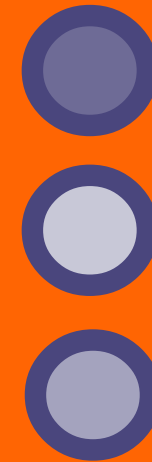


Alcohol Problem	Group1 Entitlement	Group2 Entitlement
Alcohol Misuse	Alcohol Misuse	Alcohol Misuse
	Persistent alcohol misuse, confirmed by medical enquiry and/or by evidence of otherwise unexplained abnormal blood markers, requires:	
<i>" a state which because of consumption of alcohol, causes disturbance of behaviour, related disease or other consequences, likely to cause the patient, his/her family or society harm..."</i>	...withdrawal of licence or refusal until a minimum six months period of controlled drinking or abstinence has been reached, with normalisation of blood parameters.	...withdrawal or refusal of a vocational licence or refusal until at least one year period of controlled drinking or abstinence has been reached, with normalisation of blood parameters.
Alcohol Dependency	Alcohol Dependency	Alcohol Dependency
<i>"A cluster of behavioural, cognitive & physiological phenomena that develop after repeated alcohol use & which include a strong desire to take alcohol, difficulties in controlling its use, persistence in its use despite harmful consequences, with evidence of increased tolerance and sometimes a physical withdrawal state."</i>	Alcohol dependency, confirmed by medical enquiry, requires withdrawal of licence or refusal until a one year period free from alcohol problems has been reached. Abstinence will normally be required, with normalisation of blood parameters, if relevant.	Vocational licensing will not be granted where there is a history of alcohol dependency within the past three years .
Alcohol Related Disorder	Alcohol Related Disorder	Alcohol Related Disorder
Alcohol Related Disorders: e.g., hepatic cirrhosis with neuro-psychiatric impairment, psychosis	Driving should cease. Licence normally recommended to be refused/withdrawn until there is satisfactory recovery and is able to satisfy all other relevant medical standards.	Licence recommended to be refused/withdrawn.

Published by the Norfolk Drug and Alcohol Action Team August 2004

DRIVING

Drug and Alcohol Use and Dependency



A Guide to the Current Medical Standards of Fitness to Drive



If you would like this leaflet in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact The Health Information Team on 01603 307416 and we will do our best to help.



Current Medical Standards of Fitness to Drive

This leaflet, which includes extracts from the DVLA guidelines, is intended for use with your key worker. Your key worker or GP will be able to advise you on your fitness to drive.

It is an offence to be in charge of a vehicle “**unfit to drive through drink or drugs**” – this includes prescribed drugs.

The Road Traffic Act requires licence holders or applicants to tell the DVLA of “any disability likely to affect safe driving”. Drug and alcohol use is considered to be such a disability.

Once the DVLA is informed, you will normally need to complete a medical questionnaire and you may be required to have an independent medical examination which includes a urine test.

Remember to inform your insurance company if you are on Methadone. Failure to inform them may invalidate your insurance.

For further information contact:
 Drivers Medical Group, DVLA,
 Swansea SA99 1TU
 Tel: 0870 600 0301
 e-mail: eftd@dvla.gsi.gov.uk
www.dvla.gov.uk



Drug Misuse and Dependency

Cannabis, Amphetamines, Ecstasy & other psychoactive substances, including LSD & Hallucinagens

Heroin Morphine Methadone* Cocaine

Benzodiazepines
 The prescribed use of these drugs at therapeutic doses (BNF), without evidence of impairment, does not amount to misuse/dependency for licencing purposes. Non-prescribed use and/or the use of supratherepautic dosage does consititute misuse/dependency for licencing purposes.

Group1 Entitlement Motorcars & Motorbikes

The persistent use of or dependency on these substances, confirmed by medical enquiry, will lead to:

...withdrawal of licence or refusal until you have been free of use for **six months**.

...withdrawal of licence or refusal until you have been free of use for at least **one year**.

Applicants or drivers complying fully with a consultant supervised oral **Methadone maintenance programme may be licensed, following a favourable assessment and annual medical review. Those on an oral **buprenorphine** programme may also be considered. Consultant/Specialist report **may** be required when reapplying.*

...withdrawal of licence or refusal until you have been free of use for at least **one year**. Consultant/Specialist report **may** be required when reapplying.

Group2 Entitlement Large goods vehicles & passenger vehicles

...withdrawal of licence or refusal until you have been free of use for at least **one year**.

...withdrawal of licence or refusal until you have been free of use for at least **one year**.

Applicants or drivers complying fully with a consultant supervised oral **Methadone maintenance programme may be considered for an annual review licence once a minimum three year period of stability on the maintenance programme has been reached. Consultant/Specialist report **will** be required before relicencing.*

...withdrawal of licence or refusal until you have been free of use for at least **one year**. Consultant/Specialist report **will** be required before relicencing.