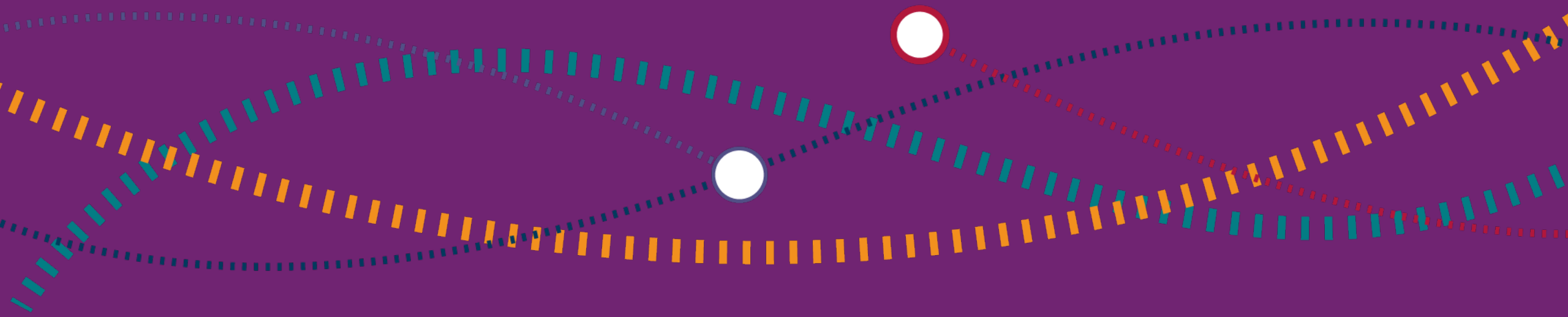


Key facts for train drivers

Train Driving Licences and Certificates



You must carry your licence and certificate when driving a train

Tell your employer if you forget to bring them with you at the start of a shift.

If you think your state of health raises doubts about your fitness to drive trains you must by law (Reg 17.3) tell your employer

What are the licence and the complementary certificate, and why do I need them?

- All train drivers on the GB mainline railway must, by law, have a licence and complementary certificate to drive mainline trains.

How do I get a licence?

- To get a licence you must pass a general professional competence examination, medical examination and occupational psychological fitness examination. These will be organised by your employer.
- You must also be aged at least 20 and have at least 9 years education.

Who issues the licence?

- The Office of Rail and Road issues the licence for driving on the GB mainline infrastructure.
- Once issued, the licence is your personal property.
- When your licence is due for renewal, your operator will apply to ORR on your behalf.

How long is the licence valid for and how does it stay valid?

- The licence is valid for 10 years, but..
- .. you must pass regular medical examinations to ensure you are still fit to drive. Your employer will arrange this.
- Medical examinations are at least every three years until you reach 55. After 55 they take place every year.

How do I get a complementary certificate?

- To get a certificate you must pass the professional knowledge and rules of the route for infrastructure and rolling stock set by your employer.
- The certificates show which rolling stock you may drive and over which infrastructure.

Who issues the complementary certificate?

- Your employer issues the certificate.
- Once issued, the certificate is owned by your employer although it is held by you (this differs to your licence which is owned by you).

How long is the complementary certificate valid for and how does it stay valid?

- Your employer will set how long the certificate is valid but...
- ..you must pass regular professional knowledge examinations on both infrastructure (route knowledge) and rolling stock.

What happens to the licence and certificate if validity is not maintained?

- If the conditions for holding a licence are not maintained, we may suspend or withdraw it. If we do this, you must return your licence to us. You can appeal our decision to the Secretary of State.
- Your employer may refuse to update or issue a certificate or withdraw or suspend it if the conditions for holding it are no longer met. You can appeal to ORR against this decision.

Keeping licence information up to date, and lost or stolen licences / certificates

- If any of the information on your licence changes tell us or your employer. In some cases, we will need to issue a new one.
- If you lose your certificate or licence, or they are stolen or destroyed, you should tell your employer, who will arrange replacements.

Changing your employer?

- **ORR must be informed by your old employer when you change your employer.**
- **Your licence remains valid when you decide to work for someone else as a train driver.**
- **Your previous certificate becomes invalid, and that employer must issue a certified copy to you when you leave.**

More information

- Detailed guides: <https://www.orr.gov.uk/guidance-compliance/rail/train-driving-licences-and-certificates>
- FAQs: <https://www.orr.gov.uk/guidance-compliance/rail/train-driving-licences-and-certificates/frequently-asked-questions>
- Contact: TDL.Applications@orr.gov.uk