

FAQs for driving in Ireland

A guide for Ukrainian drivers

26 March 2025



The information included in this document is correct at the time of printing but is subject to change so please visit www.rsa.ie for the latest information.



Contents

Contents	2
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Driving licences	4
-------------------------------	----------

1.1 Can I drive on my Ukrainian licence in Ireland?.....	4
1.2 What does 'living in Ireland under temporary protection' mean?.....	4
1.3 I am the holder of a Ukrainian driving licence but I'm not here under temporary protection. Can I drive on this licence in Ireland?	4
1.4 I've been living in Ireland prior to the war. Can I exchange my Ukrainian driving licence for an Irish driving licence?.....	4
1.5 I already exchanged my Ukrainian driving licence for an Irish driving licence. How do I get my Ukrainian licence back?	4
1.6 I applied to exchange my Ukrainian driving licence but have not yet received my Irish driving licence. How do I get my Ukrainian licence back?	4
1.7 I'm in Ireland under temporary protection. Can I exchange my Ukrainian driving licence for an Irish driving licence?.....	5
1.8 I already exchanged my Ukrainian driving licence for an Irish driving licence. Can I keep the Irish driving licence?.....	5
1.9 I've lost my Ukrainian driving licence. Can I drive in Ireland?.....	5
1.10 My Ukrainian driving licence has expired or is due to expire. Can I drive on it in Ireland?	5
1.11 I'm living in Ireland under temporary protection with a Ukrainian car licence:.....	5

Professional bus/truck drivers.....	6
--	----------

1.12 I have an EU truck/bus licence and Driver CPC. Can I drive professionally in Ireland?6	
1.13 Can I renew my EU licence and CPC qualification in Ireland?	6
1.14 I hold an EU licence and completed CPC training in an EU country. Will I get credit for this in Ireland?.....	6
1.15 I hold an EU licence and CPC qualification, but don't have proof. What should I do? .	6
1.16 I hold a Ukrainian licence and Ukrainian CPC qualification and have my documents. What should I do?.....	7
1.17 I have my Ukrainian licence and Ukrainian CPC qualification, but do not have proof. What should I do?.....	8

Using your car in Ireland..... 10

- 1.18 Can I drive my Ukrainian-registered car in Ireland?..... 10
- 1.19 Do I need to pay any vehicle tax when I enter Ireland? 10
- 1.20 Can I register my Ukrainian car in Ireland?..... 10
- 1.21 Do I need insurance to drive in Ireland? 10
- 1.22 Can I insure my Ukrainian car in Ireland? 10

Vehicle safety..... 11

- 1.23 Do I need to get my Ukrainian vehicle roadworthiness tested?..... 11
- 1.24 If I register my car in Ireland, do I have to get it roadworthiness tested? 11
- 1.25 I plan to buy a car in Ireland. Is there any advice available? 11

Driving licences

1.1 Can I drive on my Ukrainian licence in Ireland?

Yes. You can drive on your Ukrainian driving licence while in Ireland if under temporary protection granted under section 60 of the International Protection Act 2015. You don't need to exchange it for an Irish driving licence or sit a driving test.

1.2 What does 'living in Ireland under temporary protection' mean?

This means that you have a letter from the Minister for Justice confirming that you are a beneficiary of Temporary Protection in Ireland granted under section 60 of the [International Protection Act 2015](#).

For more information please see the [FAQs for Ukraine nationals and residents of Ukraine](#) on the Department of Justice website.

1.3 I am the holder of a Ukrainian driving licence but I'm not here under temporary protection. Can I drive on this licence in Ireland?

No. You will need to go through the [necessary steps](#) to get a driving licence in the vehicle category you wish to drive.

1.4 I've been living in Ireland prior to the war. Can I exchange my Ukrainian driving licence for an Irish driving licence?

No. You will need to go through the [necessary steps](#) to get a driving licence in the vehicle category you wish to drive.

1.5 I already exchanged my Ukrainian driving licence for an Irish driving licence. How do I get my Ukrainian licence back?

You will need to:

- Return your Irish driving licence to: National Driver Licence Service, PO Box 858, Southside Delivery Office, Cork.
- Enclose a written request in English stating that you are surrendering your Irish licence in return for your Ukrainian driving licence
- Include your Irish postal address for the return of your Ukrainian licence and a phone number, should we need to contact you.

1.6 I applied to exchange my Ukrainian driving licence but have not yet received my Irish driving licence. How do I get my Ukrainian licence back?

You will need to send an email in English to: Ukrainelicense@ndls.ie stating the following:

- Your NDLS application number, if available
- Your name and date of birth
- Your request to cancel your application to exchange your Ukrainian driving licence and the return of your Ukrainian driving licence.

- Your Irish postal address for the return of your Ukrainian driving licence and a telephone number, should we need to contact you.

1.7 I'm in Ireland under temporary protection. Can I exchange my Ukrainian driving licence for an Irish driving licence?

No. Irish legislation no longer provides for the exchange of Ukrainian driving licences. Ukrainian drivers living in Ireland under temporary protection can drive on their Ukrainian driving licence as it is now recognised in Ireland.

1.8 I already exchanged my Ukrainian driving licence for an Irish driving licence. Can I keep the Irish driving licence?

Yes. Your Irish driving licence is valid for one year from the date it was issued.

1.9 I've lost my Ukrainian driving licence. Can I drive in Ireland?

No. If you lost your Ukrainian driving licence you will need to go through the [necessary steps](#) to get an Irish driving licence in the vehicle category you wish to drive.

1.10 My Ukrainian driving licence has expired or is due to expire. Can I drive on it in Ireland?

No. You can only drive on a current, valid Ukrainian driving licence in Ireland. However, some Ukrainian driving licences have been extended so please check if this applies to you.

1.11 I'm living in Ireland under temporary protection with a Ukrainian car licence:

How do I apply for a truck or bus learner permit?

You can find information on our [Ukraine Drivers page](#)

I passed my truck/bus driving test. How do I apply for a full licence?

You can find information on our [Ukrainian Drivers page](#)

Do I need to submit my Ukrainian car licence when applying for my Irish bus/truck licence?

Yes. However, your Ukrainian car licence will be posted back to you after your licence application has been processed. For more information, please see our [Ukraine Drivers page](#)

The information I am looking for is not provided in this leaflet. Where can I get further information?

Further information is available on www.NDLS.ie or you can also email Ukrainelicense@ndls.ie

Professional bus/truck drivers

Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC)

1.12 I have an EU truck/bus licence and Driver CPC. Can I drive professionally in Ireland?

If you previously exchanged your Ukrainian licence for an EU licence and hold a CPC qualification, you can drive professionally in Ireland until the expiry date of your licence or CPC card (whichever expires first). After that time, you are not allowed to drive professionally.

1.13 Can I renew my EU licence and CPC qualification in Ireland?

- If you are resident in Ireland and hold an EU licence which you originally exchanged from a Ukrainian licence, this can't be renewed in Ireland.
- If you're resident in Ireland and hold an original EU licence (obtained your qualification within the EU) this licence can be renewed in Ireland. You can also complete training here to renew your driver CPC qualification.

Information about renewing your licence is available at: www.rsa.ie/services/licensed-drivers/driving-licence/manage-your-licence

More information on CPC training and qualification is available on: www.rsa.ie/services/professional-drivers/cpc

1.14 I hold an EU licence and completed CPC training in an EU country. Will I get credit for this in Ireland?

If you completed all CPC training in another EU country, you need to apply for a CPC card from that country.

If you completed some training in an EU country, we will need to see evidence of this and will review your documents. For more information please visit: www.rsa.ie/services/professional-drivers/cpc/foreign-cpc-drivers

1.15 I hold an EU licence and CPC qualification, but don't have proof. What should I do?

If you don't have a Driver CPC card or 'Code 95' on your licence, you must start the CPC qualification process here in Ireland.

For more information please visit: www.rsa.ie/services/professional-drivers

1.16 I hold a Ukrainian licence and Ukrainian CPC qualification and have my documents. What should I do?

Ukrainian drivers living in Ireland on a temporary basis who hold a category C (truck) or D (Bus) Ukrainian driving licence and a Ukrainian CPC card can apply for an Irish Driver CPC card after completing Additional Compulsory Training.

This training is only available to Ukrainian drivers who are resident in Ireland on a temporary basis under the [Temporary Protection Directive \(2001/55 EC\)](#).

Additional Compulsory Training consists of:

Driver CPC classroom-based training (CPC Periodic Training):

- 35 hours for vehicles of [categories C, C1, CE, C1E](#) (trucks), or
- 35 hours for vehicles of [categories D, D1, DE, D1E](#) (buses), or
- 42 hours for a combination of vehicles of categories C, C1, CE, C1E and D, D1, DE, D1E.

Eight hours of supervised driving

This training must be completed with an RSA Approved Driving Instructor who is qualified to instruct in the relevant licence category.

CPC truck or CPC bus or CPC bus/truck combined theory test.

On successful completion of the additional compulsory training, the driver can apply to the Driver Education Section in the Road Safety Authority for their Driver CPC qualification card. The temporary Driver CPC code 95.01 will be printed on the card, and it will be valid until 6 March 2025.

You must submit the following documents to the Road Safety Authority:

- A copy of your valid Ukrainian driving licence,
- A copy of your valid Ukrainian Driver CPC qualification card,
- A copy of your temporary permission to reside in Ireland,
- A completed [medical report form](#) signed by a recognised medical practitioner within the last three months
- A completed [Ukrainian Driver CPC Additional Compulsory Training Application Form](#)

Completed forms and documents should be posted to:

Driver Education Section,
Road Safety Authority,
Primrose Hill,
Ballina, Co. Mayo
F26 V6E4

Once your application has been processed, you will receive a confirmation email and can start the CPC Additional Compulsory Training process.

1.17 I have my Ukrainian licence and Ukrainian CPC qualification, but do not have proof. What should I do?

Unfortunately, if you do not have proof of your Ukrainian licence and Ukrainian CPC card you must start the CPC qualification process from the beginning in Ireland.

Obtain your category B licence

To begin the CPC qualification process, you must have a category B (car) driving licence.

If you do not have proof of your Ukrainian category B licence, you will need to go through the [necessary steps](#) to get a category B driving licence.

Theory test

You can choose to take the online truck or bus theory test by [booking an appointment](#) to attend one of our [40+ theory test centres nationwide](#).

If you want to obtain a licence to drive both a truck and bus, you can take the combined bus and truck theory test.

Case study test

If you want to become a category C (CPC truck) or category D (CPC bus) driver you must pass a case study test.

You must have passed the Driver CPC theory test (Step 1) in the relevant category before you can sit your case study test.

You have the option to sit it at home or at any of the [40+ theory test centre locations nationwide](#).

Learner permit & professional driving lessons

You are not required to take truck or bus driving lessons to get a CPC driving licence. However, to prepare for your practical driving test, it is recommended that all first-time category C (truck), C1 (small truck), D (bus) or D1 (minibus) learner permit holders take lessons with an [RSA Approved Driving Instructor \(ADI\)](#).

Driving test

The practical driving test is conducted at one of the many driving test centres across Ireland and takes about 100 minutes. It checks your knowledge of the Rules of the Road, your ability to drive competently and safely in accordance with those rules and

with regard for other road users and road conditions. It also examines whether you're properly trained and ready to drive safely by yourself on public roads.

Walkaround test

The walkaround test checks your ability to keep your vehicle safe and secure and takes about 30 minutes. It's made up of five topics from the driver CPC process, and works as follows:

- you must score at least 15 out of 20 in each topic area to pass
- you must have an overall score of at least 80 out of 100 to pass

After you have completed these five steps, you may apply for your driver CPC card and begin driving professionally in Ireland.

Using your car in Ireland

1.18 Can I drive my Ukrainian-registered car in Ireland?

Yes. However, there are certain vehicle importation rules you must follow, depending on how long you stay in Ireland. For further advice or contact details please visit www.revenue.ie

1.19 Do I need to pay any vehicle tax when I enter Ireland?

Ukrainians can apply for an exemption from this where a vehicle is temporarily brought into Ireland, known as a 'vehicle temporary exemption'. For further advice or contact details please visit www.revenue.ie

If you decide in the future to register your car in Ireland (with Irish registration plates) Revenue would also provide advice on your application.

1.20 Can I register my Ukrainian car in Ireland?

Yes, but it will need to pass a number of checks first. Further guidance is available on: www.citizensinformation.ie under 'Importing a vehicle into Ireland' or in www.revenue.ie.

1.21 Do I need insurance to drive in Ireland?

Yes, by law you must be insured to drive your vehicle when using it on Irish roads.

1.22 Can I insure my Ukrainian car in Ireland?

The Motor (Transport) Insurance Bureau of Ukraine (UA) has prepared a list of Ukrainian Insurance Providers that allows Ukrainian refugees to renew their insurance policies online and to get an International Insurance Green Card. You can find more information about this at www.mibi.ie

Vehicle safety

1.23 Do I need to get my Ukrainian vehicle roadworthiness tested?

Once you import your vehicle into Ireland it must be registered here. If the vehicle is 4 years or older, it must undergo a roadworthiness test and you must apply for a NCT right away.

The test due date will be based on the date the car was registered in Ireland. Passenger cars are required to undergo a roadworthiness test when they are four years old and then every two years thereafter, until the 10th anniversary, when it becomes subject to an annual NCT.

NCT bookings can be made by ringing the NCT bookings phone number on (01) 413 5992 or by email on bookings@ncts.ie or by logging onto www.ncts.ie

An Garda Síochána (AGS) are the enforcers of Road Traffic Legislation and can take action against those who are not compliant.

However, by law you must always keep your vehicle in a safe and roadworthy condition when used on Irish roads.

1.24 I plan to buy a car in Ireland. Is there any advice available?

We offer helpful advice and tips on www.rsa.ie under 'Advice on buying a used car'.

Ódaras Um Shabhailteacht Ar Bhóithre
Road Safety Authority

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