

Driving licence categories

To drive a particular type of vehicle, you need an 'entitlement' for that category on your driving licence.

You can [check online to see what vehicles you can drive](#).

Your entitlements may have additional restrictions. Check the [restriction codes for your driving licence](#).

Driving licence categories are [different in Northern Ireland](#).

Mopeds

Category AM

You can drive 2-wheeled or 3-wheeled vehicles with a maximum design speed of over 25km/h (15.5mph) but not more than 45km/h (28mph).

This category also includes light quad bikes with:

- unladen mass of not more than 350kg (not including batteries if it's an electric vehicle)
- maximum design speed of over 25km/h (15.5mph) but not more than 45km/h (28mph)

Category P

You can drive 2-wheeled vehicles with a maximum design speed of over 45km/h (28mph) but not more than 50km/h (31mph).

Its engine size must not be more than 50cc if powered by an internal combustion engine.

Category Q

You can drive 2-wheeled vehicles with:

- an engine size not more than 50cc if powered by an internal combustion engine
- a maximum design speed of no more than 25km/h (15.5mph)

Motorcycles

Category A1

You can drive light motorbikes with:

- an engine size up to 125cc
- a power output of up to 11kW
- a power to weight ratio not more than 0.1kW/kg

This category also includes motor tricycles with power output up to 15kW.

Category A2

You can drive motorbikes with a:

- power output up to 35kW
- power to weight ratio not more than 0.2kW/kg

The motorbike must also not be derived from a vehicle of more than double its power.

You can also drive motorbikes in category A1.

Category A

You can drive:

- motorbikes with a power output more than 35kW or a power to weight ratio more than 0.2kW/kg
- motor tricycles with a power output more than 15kW

You can also drive motorbikes in categories A1 and A2.

Light vehicles and quad bikes

Category B1

You can drive motor vehicles with 4 wheels up to 400kg unladen or 550kg if they're designed for carrying goods.

Cars

Category B - if you passed your test before 1 January 1997

You're usually allowed to drive a vehicle and trailer combination up to 8,250kg [maximum authorised mass](#) (MAM). [View your driving licence information](#) to check.

You're also allowed to drive a minibus with a trailer over 750kg MAM.

Category B - if you passed your test on or after 1 January 1997

You can drive vehicles up to 3,500kg [MAM](#) with up to 8 passenger seats (with a trailer up to 750kg).

You can also tow heavier trailers if the total MAM of the vehicle and trailer isn't more than 3,500kg.

You can drive motor tricycles with a power output higher than 15kW if you are over 21 years old.

Physically disabled drivers with provisional category B entitlement will also have provisional entitlement to ride category A1 or A motor tricycles.

Able-bodied drivers can no longer ride motor tricycles with a provisional category B licence.

Category B auto

You can drive a category B vehicle - but only an automatic one.

Category BE

You can drive a vehicle with a [MAM](#) of 3,500kg with a trailer.

The size of the trailer depends on the BE 'valid from' date shown on your licence. If the date is:

- before 19 January 2013, you can tow any size trailer
- on or after 19 January 2013, you can tow a trailer with a MAM of up to 3,500kg

Medium-sized vehicles

Category C1

You can drive vehicles between 3,500 and 7,500kg [MAM](#) (with a trailer up to 750kg).

Category C1E

You can drive C1 category vehicles with a trailer over 750kg.

The combined [MAM](#) of both can't exceed 12,000kg.

Large vehicles

Category C

You can drive vehicles over 3,500kg (with a trailer up to 750kg [MAM](#)).

Category CE

You can drive category C vehicles with a trailer over 750kg.

Minibuses

Category D1

You can drive vehicles with:

- no more than 16 passenger seats
- a maximum length of 8 metres
- a trailer up to 750kg

Category D1E

You can drive D1 category vehicles with a trailer over 750kg [MAM](#).

The combined MAM of both can't exceed 12,000kg.

Buses

Category D

You can drive any bus with more than 8 passenger seats (with a trailer up to 750kg [MAM](#)).

Category DE

You can drive D category vehicles with a trailer over 750kg.

Other categories

Category	Vehicle you can drive
f	Agricultural tractor
G	Road roller
H	Tracked vehicles
k	Mowing machine or pedestrian-controlled vehicle
l	Electrically-propelled vehicle
M	Trolley vehicles
n	Exempt from duty

You don't need a driving licence for [electric bikes](#), [mobility scooters](#) or [powered wheelchairs](#).