Right to work checks for new and existing drivers

From 1st December 2016 the authority has a legal duty to ensure it does not issue licences to any person who does not have the right to work in the UK. This means we will need to verify your documents in person next time you make an application to us. We will not be able to issue any new or renewed licences until we have verified your documents.

Licensing authorities have a legal duty not to issue operator or PHV or taxi driver licences to people disqualified by their immigration status from holding them, in order to prevent illegal working in the private hire vehicle and taxi sector. In order to discharge this duty, the authority must now conduct document checks as part of the application process.

The checks should establish whether or not an applicant has a lawful immigration status in the UK, or is prohibited from working because they are in the UK illegally, or is subject to a condition that prevents them from holding a licence.

Your right to work in the UK will be checked as part of your licence application, this could include the licensing authority checking your immigration status with the Home Office. We may otherwise share information with the Home Office. You must therefore provide a document or document combination that is stipulated as being suitable for this check. The list of documents is set out below. You must provide the original document(s), such as your passport or biometric residence permit, as indicated in the published guidance, so that the check can take place. The document(s) will be copied and the copy retained by the licensing authority. The original document will be returned to you. Your application will not be considered valid until all the necessary information and original document(s) have been produced.

If there are restrictions on the length of time you may work in the UK, your licence will not be issued for any longer than this period. In such circumstances the check will be repeated each time you apply to renew or extend your licence. If, during this period, you are disqualified from holding a licence because you have not complied with the UK’s immigration laws, your licence will lapse and you must return it to the licensing authority. Failure to do so is a criminal offence.’

The ID that you will be required to provide is detailed here:

Lists of acceptable documents for right to a licence checks
The lists of documents are based on those prescribed to show evidence of a right to work. List A: No immigration restrictions on right to a licence in the UK. Once you have undertaken the necessary check once in respect of an application made on or after 1 December 2016, if you retained the copy, you will not have to repeat the check when they subsequently apply to renew or extend their licence.
1. A passport showing the holder, or a person named in the passport as the child of the holder, is a British citizen or a citizen of the UK and Colonies having the right of abode in the UK.

2. A passport or national identity card showing the holder, or a person named in the passport as the child of the holder, is a national of a European Economic Area country or Switzerland.

3. A Registration Certificate or Document Certifying Permanent Residence issued by the Home Office to a national of a European Economic Area country or Switzerland.

4. A Permanent Residence Card issued by the Home Office to the family member of a national a European Economic Area country or Switzerland.

5. A **current** Biometric Immigration Document (Biometric Residence Permit) issued by the Home Office to the holder indicating that the person named is allowed to stay indefinitely in the UK, or has no time limit on their stay in the UK.

6. A **current** passport endorsed to show that the holder is exempt from immigration control, is allowed to stay indefinitely in the UK, has the right of abode in the UK, or has no time limit on their stay in the UK.

7. A **current** Immigration Status Document issued by the Home Office to the holder with an endorsement indicating that the named person is allowed to stay indefinitely in the UK or has no time limit on their stay in the UK, **together with** an official document giving the person’s permanent National Insurance number and their name issued by a Government agency or a previous employer. An example of an Immigration Status Document may be found here.

8. A **full** birth or adoption certificate issued in the UK which includes the name(s) of at least one of the holder’s parents or adoptive parents, **together with** an official document giving the person’s permanent National Insurance number and their name issued by a Government agency or a previous employer.

9. A birth or adoption certificate issued in the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or Ireland, **together with** an official document giving the person’s permanent National Insurance number and their name issued by a Government agency or a previous employer.

10. A certificate of registration or naturalisation as a British citizen, **together with** an official document giving the person’s permanent National Insurance number and their name issued by a Government agency or a previous employer.

**List B: Immigration restrictions on the right to a licence in the UK.** You may issue the licence (subject to statutory limitations) up to the expiry date of the permission to work in the UK. You will need to check immigration status each time they make an application to renew or extend their licence.

1. A **current** passport endorsed to show that the holder is allowed to stay in the UK and is currently allowed to do the type of work in question.

2. A **current** Biometric Immigration Document (Biometric Residence Permit) issued by the
Home Office to the holder which indicates that the named person can currently stay in the UK and is allowed to do the work in question.

3. A current Residence Card (including an Accession Residence Card or a Derivative Residence Card) issued by the Home Office to a non-European Economic Area national who is a family member of a national of a European Economic Area country or Switzerland or who has a derivative right of residence.
   This guidance [link to page 16] provides further information on checking a non-European Economic Area national family member’s right to a licence.

4. A current Immigration Status Document containing a photograph issued by the Home Office to the holder with a valid endorsement indicating that the named person may stay in the UK, and is allowed to do the type of work in question, together with an official document giving the person’s permanent National Insurance number and their name issued by a Government agency or a previous employer.

5. A Certificate of Application issued by the Home Office under regulation 17(3) or 18A (2) of the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006, to a family member of a national of a European Economic Area country or Switzerland stating that the holder is permitted to take employment which is less than 6 months old together with Verification from the Home Office Evidence and Enquiry Unit. The licence may be granted for six months from the date of the Certificate of Application.

6. A Verification issued by the Home Office Evidence and Enquiry Unit to you, which indicates that the named person may stay in the UK because they have an in time application, appeal or administrative review and which is outstanding. The licence may be issued for six months from the date of the licence decision.