



## TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE DRIVERS

### Holders of European Community/European Economic Area Driving Licences

In order to be licensed as a taxi or private hire vehicle (PHV) driver, an applicant must hold a full driving licence issued in the UK, the European Community (EC) or one of the other countries in the European Economic Area (EEA).

In addition to the above, the Licensing Authority requires all taxi and PHV drivers who hold an EC/EEA driving licence to have a GB counterpart document.

Any individual making an application for a taxi or PHV driver's licence will be required to obtain a GB counterpart prior to the issue of a licence.

When licence holders apply for a counterpart they will be registered with the DVLA and allocated a GB driver number. Any driving convictions and endorsements subsequently incurred by the licence holder in the UK will be recorded by the DVLA.

Having a GB counterpart benefits drivers by allowing them to take part in the fixed penalty system for road traffic offences rather than having to attend court and incur a greater penalty as well as costs. In addition, if a driver loses or has his or her national driving licence stolen, they would probably not be able to get a duplicate from the country it was issued in. However, once registered with the DVLA they will be able to apply for a GB licence.

Currently, licensed drivers who hold an EC/EEA licence will be required to obtain a GB counterpart when they apply to be re-licensed.

In order to obtain a UK counterpart, the applicant must be resident in the UK.

All non-UK licence holders will still be required to provide a copy of their EC/EEA driving licence with their application.

The full list of EC/EEA states is:

Austria	France	Liechtenstein	Romania
Belgium	Germany	Lithuania	Slovakia
Bulgaria	Greece	Luxembourg	Slovenia
Cyprus	Hungary	Malta	Spain
Czech Republic	Iceland	Netherlands	Sweden
Denmark	Ireland	Norway	United Kingdom
Estonia	Italy	Poland	
Finland	Latvia	Portugal	

GB counterparts can be obtained free of charge from the DVLA on submission of Form D9 which can be downloaded from <http://www.dvla.gov.uk/media/pdf/forms/d9.pdf>. The DVLA advises that it takes approximately three weeks from receipt of application to issue a GB counterpart.