

Cardiomyopathy and Driving (group 2)

Driving standards for vocational driving licences (LGVs, PCV and horseboxes)

- The DVLA sets the medical standards that drivers need to meet in order to hold a driving licence.
- There are specific medical standards for people with cardiomyopathy, those with particular symptoms, and those with particular medical devices.
- This factsheet covers the standards for group 2 licences (vocational driving licence).
- The DVLA were invited to check the accuracy of this information resource.

The DVLA and driving standards

The DVLA (driver and vehicle licensing agency) is the body that licenses cars and drivers in Great Britain, and sets the medical standards for drivers. If you are a driver the law says that you must tell the DVLA about any medical condition that may affect your ability to

drive. This is a requirement of holding a driving licence. The DVLA has specific standards for people with heart conditions which depend on what driving licence you hold, your condition, the symptoms you have and whether you have certain treatment.

<https://www.gov.uk/health-conditions-and-driving/find-condition-a-to-z>

Some cardiomyopathies have their own specific driving standards. There are additional standards to meet if you experience particular symptoms (such as those related to arrhythmia or heart failure, for example palpitations, dizziness, loss of consciousness or other symptoms which affect safe driving) or if you have devices (such as a pacemaker or ICD).

With all of the standards below, where you can carry on driving, this is as long as there is no other reason why you cannot drive (such as any other medical conditions that have their own driving standards to meet and where you may have to tell the DVLA).

The following is a summary of the driving standards, from the GOV website and the DVLA guidelines for medical professionals ('Assessing fitness to drive – a guide for medical professionals').

<https://www.gov.uk/driving-medical-conditions>

The standards will either mean:

- you do not need to stop driving or tell the DVLA
- you need to stop driving and tell the DVLA
- you do not need to notify the DVLA although you need to stop driving for a specified length of

time

In some cases, you will not be able to hold a vocational driving licence (where a condition is a bar to having a vocational licence). If you are unsure about what standards apply to you, you can talk to your GP or cardiologist.

Types of licence

Group 1 licence: also known as an 'ordinary driving licence', this is for cars, motorcycles and mopeds.

Group 2 licence: also known as a 'vocational licence', this is for large goods vehicles (lorries), passenger carrying vehicles (buses and coaches) and horse boxes. This factsheet covers the driving standards for group 2 (vocational) licences. See page two for the standards.

For group 1, see our factsheet 'Cardiomyopathy and driving (group 1)'.

Form VOCH1

This is the form to use to notify the DVLA about any heart condition. It is also used to notify them if you have a pacemaker or ICD, arrhythmias or palpitations, heart failure, dilated or hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, left bundle branch block, or a left ventricular ejection fraction of less than 40%.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/voch1-online-confidential-medical-information>

Further information or queries

If you have any queries about the driving standards and how they apply to you, you might like to talk to your GP or cardiologist about whether your condition affects your ability to drive.



Important note: where you can continue to drive but must tell the DVLA, you should only drive if your doctor (GP or cardiologist) advises that you can, while the DVLA assesses your case. The DVLA will make the final licensing decision based on this assessment.

For a full list of conditions and to see the form, follow the link below and scroll down to your condition, i.e. 'Dilated cardiomyopathy', 'Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy'.

<https://www.gov.uk/health-conditions-and-driving/find-condition-a-to-z>

Group 2 licence standards

Standards depending on type of cardiomyopathy:

Arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy – You must tell the DVLA. You can usually keep driving whilst the DVLA considers your application. You may be asked to undertake a medical assessment. If you have symptoms you may only be able to start driving after your symptoms have been treated and controlled for a satisfactory period and you have had an assessment by an electrophysiologist. If you get your licence back it may be a 'review licence' which lasts for one to three years (before being reviewed). You can notify the DVLA on form VOCH1. Print and post to the address on the form below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/voch1-online-confidential-medical-information>

Dilated cardiomyopathy – You must tell the DVLA. You can notify the DVLA on form VOCH1.

<https://www.gov.uk/dilated-cardiomyopathy-and-driving>

Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy – you must tell the DVLA. The DVLA may arrange for you to have an exercise test to check that you meet the criteria to drive. If you have symptoms you may not be able to hold a vocational driving licence. You can notify the DVLA on form VOCH1.

<https://www.gov.uk/hypertrophic-cardiomyopathy-and-driving>

Standards depending on other conditions or symptoms

Arrhythmia – You must tell the DVLA. Talk to your doctor if you're not sure if your arrhythmia causes other symptoms that will affect your driving. You can notify the DVLA on form VOCH1.

<https://www.gov.uk/arrhythmia-and-driving>

Heart failure – You must stop driving. You must tell the DVLA. The DVLA will assess your situation and may determine that you are not able to hold a vocational driving licence. You can notify the DVLA on form VOCH1.

<https://www.gov.uk/heart-failure-and-driving>

Left bundle branch block – You must tell the DVLA. The DVLA may arrange for you to have heart function tests to assess this. You can notify the DVLA on form VOCH1.

<https://www.gov.uk/left-bundle-branch-block-and-driving>

Standards depending on devices

Atrial defibrillator – You must stop driving. You must tell the DVLA. You can notify the DVLA on form VOCH1.

Cardiac resynchronisation therapy (CRT) with pacemaker – You must stop driving. You must tell the DVLA. You can notify the DVLA on form VOCH1.

Cardiac resynchronisation therapy (CRT) with defibrillator – You must stop driving. You must tell the DVLA. You may not be able to hold a vocational licence. You can notify the DVLA on form VOCH1.

ICDs (for ventricular arrhythmia) – You must stop driving. You must tell the DVLA. You may not be able to hold a vocational driving licence. You can notify the DVLA on form VOCH1.

<https://www.gov.uk/defibrillators-and-driving>



Left ventricular assist device (LVAD) – you must stop driving. You must tell the DVLA. You may not be able to hold a vocational driving licence. You can notify the DVLA on form VOCH1.

Pacemaker – You must stop driving. You must tell the DVLA you have a pacemaker. When your pacemaker is first implanted (or the battery is replaced) you may need to stop driving for six weeks from the date of implantation. You should be able to drive again after this, as long as you have no other condition that would prevent you driving. You can notify the DVLA on form VOCH1. You will have to sign the form to show you agree to comply with the terms of the pacemaker declaration.

<https://www.gov.uk/pacemakers-and-driving>

We are here for you

At Cardiomyopathy UK we offer help and support for you and your family. You can call our helpline to talk to our support nurses on 0800 018 1024. We can put you in contact with other people through our support groups, support volunteers and social media. Contact us for more about our services, or look online - www.cardiomyopathy.org.

Send your feedback to contact@cardiomyopathy.org

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