

PORTARE

Driving, and thus having a driving licence, is an essential part of life for all adult European citizens.

Principles

- Driving licences shall be issued only to those applicants who meet medical standards, in accordance with the provisions of Annex III of the driving licence directive (2006/126/EG article 7.1)
- Drivers must at any moment have the knowledge, skills and behaviour with a view to be able to recognise traffic dangers, have sufficient command of their vehicle, comply with road traffic regulations, take account of all the factors affecting driving behaviour (e.g. alcohol, fatigue, poor eyesight, etc.) and help ensure the safety of all road users, as described in Annex II of the driving licence directive (2006/126/EG Annex II.II)

Challenge

Some drivers/applicants encounter physical and/or cognitive limitations that *might* be of influence to comply to the above-mentioned principles for getting and/or having a driving licence.

Part of the information for a decision can be found in the reports issued by medical specialists on the nature and the severity of the illness.

However, some of the information that is necessary for authorities to determine the fitness to drive of a person can *only* be objectively gathered by means of expert assessment including an on-road driving test. Often this is the case for persons with locomotor, cognitive and/or eyesight limitations, caused by all kind of different diseases and/or injuries.

Starting point

In several EU countries there is well established, in-depth knowledge available in gathering objective information of the implications of physical and/or cognitive limitations, as far as relevant for the fitness to drive decision by authorities, by means of expert assessment and on-road driving tests.

In order to *enhance* the mobility situation for *all* drivers/applicants with physical and/or cognitive limitations in *all* EU countries, the leading experts in this field have joint their efforts to make the existing knowledge available and ready for implementation by the relevant authorities in the EU.

Goals

- making the existing knowledge available by describing:
 - the consequences related to fitness to drive for different illness categories
 - the criteria for assessment in relation to these consequences
 - the criteria for on-road testing in relation to the consequences
 - methods to enable assessors to supply the relevant information to decision makers
- stimulating implementation in all EU countries by means of:
 - describing the knowledge and skills needed by assessors to assess the driver/applicant and to supply the relevant information for a decision to the authorities
 - train-the-trainer workshops for information exchange amongst experts in EU
 - establishment of an EU organisation for assessment and on-road testing of drivers/applicants with physical and/or cognitive limitations

Links to other initiatives

The result of the assessment and on-road driving test needs to be translated into adequate solutions for the driver-vehicle combination. Based on the criteria for the knowledge, skills and behaviour for driving a motor vehicle, the solutions can be described by means of the harmonised EU codes on the driving licence as given in Annex I of the driving licence directive (2006/126/EG).

In case these codes imply the use of car-adaptations, the quality and appropriateness of the adaptations is essential for fulfilling the fitness to drive criteria for a specific driver/applicant.

This aspect is the subject of the CAPI initiative started recently by the EU car-adaptation industry.

Participants

Currently the PORTARE group consists of experts from United Kingdom, Germany, Sweden, Italy and Netherlands. There are informal contacts with some interested persons in the new EU-10 countries.

Information

For information on the PORTARE initiative contact Mr. Jos de Vries from the Dutch Driving Licence Authority (email: a.de.vries@cbr.nl).