

ADVISER

ABOLITION OF PAPER COUNTERPART DRIVING LICENCES

From 8 June 2015, the paper counterpart which currently accompanies the photocard driving licence will not be valid and will no longer be issued by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) in Great Britain. Older, paper-only licences (that is, those issued prior to 1998) will remain valid, but will be replaced with a photocard-only licence when they are next renewed or amended.

From 8 June 2015, endorsements and penalty points will no longer be recorded on paper driving licences/counterparts. New electronic online services are being developed by the DVLA in consultation with stakeholders, to allow approved organisations to view information currently on these paper documents, with the knowledge of the driving licence holder.

THE IMPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESSES

It is a legal requirement to make sure that anyone you employ to drive a vehicle has the right licence and qualifications. In addition, insurers generally require insureds to check the licences of all those who drive on the company's business in order to identify serious endorsements or accumulations of penalty points. It is often a policy condition to disclose these.

The form of the check is often not mandated, but the changes outlined above mean that a review of an original or photocopy paper licence (which was always open to potential fraud or out-of-date information) will not be sufficient (or, in many cases, possible).



HOW CAN A BUSINESS CHECK A DRIVER'S LICENCE?

The DVLA is developing a new digital enquiry service for launch later this year that will enable organisations such as employers and car hire companies to view information currently shown on the driving licence counterpart.

Until this becomes available, we recommend organisations use the existing DVLA services that will advise:

- The licence validity dates.
- The categories of vehicle the driver can drive.
- If there are any current endorsements on the licence.
- If the driver is disqualified.

This service is available online, by post, or by telephone, but does require the driver to complete a mandate giving their permission for the information to be disclosed. It also involves a small fee. Further information is available on the [DVLA website](#).

The frequency of checking should be linked to the number of points on the licence, with a recommended maximum period between checks of 12 months.

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE FROM MARSH

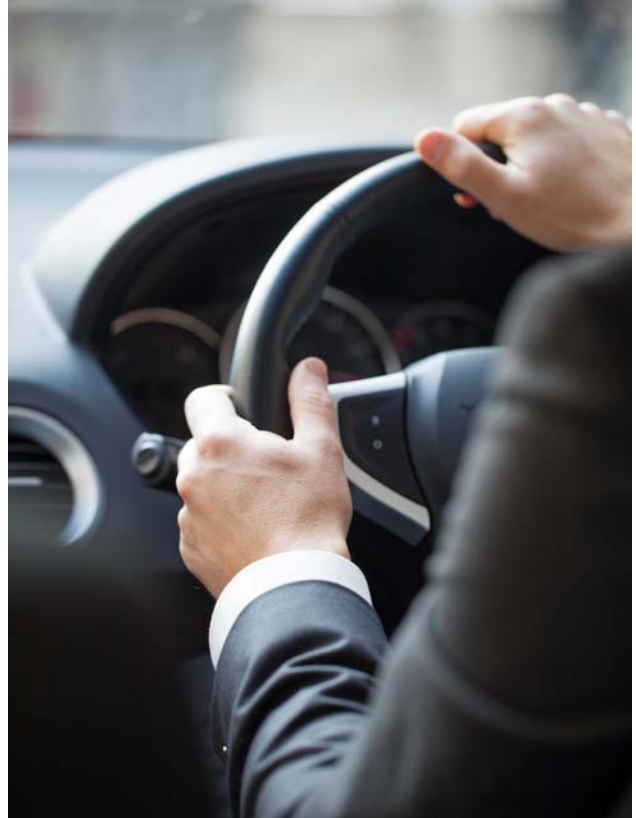
We also recommend organisations consider a driver questionnaire in addition to a mandate to enable a licence check. A questionnaire, which can be completed upon employment and annually thereafter, is a useful tool to obtain relevant additional information that would not be revealed by the licence check (for example; accident history, health conditions, and any prior insurance declinatures).

Organisations with large fleets of vehicle often appoint a third party to manage the licence checking and questionnaire process, therefore removing a large part of the administrative burden. Feedback is provided on entitlement and endorsements so appropriate risk management interventions can be made.

CONTACT US

For further information and assistance please contact your usual Marsh representative or email

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