Driver & Vehicle Licensing Agency

Information for ADI's

Provisional Disability Assessment Licence

The Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) (Amendment) (No2) Regulations 2000. allows drivers who have had their full driving licence withdrawn (revoked or refused) for medical reasons, to be issued with a provisional disability assessment licence (PDAL) by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA).

The purpose of the PDAL is to assist drivers, who can evidence that their medical condition has improved, to take an on-road assessment. The PDAL may also permit a period of on road retraining prior to the assessment. The period of re-training will be confirmed in a letter to the driver, which serves as a legal notice.

The assessment would normally be undertaken at a Driving Mobility Assessment Centrc. (where the practical driving would usually be in a centre vehicle) but DVLA could refer for a Driving Appraisal which would be undertaken at a DVSA Driving Test Centre. The client would need to provide a vehicle to take the appraisal in, this could either be:

- their own vehicle (which must be insured for the purposes of undertaking the appraisal).
- an ADI's tuition vehicle.

Where a period of retraining is required the DVLA recommends the training should be conducted by an ADI in a dual controlled car. Otherwise normal provisional licence conditions apply.

In all cases the PDAL validity expires on completion of the assessment and the licence must be handed to the assessor at the end of the drive (or returned directly to DVLA). The licence holder is not permitted to drive away from the assessment or appraisal.

A PDAL is coded 121: 'Restricted to conditions specified by the Secretary of State's notice' (the letter accompanying the PDAL, which serves as the legal notice). You can recognise a PDAL by looking for code 121 at section 12 on the back of the provisional licence.

Removal of restriction codes

DVLA may refer the holder of a full Category B licence with a specific restriction code for assessment to decide if the holder can have the restriction removed. The full category B licence with the restriction code remains valid, but DVLA will issue a letter which serves as a legal notice to the driver to enable them to take the assessment under conditions where the restriction does not apply.

Where it may be necessary for these drivers to have retraining, the time period allowed will be confirmed on the legal notice.

Please note that code 78 applied following a DVSA driving test in a vehicle with automatic transmission can only be removed following a DVSA test pass in a vehicle with manual transmission.

Example of letter sent to licence holder

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency Drivers Medical Group Swansea SA99 1DG Fax: 0300 083 0083 Phone: 0300 790 6806 Website: www.gov.uk/driving-medical-conditions

Our reference:

Date:

Dear

Please find enclosed your new provisional disability assessment licence which has been issued to you for the purpose of undertaking an on-road driving assessment. This licence, together with this letter, which serves as a legal notice, is valid until xx.xx.xxxx. It entitles you to undertake a period of retraining with a qualified driver and an on-road driving assessment.

When accepting the new assessment date please ensure you allow enough time directly prior to the assessment for the period of tuition

Once you have taken the assessment you must return this licence to the assessor. A decision on whether your full licence can be returned will be made by DVLA's doctors based on the outcome of the assessment and any other relevant medical information. You will be notified of the outcome accordingly.

This licence is subject to the same conditions as a provisional driving licence; you must:

- display L plates
- drive only with a qualified driver who in an emergency would be able to take control of the steering and breaking functions of the vehicle .
- not drive on the motorway unless you are supervised by an Advanced Driving Instructor (ADI) in a dual control vehicle

Please note: The assessment is not a driving test. Its purpose is to assess your fitness to drive and your ability to drive safely. The assessment centre is independent of DVLA and their main priority is to assess your needs and support you. Although the photo card shows a validity period of l2 months it is only valid until xx.xx.xxxx as set out in this notice and will expire on xx.xx.xxxx.

You have agreed to accept the terms and conditions, which apply on the issue of this Provisional Disability Assessment Licence, including its period of validity. This letter must accompany the licence at all times.

The Law: Section 9a(5)(c) Road Traffic Act 1988 Regulation 3,16,\7 of Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) Regulations 1999

Yours sincerely,

Drivers Medical Group