

December 2008

Welcome to this new edition of *Update*. This edition provides you with an update on a number of issues including the Motorcycle Manoeuvres test, CPC, ADI appeals, display of ADI Licences, illegal instruction, a new learning to drive leaflet, safeguarding vulnerable groups and a range of other issues.

I hope you find the contents of this edition of *Update* both interesting and informative. By the time you receive this it will be near Christmas so may I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MOTORCYCLE MANOEUVRES TEST

On 8 December 2008 the Agency introduced the new Motorcycle Manoeuvres test. This is as a result of EU Directive 56/2000/EC. The test, which is carried out off-road, will last approximately thirty minutes and will consist of the following exercises:

- A slow riding exercise;
- A slalom and a 'figure of 8' exercise;
- Walking and ridden 'U Turn' exercises, and the use of motorcycle stands;
- A ridden exercise around a curve in second or third gear at a minimum speed of at least 30km/h (18.75mph);
- A combined avoidance and braking exercise at a minimum speed of 50km/h (31.25mph); and
- An emergency braking exercise at a minimum speed of 50km/h (31.25mph).

Anyone wishing to obtain a full motorcycle licence will have to pass a motorcycle theory test; followed by a motorcycle manoeuvres test and finally the practical motorcycle test.

The test fee will be £31 and it will be conducted from six of the existing DVA practical driver test centres - Ballymena, Craigavon, Downpatrick, Londonderry (New Buildings), Mallusk and Omagh.

If you require any further information please visit www.dvni.gov.uk

DRIVER CERTIFICATE OF PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE (CPC)

Driver CPC is a European Directive being introduced to improve road safety; providing better qualified drivers to meet the needs of the passenger transport and road haulage sectors.

CPC for Buses and Coaches was launched in September 2008 for all new drivers who wish to drive professionally.

The new qualification process has the following parts:

- 1/. Module 1 – Theory test of 60 questions and 14 hazard perception clips
- 2/. Module 2 – Driver CPC Case Studies
- 3/. Module 3 - Practical Test
- 4/. Module 4 - Driver CPC Practical Test

New drivers who wish to drive professionally will need to take all modules of the Driver CPC qualification, but existing drivers will be exempt from this stage of the process.

All drivers must complete 35 hours of periodic training. New drivers must complete this within 5 years of passing the initial qualification and existing drivers by September 2013. Periodic training must continue on a 5 year cycle for as long as a person wishes to continue driving professionally.

On completion of all four modules or 35 hours training, drivers will be issued with a Driver Qualification Card (DQC) as evidence that they hold the Driver CPC qualification. It is a legal requirement to carry this licence when driving.

CPC for drivers of Lorries and Heavy Goods Vehicles will be introduced in September 2009, with the exception of Module 1 which was introduced in November 2008.

For further information on Driver CPC please visit:
<http://www.dvtani.gov.uk/drivercpc/home.asp>

ADI APPEALS/DISPLAY OF ADI LICENCES

It had been hoped that the legislation for the new appeals provisions and display of ADI licences would be in place by August and late Autumn respectively. However, the legislation has proved more complex than first anticipated and it is now unlikely that it will be in place until Spring/Summer 2009.

LEARNING TO DRIVE LEAFLET/ILLEGAL INSTRUCTION

A new learning to drive leaflet is in the final stages of preparation and will be printed to issue with provisional licences in the New Year. The leaflet will encourage learners to seek driving lessons from Approved Driving Instructors and urges learners to check that their instructor is legal.

The Agency takes the issue of illegal instruction extremely seriously and continues to be proactive in pursuing cases where there is a suspicion of illegal activity.

Some of you may have seen our articles in the Newry Reporter and the Fermanagh Herald giving advice to learners on the dangers of taking lessons from illegal instructors and of the steps they could take to ensure that their instructor was approved and authorised to give lessons. Over a 4 week period in Nov/Dec we are also running an

advertisement in the Irish News weekly feature on driving instruction and a Press Release will shortly issue to all newspapers in NI with advice for people buying driving lessons for Christmas. The Agency has also placed new posters at all practical and theory test centres and is considering further publicity measures to highlight the issue.

Anyone with a concern, supported with evidence, about suspected illegal instruction can report the matter to ADI Section or the PSNI. If you have a concern we need to have as much information as you can give us, eg why you believe a person to be illegally instructing, where/when they have been sighted, registration numbers and anything else of substance that you think might be of use.

A number of cases are currently under investigation and we thank those who have brought these matters to our attention.

INDEPENDENT SAFEGUARDING AUTHORITY (ISA)

A new Vetting and Barring Scheme is to be put in place in Northern Ireland in October 2009. The scheme which will replace existing vetting arrangements for those working with children and vulnerable adults will introduce a register of children's' and vulnerable adults' workforces and a process of continuous monitoring.

Driving Schools that employ Approved Driving Instructors (ADIs) or Trainee Licence holders have a legal obligation to ensure that their employees are registered with the new Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). The fee per individual for ISA registration will be £58.

Self-employed instructors are not required to register with ISA. DVA as regulator (not employer) of ADIs will **not** require ADIs to be ISA registered. The onus will be on employers to ensure registration of employees.

The Volunteer Development Agency is delivering a series of information sessions up to October 2009 in order to prepare employers, organisations and workers to undertake their responsibilities and requirements under the Scheme. Driving Schools and employers of ADIs and Trainees are encouraged to attend.

Details of dates, venues and booking instructions are available online at www.volunteering-ni.org. If you do not have access to the internet, you can also book a place by contacting the Volunteer Development Agency on 028 9081 8136 or email julie-ann@volunteering-ni.org

APPLICATION OF 45 MPH SPEED LIMITS TO DRIVING SCHOOL VEHICLES

At the most recent Driving Instructor's National Association Council (DINAC) meeting, there was a request for clarification on application of the 45mph speed limit to Driving School Vehicles. The position is that any person who drives on a road, with 'L' or 'R' plates displayed is restricted to driving at 45 miles per hour, whether learner or instructor.

The reference to this issue on Page 122 of the latest version of the Highway Code states that 'plates should be removed or covered when not being driven by a learner driver (except on driving school vehicles)'. This is intended to indicate that it is not good

practice for parents and other accompanying drivers to display plates when the learner is not driving but recognises that it is not reasonable to expect ADIs to remove and replace plates between lessons, for example. This advice should not be taken to mean that ADIs and driving schools can exceed 45mph with plates displayed. I think it bears repeating that if plates are displayed on a motor vehicle the driver is restricted to a speed limit of 45mph, whether they are a learner or an ADI.

OVERUSE OF DRIVING TEST ROUTES

Ballymena

The Agency has recently been advised by the PSNI that they had received complaints from concerned residents in the Old Park Road and Old Galgorm Road regarding the overuse of these areas for carrying out driving lessons.

PSNI have expressed concerns that the increased traffic volume has affected both routes suitability for the presence of multiple drivers under instruction at one time

The Agency designs its' test routes to minimise inconvenience to residents as far as possible and we expect ADIs to stay off the approved test routes until the latter stages of training. It is fair to say that we all have a responsibility to try and resolve such problems and we would ask you to respond positively to the concerns raised by the residents.

Portadown

We advised you in the last edition that the Agency had received a complaint on behalf of concerned residents about the increased use of the Ridgeway Park North and Ridgeway Park South areas by driving instructors with learner drivers.

Unfortunately, as a result of continuing complaints, the Agency has decided to remove driving test routes 20 & 24 until further notice.

WARRANT CARDS

Identity cards for all of the Agency's driving examiners are currently being printed and will be issued shortly. Driving Examiners will not be required to display the card, but they will be asked to have it on their person and produce it if asked to do so. It is hoped that this will provide greater protection for both the examiner and the candidate.

DVA WEBSITE

The Agency is currently working on a programme that will facilitate the rotation of ADIs who are currently listed on the website. This will give an equal opportunity to all ADIs who are represented on the website.

USE OF DVA TEST CENTRES FOR DRIVING TEST PRACTICE

A recent audit review of DVA's Health and Safety performance noted that all centres now display signs advising that the premises must not be used for Driving Test training but that this remains an ongoing problem with Driving Schools still using the facilities to carry out manoeuvring exercises.

I have been asked to forcibly remind ADIs and Driving Schools that the premises must not be used for Driving Test training. In order to avoid embarrassment to you or your learner drivers, I would urge you once again not to use our premises for training purposes.

DRIVING STANDARDS AGENCY DRIVING TEST FEES

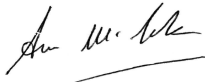
The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) in GB wrote to apologise to their customers who booked Saturday driving tests since November 2005 and offered a refund for overpayment of fees caused by accidental overcharging.

This action was taken as a result of an error in regulations made on 1 November 2005 which unintentionally removed the differential between test fees for normal weekday hours and Saturdays.

I would like to reassure our customers that there was **no error** in the equivalent Northern Ireland regulations relating to fees for Saturday driving tests and as such there has been no over-charging of fees by the Driver & Vehicle Agency.

COMMENTS

Comments, views or ideas on any of the items mentioned in this *Update* or suggestions for subjects we should cover in future editions would be most welcome. We are happy to receive these by telephone to 028 9068 5206, email to angie.mclenaghan@doeni.gov.uk or by letter to Angie at DVA, Balmoral Road.



ANN McCABE
ADI Registrar