writing on a disc has faded, or the disc has been damaged, you can get a replacement at no cost from your Traffic Area Office by returning the old disc with details of your licence number and the vehicle registration mark.

### **HOW MUCH DO I PAY FOR A NEW LICENCE?**

- 6.6 There is a non-refundable charge for making an application and this should be sent so as to be received with the application. If no fee is received your application will not be processed. If the application is granted you will be asked to pay a further fee. This fee has two elements - an issue charge and a vehicle fee for each motor vehicle to be specified on the licence. No fees are charged for trailers. Details of the fee structure are in Appendix 11.
- 6.7 Both elements normally have a cover life of 5 years but if you wish to you can elect to pay your vehicle fees on a yearly basis. You will have to choose at the time of a new licence grant or at continuation stage.
- 6.8 Details of the level of fees current at any one time are published and available for download from [www.transportoffice.gov.uk](http://www.transportoffice.gov.uk) or from the VOSA Contact Centre on 0300 123 9000.

### **IF MY APPLICATION FOR A NEW LICENCE IS REFUSED, OR NOT GRANTED AS APPLIED FOR, DO I HAVE THE RIGHT TO APPEAL?**

- 6.9 If your application is refused or granted in terms other than what you have applied for you have a right of appeal to the Transport Tribunal. If any statutory objection has been made to your application, and your application is granted, then the objector(s) concerned also have a right of appeal to the Transport Tribunal. See Part 9 for further details.

## PART 6A

# Self Service Registration

As part of a new improved service to licence holders, operators can now register for self-service on line. Once registered and logged on to the self service system, users will be able to check all their licence details, add and remove vehicles, transfer vehicles between licences held in the same entity, track progress on licence applications and check for any objections against those applications.

To register for operator self-service;

- Have your operator licence number to hand (that is the number beginning OB or OC or OD etc followed by 7 digits). If you have more than one licence in your name you will see all of those licences during the registration process. If you think one is missing you can tell us about that on-line once you have logged on to the system.
- Go to the VOSA website at [www.transportoffice.gov.uk](http://www.transportoffice.gov.uk)
- Click on “Online Services” on the menu at the top right of the screen
- Click on the “HGV Operator Self Service” option
- Click the “Register” button.

The registration pages will guide you through the process. The user name you select will be confirmed back to you by email and a password will be sent by post to the correspondence address recorded for your licence on the Operator Licensing Business System. Ensure that you remember the user name and memorable word that you set up as you will need these when you receive your password to log on to the self-service system and start to use the service.

# PART 7

## Changes to a licence

### WHAT DO I DO IF I WANT TO REMOVE A SPECIFIED VEHICLE FROM MY LICENCE?

- 7.1 If you stop using a specified vehicle listed on your licence, you must notify the Traffic Commissioner within 21 days and return the disc which was issued for that vehicle, together with your licence documents, including the vehicle list, for amendment.
- 7.2 If you are not adding a vehicle at that stage a “paid-for” credit space will be left on your licence for when you wish to add another vehicle later on (see Appendix 11 for advice on refunds).

### HOW DO I CHANGE THE VEHICLES LISTED ON THE LICENCE?

- 7.3 If you are registered for operator self-service (see Part 6A) log on to operator self service at [www.transportoffice.gov.uk](http://www.transportoffice.gov.uk). Click on the ‘Vehicles’ option in the left hand menu, and then select the ‘Change Vehicles’ option. Select any vehicles that you wish to remove from the licence and click the ‘Remove’ button. If you want to add vehicles to the licence click the ‘Next’ button, complete the details of the vehicle(s) and click ‘Add’. If you do not hold credits, click ‘Generate Fee Request’ and a fee request will be sent to you. Discs for any vehicle removed from the licence must be returned to the Traffic Area Office where the licence is held.  
Discs for added vehicles will be sent to you on payment of a fee if you do not hold credits.
- 7.4 If you are not registered for operator self-service. Send your licence documents, including the vehicle list GV79A, to the Traffic Commissioner with a completed GV8O listing the registration numbers of the vehicles to be taken off and those to be added on. Discs for removed vehicles must be returned with the GV8O.

The licence documents will then be amended and returned to you.

Discs for added vehicles will be sent to you on payment of a fee if you do not hold credits.

- 7.5 This type of change does not have to be advertised by you, or published by the Traffic Commissioner provided that the total vehicle authorisation of the licence is not exceeded.

### WHAT DO I DO IF I WANT TO USE MORE VEHICLES?

- 7.6 Your licence when first issued will authorise you to use up to a maximum number of motor vehicles and trailers. If the number of vehicles specified on your licence (ie recorded by

registration mark on the vehicle list) is less than the number you are authorised to use, you can take on extra vehicles at any time provided you do not exceed the maximum number authorised, and provided any conditions attached to your licence allow you to do so. The difference between the number of specified vehicles and the maximum number of vehicles authorised on your licence is commonly called 'the margin'.

- 7.7 Any vehicle which is being used on the margin can only be so used for one month. The vehicle ceases to be authorised if you do not notify the Traffic Commissioner about that vehicle within the month, and pay a prescribed fee. At that time you must also return your licence documents including the vehicle list, with a completed form GV80 listing registration marks.

### **WHAT DO I DO IF I WANT TO USE MORE VEHICLES THAN I AM AUTHORISED TO USE?**

- 7.8 If the extra vehicles you want to use will:
- result in you exceeding the total number of vehicles authorised on the licence; and/or
  - result in you keeping more vehicles at an operating centre than your licence allows.

**THIS WOULD BE A MAJOR VARIATION TO YOUR LICENCE and you must follow the procedures outlined in paragraphs 7.10 - 7.14 below.**

### **HOW DO I CHANGE OR ADD AN OPERATING CENTRE TO MY LICENCE?**

- 7.9 If you want to use a new operating centre either instead of or in addition to, an operating centre already on your licence, **THIS WOULD BE A MAJOR VARIATION** and you must follow the procedures outlined in paragraphs 7.10 - 7.14 below.

### **WHAT ARE THE PROCEDURES FOR APPLYING FOR A MAJOR VARIATION? (EXCLUDING CHANGE OF LICENCE TYPE)**

- 7.10 You must complete a form GV81 and send it with an application fee to your Traffic Area Office at least 9 weeks before you need the extra vehicles or change of operating centre. Neither additional vehicles nor additional operating centres can be used until the application has been granted and the varied licence issued, unless interim authority has been given. Details of current fee levels are published and available for download from [www.transportoffice.gov.uk](http://www.transportoffice.gov.uk) or from the VOSA Contact Centre on 0300 123 9000.
- 7.11 As with your original application for a licence, the Traffic Commissioner will publish details of your variation application and you must advertise it in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of your operating centre - see paragraphs 2.4 to 2.6. A form for this advertisement is included in the GV81 - see the copy at Appendix 9.
- 7.12 Your application to vary will be open to objections and representations in the same way that your original application was.

- 7.13 Applications for the major variations mentioned in paragraphs 7.8 and 7.9 may attract two fees. An application charge, to be paid when the application is made, and if appropriate, a vehicle fee for any extra vehicles which you want specified on your licence once the variation has been granted.
- 7.14 If you are applying for extra vehicles you will be issued with identity disc(s) *only* after appropriate fees have been paid. If no vehicle fee is paid the variation will cease to have effect.

### **HOW DO I CHANGE THE TYPE OF LICENCE?**

- 7.15 To change the licence you hold from, for example, restricted to standard national, or from standard national to standard international, you must apply to the Traffic Commissioner on form GV80A at least 9 weeks before you require the change in type. Proof of professional competence, good repute and financial standing will have to be provided if you want to change to a standard national or standard international licence. A Traffic Commissioner must publish applications to upgrade licences eg those from restricted to standard national and your application will be open to objection by statutory objectors.
- 7.16 You do not have to advertise these applications, but they are major variations to your licence. If granted you will not be charged a fee but all your licence documents and vehicle discs have to be returned so that your documents can be amended. The change in licence type does not take effect until the application has been granted and the varied licence issued, unless interim authority has been given.

### **IS THERE A RIGHT OF APPEAL IF MY VARIATION APPLICATION IS REFUSED?**

- 7.17 If your application to vary your licence is refused, you have a right to appeal - see Part 9.

### **WHAT IF I NEED TO USE MY EXTRA VEHICLES AND/OR NEW OPERATING CENTRE VERY URGENTLY?**

- 7.18 Write to the Traffic Area Office giving reasons why you need urgent authorisation for extra vehicles and/or a new operating centre. The Traffic Commissioner may give an interim direction which will allow you to operate in the way you have applied for, while your application to vary your licence is being considered.
- 7.19 A fee will be charged to cover grant and the vehicle element if the interim direction is given.
- 7.20 The issue of an interim direction will not guarantee that your variation application will be granted and until you get a firm decision on it you would be unwise to make any commitments in anticipation.

## WHAT DO I DO IF THERE ARE CHANGES IN THE BUSINESS?

7.21 **Licences are not transferable.** If changes are made in a business which affect, in law, the identity of that business, a new licence must be applied for using form GV79.

The Traffic Commissioner **must** be told in writing:

- of any change in the control of the business - for example, if someone new is taken on as a partner or director, or if the business is converted to a limited company (a new business must apply for its own licence);
- of any change in the correspondence address of the business (this must be notified within 28 days);
- of any change in the name of the business;
- of any change affecting professionally competent partners or nominated transport managers (including any re-organisation that affects their control of vehicles). Notifications should be made on form GV80A enclosing the professional competence certificates for any new Transport Manager;
- if the licence holder, or any director or partner, is declared bankrupt; and
- if the company goes into liquidation; an administration order is made; or a receiver/manager is appointed.

7.22 In the case of a **standard** licence, the Traffic Commissioner must also be told in writing if:

- the licence holder, or any professionally competent partner or nominated transport manager dies, leaves the business, has experienced circumstances which may affect his/her good reputation, or can no longer carry out his/her duties effectively (due to physical disability or mental disorder).

7.23 The Traffic Commissioner may require you to notify him of other details affecting the operation of your vehicles. Details of these requirements will form part of your licence documentation.



# **PART 8**

## **Holding companies and subsidiaries**

### **HOW ARE HOLDING COMPANIES AND SUBSIDIARIES TREATED?**

- 8.1 The brief notes below do not cover every case - if you have any special problems that are not covered, you should seek further advice for example, consult a trade association or other professional adviser.
- 8.2 A holding company can include in its application for an operator's licence the vehicles of any named subsidiary of which it owns more than 50%. If a licence is granted in the name of a holding company and that company later acquires a subsidiary, the subsidiary's vehicles can be included on the holding company's licence, provided they are in the same Traffic Area.
- 8.3 Adding these vehicles may involve a change in the holding company's licence for which an application will have to be made to the Traffic Commissioner on form GV81 - see Part 7.

## **PART 9**

# **Appeals to the Transport Tribunal**

### **CAN AN APPEAL BE MADE AGAINST THE TRAFFIC COMMISSIONER'S DECISION ON A LICENCE APPLICATION OR VARIATION?**

- 9.1 Yes. Whatever the decision of the Traffic Commissioner, an appeal can be made by the applicant, or a statutory objector (not representor) who objected to the licence application or variation.

### **CAN REPRESENTORS BECOME PARTIES TO APPEALS?**

- 9.2 Yes. Although people who make representations do not have a right to initiate an appeal they may apply to the Transport Tribunal to become parties to an appeal if one is made by an objector or applicant.

### **CAN AN APPEAL BE MADE AGAINST A DISCIPLINARY DECISION OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSIONER?**

- 9.3 Yes. A licence holder can appeal against a disciplinary decision taken by the Traffic Commissioner.

### **CAN AN APPEAL BE MADE AGAINST THE TRAFFIC COMMISSIONER'S REVIEW OF AN OPERATING CENTRE?**

- 9.4 As regards the review of operating centres, there is a right of appeal conferred only on the licence-holder and only where he is affected by added or varied conditions, or the removal of an operating centre. Statutory objectors and representors do not have any rights of appeal, either against the decision of a Traffic Commissioner not to carry out a review, or against whatever decision a Traffic Commissioner makes if he does carry out a review.

### **ARE THERE ANY OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN AN APPEAL CAN BE MADE?**

- 9.5 Yes. There are rights of appeal about decisions if the required procedures have not been followed.

- 9.6 If there has been a procedural irregularity in the consideration of an application, the Traffic Commissioner has the power to review his decision. That could result in it being set aside and a different decision being made.
- 9.7 Any person who applies for a review of a Traffic Commissioner's decision on the grounds of some procedural irregularity will have a right of appeal to the Transport Tribunal if the request is turned down.
- 9.8 Where a review is carried out by the Traffic Commissioner because of a procedural irregularity and this results in a different decision being made, the normal appeal rights, of applicants and objectors, will apply and will relate to the new decision rather than the original.

### **WHERE DO I SEND MY APPEAL?**

- 9.9 Appeals should be made to the Transport Tribunal at the following address:

Postal Address:

Procession House

55 Ludgate Hill

LONDON EC4M 7JW

Public Entrance:

Procession House

110 New Bridge Street

LONDON EC4V6JL)

Tel: 020 7029 9780

Fax: 020 7029 9782

### **WHEN CAN AN APPEAL BE MADE?**

- 9.10 Notice of appeal must be received by the Tribunal no later than 28 days after the date of the notification in writing to the appellant of the matter giving rise to the appeal. If you are making an appeal, you may present your own case or be represented at the hearing by, for example, a lawyer. The Transport Tribunal normally gives its decision at the hearing and later confirms it in writing, giving reasons. You may be able to operate while your appeal is being heard. Contact your Traffic Area Caseworker if you require further information.

### **WHERE CAN I GET ADVICE ON THE APPEAL PROCEDURE?**

- 9.11 A free booklet "Appeals to the Transport Tribunal" is available from the Transport Tribunal.

# PART 10

## Disciplinary action

### CAN A LICENCE BE WITHDRAWN OR SUSPENDED?

- 10.1 Yes. The Traffic Commissioner **must** revoke a Standard licence if the holder no longer fulfils the requirements of good repute, financial standing or professional competence (see Part 3 and Appendix 4).
- 10.2 He **must** revoke a Restricted licence if the holder has 2 convictions within 5 years for using a goods vehicle on a Restricted licence for carrying goods for hire or reward.
- 10.3 He **may** revoke, suspend or limit any type of licence if:
- the licence holder has broken any conditions attached to the licence;
  - there have been any prohibitions on the use of authorised vehicles because they are unroadworthy or overloaded;
  - the licence holder is convicted of certain offences - **see Appendix 5**;
  - any of the statements made in the licence application prove to be false;
  - the licence holder has not kept any undertaking which he gave when he applied for the licence, or which he gave some time later during the currency of the licence, and which appears on the licence documentation;
  - the licence holder had been made bankrupt or (if the holder is a company) has gone into liquidation;
  - since the licence was issued or varied there has been a material change in any of the circumstances of the licence holder relevant to the issue or variation of the licence; or
  - the licence holder has used a place not listed on the licence as a operating centre.
- 10.4 A vehicle on a licence which has been suspended or limited can be prohibited from being used by another operator for a period of up to 6 months.
- 10.5 In serious cases, where the Traffic Commissioner revokes an operator's licence for disciplinary reasons, he may disqualify a person, partner or director of a company from holding an operator's licence in his or any other Traffic Area. If the disqualification applies to another Traffic Area in which the disqualified person holds a licence, that licence will automatically be suspended from the date of the disqualification order.

### **DOES THE TRAFFIC COMMISSIONER'S DECISION TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY?**

- 10.6 If the Traffic Commissioner suspends or revokes your licence, he may in some circumstances grant a stay to allow it to continue until an appeal is heard, so that you can still operate your business in the meantime.
- 10.7 You should first apply to the Traffic Commissioner if you want a stay. If he refuses to grant one, you may then apply to the Transport Tribunal- see Part 9 for address.
- 10.8 If the Traffic Commissioner proposes to take disciplinary action, he must first hold an inquiry if this is requested by the licence holder or by the person against whom the disciplinary action is to be taken. As livelihoods may be at stake, it is important that a proper case is presented to the Traffic Commissioner, so the use of a lawyer or other professional adviser may be advisable.

### **IS THERE ANY RIGHT OF APPEAL AGAINST THE DISCIPLINARY DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE TRAFFIC COMMISSIONER?**

- 10.9 Yes. The licence holder has a right of appeal to the Transport Tribunal.

# APPENDIX 1

## Traffic Areas

Traffic Area	Areas Covered	Office Address
<b>North Eastern</b>	<p>The Metropolitan Boroughs within South Yorkshire, Tyne and Wear and West Yorkshire</p> <p>The Counties of Durham, Northumberland, Nottinghamshire and North Yorkshire</p> <p>The Districts of Darlington, East Riding of Yorkshire, Hartlepool, Kingston upon Hull, Middlesbrough, North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire, Nottingham, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-on- Tees and York</p>	<p>Hillcrest House 386 Harehills Lane Leeds LS9 6NF</p> <p>Tel 0300 123 9000 Fax 0113 248 9607</p>
<b>North Western</b>	<p>The Metropolitan Boroughs within Greater Manchester and Merseyside</p> <p>The Counties of Cheshire, Cumbria, Derbyshire and Lancashire</p> <p>The Districts of Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, Derby City, Halton and Warrington</p>	<p>Hillcrest House 386 Harehills Lane Leeds LS9 6NF</p> <p>Tel 0300 123 9000 Fax 0113 248 9607</p>
<b>West Midland</b>	<p>The Metropolitan Boroughs within West Midlands</p> <p>The Counties of Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire</p> <p>The Districts of Herefordshire, Stoke-on-Trent and Telford and Wrekin</p>	<p>Hillcrest House 386 Harehills Lane Leeds LS9 6NF</p> <p>Tel 0300 123 9000 Fax 0113 248 9607</p>
<b>Welsh (Cymru)</b>	Wales (Cymru)	<p>Hillcrest House 386 Harehills Lane Leeds LS9 6NF</p> <p>Tel 0300 123 9000 Fax 0113 248 9607</p>

<b>Traffic Area</b>	<b>Areas Covered</b>	<b>Office Address</b>
<b>Eastern</b>	<p>The Counties of Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Essex, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire (except the Districts of North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire), Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Suffolk</p> <p>The Districts of Leicester, Luton, Milton Keynes, Peterborough, Rutland, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock</p>	<p>Hillcrest House 386 Harehills Lane Leeds LS9 6NF</p> <p>Tel 0300 123 9000 Fax 0113 248 9607</p>
<b>Western</b>	<p>The Counties of Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Oxfordshire, Somerset and Wiltshire</p> <p>The Districts of Bath and North East Somerset, Bournemouth, Bracknell Forest, Bristol, Isle of Wight, North Somerset, Plymouth, Poole, Portsmouth, Reading, Slough, Southampton, South Gloucestershire, Swindon, Torbay, West Berkshire, Windsor and Maidenhead and Wokingham</p>	<p>Hillcrest House 386 Harehills Lane Leeds LS9 6NF</p> <p>Tel 0300 123 9000 Fax 0113 248 9607</p>
<b>South Eastern &amp; Metropolitan</b>	<p>Greater London</p> <p>The Counties of Kent, Surrey, East Sussex and West Sussex</p> <p>The Districts of Brighton and Hove, The Medway Towns</p>	<p>Hillcrest House 386 Harehills Lane Leeds LS9 6NF</p> <p>Tel 0300 123 9000 Fax 0113 248 9607</p>
<b>Scottish</b>	Scotland	<p>Hillcrest House 386 Harehills Lane Leeds LS9 6NF</p> <p>Tel 0300 123 9000 Fax 0113 248 9607</p>

## APPENDIX 2

### Vehicles which do not need to be on an operator's licence or the use of which do not require an operators licence

The following list reflects the substance of the main exemptions from operator licensing and is a summary only. Details of most of them can be found in Schedule 3 to the Goods Vehicles (Licensing of Operators) Regulations 1995.

- vehicles first used before 1977 which have an unladen weight not exceeding 1525kg and for which the maximum gross plated weight is between 3500kg and 3556.21kg (3.5 tons)
- motor vehicles & their trailers using public roads for less than 9.654km (6 miles) a week, whilst moving between private premises
- vehicles being used under a trade licence
- vehicles constructed, or adapted, primarily for carrying passengers & their effects while being used for that purpose, and any trailer drawn
- vehicles used by, or under the control of Her Majesty's United Kingdom forces and visiting forces vehicles
- vehicles being used by local authorities for Civil Defence purposes, or to carry out their functions in respect of certain enactments
- vehicles being used for police, fire or ambulance purposes
- fire-fighting & rescue vehicles used in mines
- RNLI & Coastguard vehicles when used for transporting lifeboats, appliances or crew
- vehicles being held ready for use in emergencies by water, electricity, gas & telephone undertakings
- tractors, including agricultural tractors, used in certain circumstances
- vehicles being used to carry goods within aerodromes
- vehicles being used for funerals
- uncompleted vehicles on test or trial
- vehicles being used for or in connection with (or on their way to) snow clearing or distribution of salt, grit etc



- vehicles on their way to a Department for Transport examination being presented laden at the request of an examiner
- electric and steam propelled vehicles
- recovery vehicles. Paragraph 3 of the Goods Vehicles [Licensing of Operators] Regulations 1995 states that a recovery vehicle has the same meaning as in Part V of Schedule 1 to the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994 (i.e. a vehicle which is constructed or permanently adapted for any one or more of the purposes of lifting, towing and transporting a disabled vehicle).
- vehicles with fitted equipment eg machines, appliances, where the only other goods (or burden) carried are required for use in connection with the fitted equipment
- tower wagons & trailers which are carrying goods related to the work of the tower wagons
- dual purpose vehicles (eg Land Rovers) & their trailers
- trailers whose primary purpose is not to carry goods but do so incidentally in connection with construction, maintenance or repair of roads
- road rollers & trailers
- showmen's goods vehicles & trailers
- crown vehicles
- vehicles being used for international haulage by operators established in other EU Member States
- vehicles being used for international haulage by operators established in Northern Ireland
- vehicles being used under the provisions of the Goods Vehicles (Operators Licences) (Temporary Use in Great Britain) Regulations 1980. These Regulations include provision for the use in Great Britain of Northern Ireland Vehicles, which have an operating centre in Northern Ireland, provided that certain conditions are met. Own account and hire and reward operations are covered.

Note: A review of exemptions is currently being carried out. Please consult the VOSA Contact Centre on 0300 123 9000 if in doubt.

# APPENDIX 3

## Weight thresholds

### HOW DO I FIND THE PLATED WEIGHT OF A VEHICLE?

- The gross plated weight is the total permitted weight of a loaded vehicle.
- If you want to confirm the permitted weight look on the Department for Transport plate or the manufacturer's plate if there is no Department plate.
- Department for Transport plates are fitted on motor vehicles after first registration and on trailers after they have undergone a Department for Transport annual test.
- The plates are usually found:
  - on motor vehicles - inside the cab in a conspicuous position.
  - on trailers - on the nearside, often on the headboard.

### WHAT HAPPENS IF A VEHICLE IS NOT FITTED WITH A PLATE?

- If you do not know the unladen weight, you should take the unladen vehicle to a weighbridge. A list of the VOSA's heavy goods vehicle test stations is at Appendix 15. Your nearest station will be able to advise you of weighbridges near you.

### HOW DO THESE REQUIREMENTS AFFECT "ARTICS" OR VEHICLES WITH DRAWBAR TRAILERS?

- For an articulated vehicle ie tractive unit with a semi-trailer, you need a licence if:
  - the unladen weight of the tractive unit, plus the gross plated weight of the semi-trailer is more than 3500kg, or
  - in a case where the semi-trailer is not plated, the combined unladen weight is more than 1525kg.
- For a motor vehicle with draw-bar trailer, you need a licence if:
  - in the case where both the motor vehicle and the trailer(s) are plated, the total of their gross plated weights is more than 3500kg, or
  - in any other case, the total unladen weight is more than 1525kg.

**NB** A small trailer of not more than 1020kg unladen weight can be ignored for the purposes of adding up total gross weights or unladen weights for drawbar outfits.

# APPENDIX 4

## Professional competence

**(Relevant to Standard licences only)**

### **WAYS IN WHICH PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE CAN BE MET**

#### **1 GRANDFATHER RIGHTS (GOODS)**

- 1.1 In the past GV203s, which are green “grandfather rights”, certificates were issued by Traffic Commissioners to those with experience of operating licensed goods vehicles before 1 January 1975. These are acceptable as proof of professional competence for both national and international licence applications. If you do not already have one of these certificates, you cannot now claim one.
- 1.2 Copies of lost or damaged certificates can be obtained, free of charge, from the office of the Traffic Commissioner which issued the original certificate. Application should be made in writing by the person to whom the certificate was originally issued, giving their full name, age and date of birth and the reason for seeking a copy. If in any doubt about the process, or if the original office has closed or moved, consult the VOSA Contact Centre on 0300 123 9000.

#### **2 OCR EXAMINATIONS BOARD EXAMINATION**

- 2.1 The examination for a Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) is set by the OCR Examinations Board (formerly the Royal Society of Arts (RSA)) acting as agents for DfT. There is a national examination which meets the requirements for a standard national licence and an additional international examination for standard international licence. There are no academic entry requirements for the examination.
- 2.2 Details of examination dates, test and study centres, and a more detailed syllabus are available from the OCR Examinations Board, Westwood Way, Coventry, CV4 8HS (Tel: 02476 470033).
- 2.3 There are no fixed rules or requirements for study. You can prepare for the examination by:
  - attending a residential course
  - attending a non-residential course
  - by studying with the help of a special learning pack or by a correspondence course
  - by studying without assistance.

### 3 OTHER ACCEPTABLE QUALIFICATIONS OR DIPLOMAS (GOODS)

- 3.1 Certain other qualifications are acceptable as proof professional competence (GOODS). These are currently under review but if you have any of the following, you are likely to be exempt from CPC examination.

**a. for both Standard National and Standard International licence:**

- i) Fellow or Member of the Institute of Logistics and Transport (formerly the Chartered Institute of Transport in the UK) by examination and/or formal accreditation in Road Freight Transport.
- ii) Honorary Fellow, Fellow or Member of Society of Operations Engineers.
- iii) Fellow, or Associate of the Institute of the Furniture Warehousing and Removing Industry, or from 13 May 1995, Fellow or Associate of the Movers Institute.
- iv) Certificate in Transport (Road Freight) awarded by the Institute of Logistics and Transport.

**b. for a Standard National licence:**

- i) Member of the Institute of Logistics and Transport (formerly the Chartered Institute of Transport in the UK) by examination and/or formal accreditation in Road Freight Transport.
- ii) Certificate in Transport (Road Freight) awarded by the Institute of Logistics and Transport.
- iii) Associate Member of the Society of Operations Engineers (by examination).
- iv) General and Ordinary Certificate in Removals Management issued by the Institute of Furniture Warehousing and Removals Industry prior to 13 May 1995, or after that date the National Certificate in Removals Management issued by the Movers Institute.
- v) RSA Certificate in Road Freight Transport granted on or after 1 May 1984 which specifically contains a footnote granting exemption.

**Note:** From March 2007, Institute of Transport Administration (IoTA) exemption certificates are not acceptable as CPC qualifications/exemptions for nominated transport managers. Any new applications which nominate a Transport Manager who submits for consideration an IoTA certificate will not be accepted without either providing additional acceptable evidence of professional competence or alternatively, an applicant may nominate a replacement Transport Manager who holds an acceptable CPC or exemption. This approach will be adopted until agreed LoTA examinations are in place for National and International operations.

Operators who currently employ a Transport Manager who used IoTA certificates as evidence of exemption prior to March 2007 are not affected unless that TM wishes to be added to a new or additional licence. Should this occur the matter will be considered by the Traffic Commissioner.

#### **4 VALIDITY OF PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE IN OTHER EU MEMBER STATES (GOODS)**

- 4.1 A national qualification in professional competence can be used to satisfy other EU member states about professional competence. However, with the exception of RSA or OCR full professional competence certificates (National or International) issued since March 1992 if you want to operate in the national market of any other European Union Country you will need to obtain a mutual recognition certificate to support your application. This is available, on payment of a £20 fee. For further information consult the VOSA Contact Centre on 0300 123 9000.

# APPENDIX 5

## Convictions

### GENERAL

- 1 The *test of fitness* has to be satisfied by all licence applicants and licence holders. Amongst other things, a Traffic Commissioner takes into account particulars given of certain convictions - see paragraph 6 below.
- 2 “*Good repute*” requirements have to be met for Standard licences. A Traffic Commissioner will consider “any matter” (individuals), or “material evidence” (companies), before him about any convictions, including those listed below, or previous conduct which appear to relate to an operator’s fitness to hold a licence.
- 3 Lack of frankness about convictions at the time of making an application, or non disclosure of convictions incurred after a licence is issued, constitutes a serious threat to the continuation of a licence.

### SPENT CONVICTIONS

- 4 At application stage, and thereafter, a Traffic Commissioner should be notified of all convictions which are not “spent”. Convictions which are “spent” do not need to be disclosed to the Traffic Commissioner.
- 5 A conviction is “spent” for the purposes of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, when a specific “rehabilitation period” has passed provided that no further crimes were committed during that period. Further information and a leaflet ‘Wiping the Slate Clean’ can be obtained from C4 Division, Home Office, Room 358, 50 Queen Anne’s Gate, London SW1H 9AT. Tel: 020 7273 2397.

### APPLICATIONS

#### ALL Licence applications

- 6 *Convictions less than 5 years old from the date of conviction, of the operator, including partners or directors, and the operator’s servants or agents*, in respect of the following, must be notified to the Traffic Commissioner:
  - The maintenance of vehicles and failure to keep them in a fit and serviceable condition
  - Vehicle testing and plating
  - Drivers’ hours & records
  - Drivers’ licensing

- International road haulage permits
- Forgery of, for example, licence documents
- Loading/overloading
- Speed limits
- Contravention of parking restrictions & prohibitions
- Unlawful use of vehicles
- Certain waste related offences

## **STANDARD LICENCE APPLICATIONS**

- 7 The Traffic Commissioner must be notified of convictions in respect of the matters listed ABOVE in paragraph 6, *and foreign convictions on a par with those convictions. He must also be notified of any other convictions* which are not “spent”. For an individual applicant, their convictions and those of employees and agents are taken into account; for companies, convictions of the company, directors or other company officers or employees and agents are taken into account.
- 8 When considering good repute a Traffic Commissioner has to give particular attention to convictions for serious road transport offences.
- 9 A “serious offence” is one for which a sentence of imprisonment of more than three months, a fine exceeding level 4 on the standard scale, or a community service order for more than 60 hours has been imposed.
- 10 “Road transport offence” is an offence under the law relating to road transport, in particular drivers’ hours and rest periods, the weight and dimensions of commercial vehicles and road and vehicle safety. This may now also include offences concerning protection of the environment or professional liability.

## **ALL LICENCES: ACTION TO TAKE ONCE LICENCE HAS BEEN ISSUED**

- 11 A condition attached to all licences requires Traffic Commissioners to be notified of convictions after the licence has been issued. Once a licence has been issued a licence holder must also notify a Traffic Commissioner of all prohibitions to drive unfit or overloaded vehicles if the licence holder was the owner of the vehicle when the prohibition was imposed.

**NB CONVICTIONS MUST BE NOTIFIED TO THE TRAFFIC COMMISSIONER WITHIN 28 DAYS OF THE DATES OF THE CONVICTIONS.**

# APPENDIX 6

## Summary of the guide to maintaining roadworthiness

### **(SEE PART 3 OF THIS GUIDE - WHAT ARE THE MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS?)**

1. A daily walkround check must be undertaken by a responsible person before a vehicle is used.
2. First-use inspections are essential for operators who lease, hire or borrow vehicles, including trailers, from other people. Inspections where vehicles and trailers have been off the road for some time are essential.
3. Drivers must be able to report promptly any defects or symptoms of defects that could adversely affect the safe operation of vehicles. Reports must be made in writing and provision should be made to record details of any rectification work done.
4. Drivers' defect reports which record any faults must be kept for at least 15 months.
5. Operators must ensure that checks are made regularly of items which affect roadworthiness.
6. Safety inspections must include those items covered by the appropriate Department for Transport annual test.
7. Safety inspections should be pre-planned preferably using a time based programme.
8. The system of safety inspections must be regularly monitored particularly in the early stages.
9. Any remedial work carried out arising from safety inspections must be the subject of a written record.
10. The safety inspection report must include:
  - vehicle details
  - a list of all items to be inspected
  - when and by whom the inspection is carried out
  - the result of the inspection
  - details of any rectification work
  - a declaration that defects have been rectified satisfactorily.



11. On some types of vehicle and operations, intermediate safety checks may be necessary.
12. Records of safety inspections must be kept for at least 15 months.
13. Staff carrying out safety inspections must be competent to assess the significance of defects. Assistance must be available to operate the vehicle controls as necessary.
14. There must be a system to ensure that unroadworthy vehicles are removed from service.
15. Operators who undertake their own safety inspections must have adequate facilities and tools available. They must be appropriate to the size of fleet and type of vehicle operated.
16. Operators should have access to a means of measuring brake efficiency and setting headlamp aim and measuring exhaust emissions.
17. An operator is responsible for the condition of vehicles which (includes trailers) inspected and/or maintained for him by agents, contractors or hire companies.
18. Operators who contract out their safety inspections must draw up, and have approved, a formal written contract with an inspection agency or garage. Such operators should have a means of regularly monitoring the quality of work produced for them.
19. The dates when safety inspections are due must be the subject of forward planning.
20. A maintenance planner or wall chart should be used to identify dates at least 6 months before safety inspections are due.
21. Any system of maintaining the roadworthiness of vehicles should be effectively and continually monitored.
22. Any change by licensed operators to arrangements for safety inspections must be notified to the relevant Traffic Area Office without delay.
23. Drivers must be given clear written instructions about their responsibilities.

# APPENDIX 7

## Environmental factors and conditions

### SUMMARY

For further details, consult Regulations 14 and 15 of The Goods Vehicles (Licensing of Operators) Regulations 1995

When considering environmental matters associated with an application for a licence, or variation to an existing licence, the Traffic Commissioner will take into account:

- the nature and use of any other land in the vicinity of the operating centre, and the effect that granting the application would be likely to have on the environment of that land;
- how much harm would be done to the environment of the land in the vicinity, by granting an application which is materially to change the use of an existing (or previously used) operating centre;
- in the case of land not previously used as an operating centre, any planning permission (or planning application) relating to the operating centre or the land in its vicinity;
- the number, type and size of the authorised vehicles which will use the operating centre;
- the parking arrangements for the authorised vehicles which will use the operating centre;
- the nature and times of use of the operating centre;
- the nature and times of use of the equipment at the operating centre; and
- how many vehicles would be entering and leaving the operating centre, and how often.

### ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

- To prevent or minimise adverse effects on the environment, the Traffic Commissioner may attach conditions to a licence covering:
- the number, type and size of authorised vehicles (including trailers) at the operating centre for maintenance or parking;
- parking arrangements for the authorised vehicles (including trailers) at the operating centre or in its vicinity;

- the times when the operating centre may be used for maintenance or movement of authorised vehicles; and
- how authorised vehicles enter and leave the operating centre.

# APPENDIX 8

## Advertisement Form for use with GV79

### GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

trading as \_\_\_\_\_

of \_\_\_\_\_

is applying for a licence to use \_\_\_\_\_

as an operating centre for \_\_\_\_\_ goods vehicles and

\_\_\_\_\_ trailers

and to use \_\_\_\_\_

as an operating centre for \_\_\_\_\_ goods vehicles and

\_\_\_\_\_ trailers

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

# APPENDIX 9

## Advertisement Form for use with GV81

### **NOTE: ADVERTISING OF VARIATION APPLICATIONS**

A variation application has to be advertised in a local newspaper **ONLY** if the application proposes:

- the addition of a new operating centre;
- the removal of any restrictions on the licence, (for example the removal of a maximum weight restriction for vehicles);
- more vehicles than the licence authorises;
- changes to, or the removal of, conditions or undertakings affecting the use of an existing operating centre.
- If you are in any doubt about whether or not you have to advertise you should contact your local Traffic Area Office at the address shown at Appendix 1. For further details on advertising consult Sections 17 and 18 of the Goods Vehicles (Licensing of Operators) Act 1995. See page 52.

## Goods Vehicle Operator's licence

trading as \_\_\_\_\_

of \_\_\_\_\_

is applying to change an existing licence as follows

- To keep an extra \_\_\_\_\_ goods vehicles and \_\_\_\_\_ trailers at the operating centre at

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- To add an operating centre to keep \_\_\_\_\_ goods vehicles and \_\_\_\_\_ trailers at

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- To change existing conditions or undertakings applying at the operating centre at

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

from \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- To remove the following conditions or undertakings which reads

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ and which applies at the operating centre

at \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

# APPENDIX 10

## Public Inquiries

### WHAT HAPPENS AT A PUBLIC INQUIRY?

- 1 It is up to the Traffic Commissioner concerned to decide how to run the inquiry, but the Traffic Commissioner must give the applicant, the objectors and the representors an opportunity to present their cases. The procedure will be explained at the start of the inquiry, but it will be informal. The Traffic Commissioner, after hearing from the applicant, objectors and representors will make his decision.
- 2 *Evidence.* Anyone putting forward facts at the inquiry must be able to prove them to be true. Often the best way to do this is to get someone who has first hand knowledge to appear and state those facts. Anyone who gives evidence in this way (whether they are the applicant, an objector, a representor, or a witness for any of these people) can then be asked questions by the other parties and by the Traffic Commissioner. Any evidence which is not relevant to the case will not be considered.
- 3 *Documents.* If you are going to present documents or photographs at the inquiry, try to bring copies. This will help to avoid taking up a lot of time passing them round.
- 4 A typical sequence of events might be as follows:
  - (i) Before the inquiry begins, the Inquiry Clerk will make a note of all the people who wish to speak (so be sure to report to the Clerk as soon as you arrive at the inquiry).
  - (ii) The Traffic Commissioner will then enter. The Inquiry Clerk will announce the case by giving the name and address of the applicant, brief details of the application (ie the type of licence applied for, the number of vehicles involved) and the names of anyone who will be representing the applicant or giving evidence on his/her behalf.
  - (iii) The Clerk will also name the objectors and representors present, and anyone representing them.
- 5 The Inquiry might then proceed in the following way. Firstly, the Traffic Commissioner would deal with preliminary matters, such as whether objections or representations are valid and should be heard.
- 6 Next, the applicant (or his/her representative) would be invited to outline the application and would in turn be asked questions about it.
- 7 The Traffic Commissioner would then invite the objectors, the representors, or people appearing on their behalf to present their cases in general terms.



- 8 The Traffic Commissioner would then call the objectors, representors and the applicant (usually in that order) or their representatives to present their cases in detail. The points they make may in turn be questioned by any other of the parties and by the Traffic Commissioner.
- 9 During the proceedings, the Traffic Commissioner might ask the applicant about the effect that conditions imposed in the licence might have on the business.
- 10 The Traffic Commissioner would then invite the objectors, representors and the applicant to sum up the cases they have presented. No new factors can be introduced at this stage.
- 11 Finally, the Traffic Commissioner would consider all the evidence presented at the inquiry and either announce the decision straightaway, or give it in writing at a later date.

# APPENDIX 11

## Fees and refunds

### PART A- FEES AND CHARGES

#### 1 APPLICATION FEE FOR

**a A NEW APPLICATION (GV79) or**

**b MAJOR VARIATION (PUBLISHABLE) APPLICATION (GV81)**

This fee is to cover the cost of processing an application and must be sent in full so as to be received with the application. It is non-refundable.

NB. No fee is payable for an application purely to upgrade a licence (eg. from a restricted licence type to standard national).

#### 2 FEE PAYABLE FOR ISSUE OF A NEW LICENCE

This fee is payable once only and is charged if an application for a licence is granted. It is set to cover the costs of keeping the licence on the system, and monitoring it, once it is issued and for carrying out transactions, during a five year period, which are not individually charged for. It is non-refundable and payable in full after the grant of the application.

#### 3 CHARGE FOR THE CONTINUATION IN FORCE OF AN EXISTING LICENCE

This fee is payable every 5 years. The first payment will be due on the fifth anniversary of the month ending before the month of issue. The date of issue is the month in which the documents were issued. For licences issued before 1 January 1996 the first charge will be due by the old expiry date. The fee is set to cover the costs of keeping the licence on the system, and monitoring it for a further five year term and for carrying out transactions, during the five year period, which are not individually charged for. It is non-refundable.

#### 4 FEES FOR INTERIM LICENCES OR DIRECTIONS

There is a fee for the issue of an interim licence or direction and for each vehicle specified on the interim.

Both are non-refundable and payable after the decision to grant the interim. There are no charges for directions purely to upgrade (e.g. from restricted licence type to standard national).

## 5 VEHICLE FEES

Vehicle fees are charged for each vehicle specified by registration mark on a licence. When an application is first granted or before it is continued in force, the operator can elect to pay the vehicle fees 5 yearly in advance, or on an annual basis. Vehicles subsequently added to a licence, over those already paid for, will have the fees due calculated by quarter years remaining on the licence using either the 5 yearly or annual cycle as appropriate.

If a vehicle is removed from a licence and not replaced a “credit” is held against it- again for remaining periods of a 5 year or annual term. The fee for yearly payers is slightly more than for 5 yearly payers to cover the additional costs involved. Vehicle fees generally go towards the costs of enforcement.

Vehicle fees are payable after the grant of an application for a new licence or variation, or at the same time as the continuation fee. Yearly payments are due each year on the anniversary of the end of the month preceding the month in which the licence was issued.

Under certain circumstances the vehicle fee is refundable. The yearly vehicle fee is non-refundable.

### *5 YEARLY PAYERS - refundable in certain circumstances*

For A FULL 5 YEAR PERIOD AND EACH VEHICLE SPECIFIED the fee is calculated by multiplying the current vehicle fee per quarter year x No. of vehicles x No. of quarter years (20).

**DURING** any five year period for vehicles added, the fee is calculated by multiplying the current vehicle fee per quarter year x No. of vehicles ADDED x No. of quarters before next 5 yearly fees are due.

### *YEARLY PAYERS - non-refundable*

For FULL YEARS AND FOR EACH VEHICLE SPECIFIED the fee is calculated by multiplying the current yearly vehicle fee per quarter x 4 quarter years. Part years for added vehicles are calculated reducing the number of quarters as appropriate. Fees for years following the first one will be calculated at the rate in force when payment is due.

## PAYMENT METHOD

Payment should preferably be made by cheque payable to ‘Vehicle & Operator Services Agency’ and sent with the relevant application form or fee request to your Traffic Area Office.  
**DO NOT SEND CASH THROUGH THE POST.**

## **PART B- REFUNDS OF VEHICLE FEES**

- NO REFUNDS are payable to yearly fee payers
- NO REFUNDS are payable in connection with interim licences or directions
- REFUNDS are payable when a licence is surrendered, revoked or otherwise terminated. They are also payable when a licence is curtailed or suspended, for relevant periods and numbers of vehicles, or when an operator voluntarily reduces the total authorisation of a licence in association with a reduction of specified vehicles.
- REFUNDS are payable only for full years either of suspension etc or remaining periods of a fee period.
- Operators claiming REFUNDS for non-disciplinary reasons during the life of a licence must meet certain criteria ie

A WRITTEN APPLICATION FOR REFUND MUST BE MADE

AN APPLICATION TO REDUCE (GV81) TOTAL VEHICLE NUMBERS MUST BE MADE AND GRANTED, AND

NUMBER OF SPECIFIED VEHICLES (OR CREDITS) ON LICENCE MUST BE REDUCED BY 10 OR MORE, OR BY AT LEAST 20% AND THE AUTHORISED NUMBER BY AT LEAST THE SAME AMOUNT.

**FOR FURTHER ADVICE CONTACT YOUR TRAFFIC AREA OFFICE**

# APPENDIX 12

## Advice on community authorisations

### (STANDARD INTERNATIONAL OPERATOR LICENCES ONLY)

#### EXTRA AUTHORISATION REQUIRED FOR HAULIERS CARRYING OUT INTERNATIONAL JOURNEYS WITHIN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

From 1 January 1993 all hauliers carrying goods for hire or reward in, or through European Union Countries, have been issued with, and require a Community Authorisation in addition to a Standard International operator's licence. This authorisation replaces the need for community permits, bilateral permits between member states and permits for transit traffic through EU to and from non-member Countries.

Community Authorisations are issued automatically, free of charge, to all hauliers who are granted a Standard International operator's licence and are for the use by that operator only. The issuing authority is the Traffic Commissioner for each area who has issued an international licence to an operator. The authorisation documents are sent out by the Traffic Area Offices with the international licence documents. The Community Authorisation documents comprise (for each licence):

- **ONE COMMUNITY AUTHORISATION** - this must be **KEPT IN THE OPERATOR'S MAIN OFFICE** so that it can be inspected by Enforcement Authorities and
- **CERTIFIED COPIES OF THE AUTHORISATION** - an operator can ask to have certified copies equal to the number of motor vehicles authorised by the Standard International operator's licence.

The certified copies are not vehicle specific. An operator needs to ensure that **ONE CERTIFIED COPY** of the authorisation is **KEPT WITH EACH MOTOR VEHICLE** at all times while it is being operated on any international journey. It is an offence not to do so and enforcement agencies throughout the European Union will expect drivers to be able to produce the document at any time during an international road haulage journey.

**VALIDITY:** Community Authorisations are issued for five year periods, the first period starting on the date of first issue of the International Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence. In any circumstances where a Traffic Commissioner is considering revocation of an international licence he will also consider withdrawal of the Community Authorisation.

The issuing Traffic Area Office should be notified if any Community Authorisation documents become lost, damaged or stolen and the documents must be returned when a licence is surrendered, or otherwise terminates.

# APPENDIX 13

## Relevant legislation

The Goods Vehicle Operators (Qualifications) Regulations 1999 (SI 1999/2430)

The Goods Vehicle (Licensing of Operators) Act 1995

The Goods Vehicle (Licensing of Operators) Act 1995 (Commencement and Transitional Provisions) Order 1995

The Goods Vehicle (Licensing of Operators) Regulations 1995 (SI 1995/2869)

The Goods Vehicle (Licensing of Operators) (Fees) Regulations 1995 (SI 1995/3000)

EU Directive 96/26 as amended by 98/76 (access to the occupation of road transport operator)

Council Regulation (EEC) No 881/92 (Access to the market in the carriage of goods by road within the community)

The Goods Vehicle (Community Authorisations) Regulations 1992

# APPENDIX 14

## Useful Government publications

- ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE TRAFFIC COMMISSIONERS
  - available free of charge from Department for Transport, DfT Free Literature, PO Box 236, Wetherby, LS23 7NB. (Tel: 08701226236).
- A GUIDE TO MAINTAINING ROADWORTHINESS - a free publication available from [www.transportoffice.gov.uk](http://www.transportoffice.gov.uk).
- A GUIDE TO GOODS VEHICLES DRIVERS' HOURS, TACHOGRAPHS AND RECORDS (GV262) - available free of charge from the VOSA Contact Centre on 0300 123 9000.
- A GUIDE TO TAKING YOUR LORRY ABROAD
  - available free of charge from Road Freight Operations Policy Division, Zone 2/22, Department for Transport.
- A SIMPLIFIED GUIDE TO LORRY TYPES AND WEIGHTS - an unpriced leaflet, available VOSA Contact Centre on 0300 123 9000.
- CODE OF PRACTICE ON SAFETY OF LOADS ON VEHICLES (Department for Transport) - this is a priced publication available from The Stationery Office. It is very important that operators should be aware of the contents of this Code, which gives detailed advice on how most types of loads should best be secured. As a result of an insecure load a charge of dangerous driving could be incurred with the risk of imprisonment.
- PLANNING PERMISSION - A GUIDE FOR BUSINESS - available free of charge from Department for Transport, DfT Free Literature, PO Box 236, Wetherby, LS23 7NB (Tel: 0870 1226236).

# APPENDIX 15

## Enforcement Office addresses

### Area 01

#### **NORTHERN SCOTLAND**

Enforcement Office  
The Goods Vehicle Test Station  
Longman Industrial Estate  
Seafield Road  
Inverness IV1 1RG  
Tel: 01463 235 505

### Area 02

#### **WEST & SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND**

Enforcement Office  
The Goods Vehicle Test Station  
Crosshill Road  
Bishopbriggs  
Glasgow G64 2QA  
Tel: 0141 772 3405

### Area 03

#### **SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND**

Enforcement Office  
The Goods Vehicle Test Station  
Grange Road  
Houston Industrial Estate  
Livingston  
West Lothian EH54 5DD  
Tel: 01506 445 200

### Area 04

#### **CUMBRIA & LANCS**

Enforcement Office  
The Goods Vehicle Test Station  
Brunthill Road  
Kingston Industrial Estate  
Carlisle  
Cumbria CA3 0EH  
Tel: 01228 531 751

### Area 05

#### **GREATER MANCHESTER & DERBYSHIRE**

Enforcement Office  
The Goods Vehicle Test Station  
Broadway Business Park  
Broadgate  
Chadderton  
Oldham OL9 9XA  
Tel: 0161 947 1050

### Area 06

#### **LIVERPOOL**

Enforcement Office  
The Goods Vehicle Test Station  
Stopgate Lane  
Kirkby  
Liverpool L33 4YA  
Tel: 0151 546 6854



## Area 07

### **STAFFS & SHROPSHIRE**

Enforcement Office  
The Goods Vehicle Test Station  
Cats & Kittens Lane  
Featherstone  
Wolverhampton WV10 7JD  
Tel: 01902 398 722

## Area 08

### **BIRMINGHAM**

Enforcement Office  
The Goods Vehicle Test Station  
Granby Avenue  
Garretts Green Industrial Estate  
Birmingham B33 OSS  
Tel: 0121 783 6665

## Area 09

### **SOUTH WALES**

Enforcement Office  
The Goods Vehicle Test Station  
School Road  
Miskin  
Pontyclun  
Mid Glamorgan CF7 8YR  
Tel: 01443 224 771

## Area 10

### **BRISTOL & GLOUCESTER**

Enforcement Office  
The Goods Vehicle Test Station  
Merebank Road  
Avonmouth  
Bristol BS11 8AQ  
Tel: 0117 966 2855

## Area 11

### **EXETER**

Enforcement Office  
The Goods Vehicle Test Station  
Grace Road  
Marsh Barton Trading Estate  
Exeter  
Devon EX2 8PH  
Tel: 01392 279 564

## Area 12

### **WESSEX**

Enforcement Office  
The Goods Vehicle Test Station  
Bottings Industrial Estate  
Botley  
Southampton SO30 2DY  
Tel: 01489 790 540

## Area 13

### **SOUTHERN CENTRAL**

Enforcement Office  
The Goods Vehicle Test Station  
Redhouse Road  
Croydon  
Surrey CRO 3AQ  
Tel: 020 8665 5715

## Area 14

### **SOUTH EAST**

Enforcement Office  
The Goods Vehicle Test Station  
Ambley Road  
Gillingham  
Kent ME8 OSJ  
Tel: 01634 372 722

## Area 15

### **METROPOLITAN**

Enforcement Office  
The Goods Vehicle Test Station  
Willow Tree Lane  
Yeading  
Middlesex UB4 9BS  
Tel: 020 8842 3230

## Area 16

### **HERTS AND ESSEX**

Enforcement Office  
The Goods Vehicle Test Station  
Tank Hill Road  
Purfleet  
Essex RM16 1SX  
Tel: 01708 868 229

## Area 17

### **NORWICH**

Enforcement Office  
The Goods Vehicle Test Station  
Jupiter Road  
Hellesden  
Norwich NR6 6SS  
Tel: 01603 408 172

## Area 18

### **EAST MIDLANDS**

Enforcement Office  
The Goods Vehicle Test Station  
40 Cannock Street  
Barkby Thorpe Road  
Leicester LE4 7HT  
Tel: 0116 276 6381

## Area 19

### **LINCS & CAMBS**

Enforcement Office  
The Goods Vehicle Test Station  
Saville Road  
Westwood  
Peterborough PE3 6TL  
Tel: 01733 263 423

## Area 20

### **NOTTINGHAM & SOUTH YORKSHIRE**

Enforcement Office  
The Goods Vehicle Test Station  
Orgreave Way  
Sheffield S13 9LT  
Tel: 0114 269 2334

## Area 21

### **HUMBERSIDE**

Enforcement Office  
The Goods Vehicle Test Station  
Estate Road 1  
South Humberside Industrial Estate  
Pyewipe  
Grimsby  
South Humberside DN31 2TB  
Tel: 01472 242 332

## Area 22

### **WEST & NORTH YORKSHIRE**

Enforcement Office  
The Goods Vehicle Test Station  
Patrick Green  
Woodlesford  
Leeds LS26 8HE  
Tel: 0113 282 1156

## Area 23

### **TYNE & TEES**

Enforcement Office  
The Goods Vehicle Test Station  
Sandy Lane  
Gosforth  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 5BH  
Tel: 0191 236 4286







