



In accordance with the relevant passages of clause 5 (Par. 5) of The German Traffic and Licensing Law of 15th November 1974, German Domestic Driving Licenses are issued for the following categories:

- (Klasse) 1: Motorcycles with an engine cubic capacity exceeding 50 ccs
- (Klasse) 2: Motor-vehicles (lorries) of a permitted gross weight laden exceeding 7.5 tons
- (Klasse) 3: Any motor-vehicle not belonging to categories 1, 2, 4 or 5
- (Klasse) 4: Motor-driven cycles and motorbikes, the maximum speed of which does not exceed 40 kmph and with an engine cubic capacity not exceeding 50 ccs
- (Klasse) 5: Motor-vehicles, the maximum speed of which does not exceed 25 kmph, unless belonging to categories 1 and 4

Holders of driving licences of categories 1, 2 and 3 are automatically qualified to drive vehicles of categories 4 and 5; driving licences of category 2 automatically operate for vehicles of category 3, driving licences of category 4 automatically operate for vehicles of category 5.

Previous legislation: In accordance with previous legislation, licences issued for categories 1, 2, 3a and 3b, operate as licences issued for categories 1, 2 and 3 under current legislation.

Licences issued before 1st December 1954 for categories 1, 2, 3 or 4 additionally entitle their holders to drive motor-vehicles with an engine cubic capacity of 50 to 250 ccs.

Licences issued in the Federal State of Saarland between 30th November and 1st October 1960 for the categories 1, 2, 3 or 4 additionally entitle their holders to drive motor-vehicles with an engine cubic capacity of 50 to 125 ccs.

Licences issued before 1st April 1980 for category 5 additionally entitle their holders to drive motorbikes and motor driven cycles according to category 4.

Licences issued before 1st April 1980 for categories 2, 3 or 4 additionally entitle their holders to drive

- a) motor cycles with an engine cubic capacity not exceeding 50 ccm, the maximum speed of which does not exceed 80 kmph and 60 cc revolution per minute;
- b) motor cycles with a maximum engine cubic capacity of 50 ccs, the maximum speed of which does not exceed 40 kmph.

Remark: Under current regulation a regular German Domestic Driving Licence does not normally expire but can be impounded by the relevant authorities for violation of certain Traffic Laws.



Categories of vehicles for which the licence is valid

1. Motor-cycles (two-wheeled vehicles with or without side-car) having a cylinder capacity of more than 50 cc or a maximum design of speed of more than 50 km/h
 - 1a. Motor-cycles of category 1 whose maximum rated power does not exceed 20 kW and whose power-to-unladen-weight rate is at least 7 kg/kW
 - 1b. Motor-cycles of category 1 whose cylinder capacity does not exceed 80 cc and whose maximum design speed does not exceed 80 km/h (light motor-cycles)
2. Motor vehicles with a maximum permissible weight (including a semi-trailer) of more than 7.5 tonnes and vehicle combinations having more than three axles, irrespective of the category of the towing vehicles; a vehicle with a trailer which, pursuant to section 18 (2) (S) of the German Road Licensing Regulations (StVZO), is not subject to licensing, shall not be considered as a combination within the scope of the present category
3. All vehicles not belonging to any of the other categories
4. Two-wheeled power-driven vehicles with a cylinder capacity not exceeding 50 cc and a maximum design speed not exceeding 50 km/h (motor-cycles and motor-assisted bicycles)
5. Power-driven invalid chairs (section 18 (2) (5) of the StVZO), motor vehicles with a maximum design speed not exceeding 25 km/h and motor vehicles with a cylinder capacity not exceeding 50 cc, with the exception of vehicles belonging to categories 1, 1a, 1b and 4














Nationale Schlüsselzahlen - National code numbers

- 171** Class C1, valid also for motor vehicles of class D with a permitted total weight not exceeding 7.500 kg, without passengers
- 174** Class L - also valid for driving drawing vehicles that do not exceed a maximum speed of 32 km/h (determined by the type of construction of the vehicle), including those with a one-axle trailer (axles with a distance of less than 1,0 m count as one axle) and combinations of the said drawing vehicles and trailers, if they are driven with a speed not exceeding 25 km/h and, if the maximum speed of the drawing vehicle exceeds 25 km/h (determined by the type of construction of the vehicle), the trailers have been labelled that their maximum speed does not exceed 25 km/h, in the manner proscribed in § 58 of the Road Transport Licensing Regulations
- 175** Class L - also valid for driving motor vehicles not exceeding a maximum speed of 25 km/h (determined by the type of construction of the vehicle), and valid for driving motor vehicles except those belonging to classes A, A1 and M that do not exceed a cylinder capacity of 50 ccm



New German Driving Licence Categories

A	All motorcycles (no power restrictions) Authorization to drive all kinds of motorcycle (no power restrictions) will not be granted until drivers have two years' experience on motorcycles up to 25 kW, not exceeding 0.16 kW/kg. "Direct access" to unrestricted class A possible for driver aged 25 or over.	
A1	Motorcycles not exceeding 125 cc, up to 11 kW; maximum design of speed of 80 km/h for 16- and 17-year old drivers	
C	Motor vehicles over 3,500 kg with a trailer not exceeding 750 kg	
CE	Motor vehicles over 3,500 kg with a trailer of more than 750 kg	
B	Motor vehicles not exceeding 3,500 kg with a trailer not exceeding 750 kg or with a trailer of more than 750 kg, provided that the maximum authorized mass of the trailer does not exceed the unladen mass of the tractor vehicle and the maximum authorized mass of the combination does not exceed 3,500 kg	
BE	Combinations consisting of a tractor vehicle in class B and a trailer, where the combination does not come within class B	
C1	Motor vehicles between 3,500 kg and 7,500 kg with a trailer not exceeding 750 kg	
C1E	Motor vehicles in class C1 with a trailer over 750 kg, provided that the maximum authorized mass of the trailer does not exceed the unladen mass of the tractor vehicle and the maximum authorized mass of the combination does not exceed 12,000 kg	
D	Motor vehicles with more than 8 seats	
DE	Motor vehicles in class D with a trailer over 750 kg	
D1	Busses/coaches with more than 8 seats but not more than 16 seats	
D1E	Motor vehicles in class D1 with a trailer over 750 kg, provided that the maximum authorized mass of the trailer does not exceed the unladen mass of the tractor vehicle and the maximum authorized mass or the combination does not exceed 12,000 kg. The trailer must not be used for the carriage of passengers.	