

Unnecessary Repetition of Periodic Training

Date: May 2023

1. Introduction

Driver CPC periodic training should focus on driver's continuing development and help them to become safer and more professional drivers. There are over 3000 approved courses which cover diverse subjects that will improve driver skills and increase value to employers.

Regulations specify that *'a range of different subjects should be covered over the driver's 35 hours of training'*. DVSA will monitor training uploads and potentially take action against drivers and trainers if we identify unnecessary repetition of course attendance in a 5-year rolling period.

Trainers should encourage variety when drivers are choosing periodic training. Doing the same course five times in quick succession cannot be justified. However, we know there are circumstances where repetition of periodic training is appropriate within a structured training regime, such as:

- **Maintaining a qualification**
Where a training course contributes to another qualification e.g. first aid or ADR.
- **Remedial training**
If a driver did not understand or needs additional training because their operator has specified they need to repeat for safety or insurance purposes. DVSA cites the most common issues identified at the road side which can be addressed via training: identifying vehicle defects, drivers hours/tachographs, weight limits and securing a load.
- **Change in regulation/best practice**
If the law or accepted best practice changes, as tachograph rules did in 2020.

You should retain records of correspondence with drivers/operators for audit purposes. DVSA expects that vocational trainers will apply professional judgement to decide under what circumstances a driver might legitimately require repeat training.

We acknowledge that trainers are not solely responsible for driver's training choices and may encounter difficult or ambiguous situations such as:

A driver has never trained with me before – I don't know what training they have already done?

We expect trainers to enquire about the driver's training history, evidence the discussions and try to encourage development focussed training when possible.

A driver's DQC is about to expire and they have done all my courses – should I allow repetition so they can maintain their DQC?

A driver leaving their training late is not an acceptable reason for them to miss the opportunity to become a safer driver. We encourage trainers to maintain enough courses to

provide suitable variety – if you cannot do this you should refer the driver elsewhere.

A driver has only undergone modular courses so I can't tell what subjects they have done?

We have changed the process so modular courses should be named more specifically on the certificate of attendance to help drivers monitor their training. Trainers should ask questions about a driver's training history encouraging variety when possible.

DVSA knows most operators and trainers of good repute will already encourage a varied training regime. Operators and trainers who allow drivers to repeat the same course unnecessarily create a road-safety risk and damage the reputation of the driver training industry as a whole.

The above is not an exhaustive list of all scenarios, therefore if you have a situation that is not covered by the above please contact your Account Officer directly or contact us on 01908 787000 or JAUPT-Enquiries@dvsa.gov.uk