

DVLA Guidance

The risk of hypoglycaemia is the main hazard to safe driving and can occur with diabetes treated with insulin or tablets. For more information about driving with diabetes see the [Government guidance for drivers with diabetes](#) and advice for drivers on the [Diabetes UK](#) website. DVLA also has a page on [guidance for professionals](#).

Treated with diet alone or by tablets other than those which carry a risk of inducing hypoglycaemia or by non-insulin injectable medication: No requirement to inform the DVLA about diabetes unless develop relevant disabilities (eg diabetic eye problems affecting vision), but must be under regular medical review

Treated with tablets which carry a risk of inducing hypoglycaemia (including sulfonylureas and glinides): *Group 1 ODL – car, motorcycle.* No more than one episode of hypoglycaemia requiring assistance of another person in preceding 12 months, monitoring appropriately (ie sufficiently frequently to detect any tendency to hypoglycaemia, including at times relevant to driving) to minimise chance of hypoglycaemia and under regular medical review. If all these criteria are satisfied, there is no need to inform the DVLA.

Group 2 entitlement vocational – lorries, buses. Must satisfy the following:

- No episode of hypoglycaemia requiring assistance of a another person in preceding 12 months
- Full awareness of hypoglycaemia
- Regularly monitors at least x2 per day and at times relevant to driving
- Able to demonstrate an understanding of the risks of hypoglycaemia
- No other debarring complications of diabetes such as a visual field defect
- Under regular medical review

Treated with insulin temporarily. *Group 1:* Notify DVLA only if disabling hypoglycaemia. If under medical supervision and risk of disabling hypoglycaemia remote notification not required. (NB DVLA should be notified if insulin treatment continues for more than three months)

Group 2: If requirements for ‘Group 2 entitlement vocational – lorries, buses’ bullet points above, satisfied may apply for license.

Treated with insulin:

Group 1. A 1, 2 or 3-year license may be issued if:

- No more than one episode of hypoglycaemia requiring assistance of a another person in preceding 12 months
- Awareness of hypoglycaemia
- Appropriate blood glucose monitoring
- Not regarded as a likely source of danger to the public while driving
- Visual standards for acuity and visual field are met

Group 2. As ‘Group 2 entitlement vocational – lorries, buses’ bullet points above **plus** glucose meter should have a memory function and, at the annual examination by an independent Consultant Diabetologist, 3 months of blood glucose readings must be available. Additional guidance for insulin-treated drivers who wish to apply for a Group 2 (LGV/PCV) license can be found at www.dvla.gov.uk.

Drivers with insulin-treated diabetes cannot drive emergency (police, ambulance and health service) vehicles.

Drivers are advised to carry their glucose meters and test strips with them. They are advised to check blood glucose before driving (even on short journeys) and test every 2 hours on long journeys. A small starchy snack should be taken if blood glucose is 5.0mmol/L or less. If less than 4.0 mmol/L or symptoms of hypoglycaemia, the vehicle should be stopped and the driver should switch off the engine, remove the keys from the ignition and move from the driver’s seat. Affected individuals should not resume driving until 45 minutes after the blood glucose has returned to normal. An emergency supply of fast-acting carbohydrate should always be kept in the vehicle.

Impaired awareness of hypoglycaemia necessitates stopping driving. Regaining warning symptoms may result in reinstatement of a Group 1 license, but refusal or revocation of a Group 2 license is unlikely to be reversed.

The medical standards are published in the DVLA’s ‘[At a glance](#)’ guide.