

What to look for on a Driving Licence



Ascend Broking Group
Business Insurance Solutions

Front of the Driving Licence



Personal Details (1,2 and 3)

Fields 1, 2 and 3 of the photocard licence record the surname, first names, date and place of birth.

Date of Licence issue, photo expiry, issuing authority (4)

The date shown in 4a is the date the photocard was issued. 4b shows the date the photocard must be renewed. The authority that issued the licence is shown in 4c (in Great Britain that is the DVLA).

Driver Number (5)

A	B	C	D	E
MORGA	657054	SM	9IJ	**

A - First five characters of surname. If the surname is less than five characters the remaining spaces will be made up using the figure 9 (eg MAN99).

B - The first and last numbers are the year of birth. The second and third numbers are the month of birth. If a woman, '5' is added to the second number and the total used as the second digit eg: if born in October the second and third numbers would be 60. The fourth and fifth digits show the day of birth.

C - The first two initials of forenames. If only one initial then the second will be a '9'.

D - Computer check digits.

E - Licence issue number. This must be the same number on the Counterpart apart from letter.

Holder's Photograph (6)

The new photocard licence has a black and white photo. This is because the laser technology used to burn the image onto the card producing a black and white photo is more secure. A colour photo will still need to be provided with the application to be stored on your driver record.

Holder's Signature (7)

This is digitally reproduced and burned into the photocard from the signature provided on the application form.

Holder's Address (8)

This shows the driver's permanent address in Great Britain.

Entitlement Categories (9)

The letters in capitals show the categories of entitlement covered by the European Community Directive. National categories are shown in smaller letters.

Holographic Feature (10)

This feature is similar to a hologram but more clear as it has definite lines and brilliant colours. It contains a steering wheel that appears to turn as you tilt the card in different directions.

Changing Images (11a and 11b)

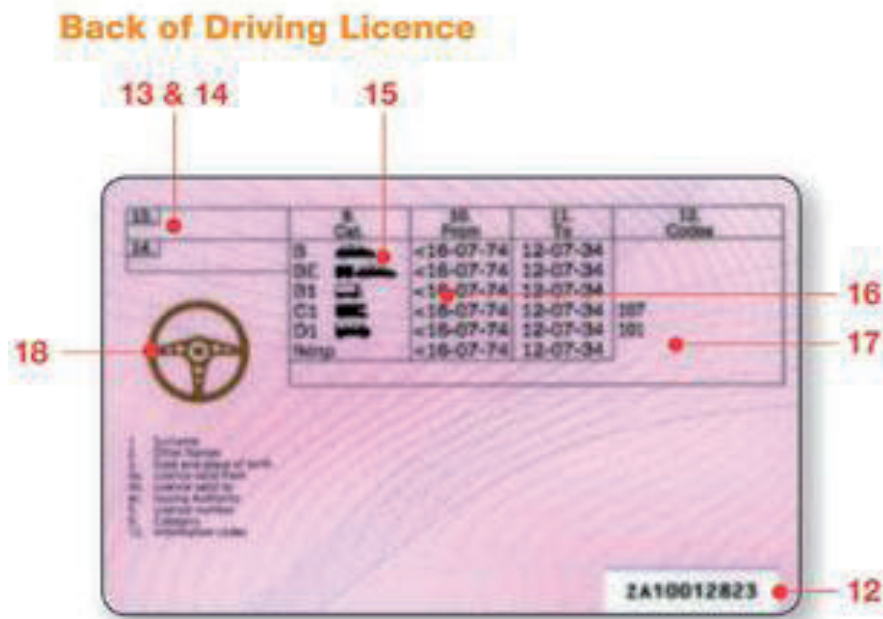
a. This security feature is an image that changes both shape and colour depending on how you tilt the licence. On full (pink) licences it's a blue road sign changing to a black triangle, on a provisional (green) it's a red road sign changing to a black triangle.

b. This security feature is personalised according to the data on the card. It contains the last five characters of the driver number changing to the month and year of the photo expiry which appear and disappear depending on how you tilt the licence.

Reverse of the Driving Licence



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Unique Identifier (12)

Cards are to be pre numbered by the card manufacturer. This number is laser engraved onto the card prior to delivery to DVLA and is unique on every card.

Not Used (13 and 14)

Pictograms (15)

These illustrations are representations of types of vehicles in those categories shown.

Category Validity Periods (16)

These are the dates when entitlement to drive each category begins and ends.



Example of a Counterpart Form

Counterpart (Front)

The image shows a California counterpart form for a driving licence. The form is titled "Counterpart" and includes fields for driver information, vehicle categories, and a table for entitlement history. Blue arrows point from text boxes to specific parts of the form.

Driver number (same as Driving Licence)

Issue number (same as Driving Licence apart from letter)

Categories of vehicle entitled to drive provisionally (that is, before passing the relevant driving test).

Entitlement history (that is previous entitlement which has been replaced by a higher category).

Endorsements (as supplied by the convicting court).

The counterpart also has an area for change of address (both the photocard and counterpart must be returned in this case).



Information Codes (17)

The code numbers printed in this area indicate what (if any) restrictions the entitlement is subject to.

Code	Description
1	eyesight correction
2	hearing/communication aid
10	modified transmission
15	modified clutch
20	modified braking systems
25	modified accelerator systems
30	combined braking and accelerator systems
35	modified control layouts
40	modified steering
42	modified rear - view mirror(s)
43	modified driving seats
44	modifications to motorcycles
45	motorcycle only with sidecar
70	exchange of licence
71	duplicate of licence
78	restricted to vehicles with automatic transmission
79	restricted to vehicles in conformity with the specifications stated in brackets
101	not for hire or reward
102	drawbar trailers only
103	subject to certificate of competence
105	not more than 5.5m long
106	restricted to vehicles with automatic transmission
107	not more than 8250kg
108	subject to minimum age requirements
110	limited to invalid carriages
111	limited to 16 passenger seats
113	limited to 16 passenger seats except for automatics
114	with any special controls required for safe driving
115	organ donor
118	start date is for earliest entitlement
119	weight limit does not apply
120	complies with health standard for category D1
121	restricted to conditions specified in the Secretary of State's notice
122	valid on successful completion: Basic Moped Training Course