

The Complete Step-by-Step Guide to Getting Your HGV Licence

Thinking about becoming an HGV driver can feel a bit like standing at the edge of a very large roundabout. Lots of exits. Plenty of signs. Not always obvious which lane you should be in.

This guide breaks the process down into clear, manageable steps so you know exactly what's ahead, what's required, and how to move forward with confidence.

Step 1: Check You're Eligible

Before anything else, make sure you meet the basic requirements:

- You must be **18 or over**
- You must hold a **full UK car driving licence**
- You must meet **medical standards** for professional drivers

If you already drive a car, you're off to a solid start.

Step 2: Apply for Your Provisional HGV Licence

To begin HGV training, you'll need provisional entitlement.

You'll apply using:

- **D2 form** – application for lorry entitlement
- **D4 form** – medical report completed by a medical professional

Once submitted, your provisional licence typically arrives within a few weeks.

Tip: A good training provider will guide you through this paperwork and check it's completed correctly.

Step 3: Prepare for Your Theory Tests

Before practical training can begin, you'll need to pass three theory elements:

1. **Multiple Choice Theory Test**
2. **Hazard Perception Test**
3. **Driver CPC Module 2 (Case Studies)**

These tests assess your understanding of road safety, professional driving situations, and hazard awareness.

Preparation matters here. Most failures come from underestimating the theory stage.

Step 4: Choose the Right Licence Category

There are different HGV licence types, and choosing the right one depends on your goals:

- **Category C1** – vehicles up to 7.5 tonnes
- **Category C** – rigid lorries over 7.5 tonnes
- **Category C+E** – articulated lorries and drawbar combinations

Many drivers now go **straight to Category C or C+E**, saving time and cost in the long run.

Step 5: Practical Driver Training

This is where confidence is built.

Your training will typically include:

- Vehicle familiarisation
- Mirror use and positioning
- Reversing manoeuvres
- Safe, defensive driving techniques
- Test route preparation

Quality training focuses on **calm, structured progression**, not pressure.

Step 6: Practical Driving Test (Module 3a & 3b)

Your practical tests include:

- 'Reversing exercise (3a) to be passed before the On road 3b test
- 'Show me, tell me' questions
- 1hr On-road driving assessment (3b)

Examiners are not looking for perfection. They are looking for **safe, controlled, professional driving**.

Step 7: Driver CPC Module 4 (Practical Demonstration)

If you plan to drive professionally, Module 4 is essential.

This 30min assessment covers:

- Vehicle safety checks
- Load security
- Preventing trafficking and illegal activity
- Emergency procedures

Once passed, you'll receive your **Driver Qualification Card (DQC)**.

Step 8: You're Qualified – What Next?

With your licence in hand, you can:

- Apply for your Tachograph Card
- Apply for driving roles
- Register with agencies
- Begin paid professional driving work

Many new drivers start with local or agency work to build confidence and experience.

Common Questions New Drivers Ask

How long does the whole process take?

Typically 6 to 10 weeks, depending on availability and preparation.

Is it difficult?

Challenging, yes. Achievable, absolutely – with the right support.

Can I fail and retake tests?

Yes. A good training provider helps you prepare to pass first time.

How LGV Trainers Can Help

At LGV Trainers, we support you through **every step of the journey**, from paperwork to passing your test.

Our approach is simple:

- Easy to contact, supportive customer service
- Clear guidance
- Experienced qualified instructors
- Onsite Reversing Areas
- Private DVSA Test Centre
- Modern vehicles
- Training tailored to *you*

If you're ready to move forward or just want honest advice, we're here to help.

Next Steps

If you'd like help starting your HGV journey, speak to LGV Trainers today and take the next exit with confidence.