Commission Directive (EU) 2015/653 of 24 April 2015 amending Directive 2006/126/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on driving licences (Text with EEA relevance)

COMMISSION DIRECTIVE (EU) 2015/653

of 24 April 2015

amending Directive 2006/126/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on driving licences

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Directive 2006/126/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 on driving licences[(1)], and in particular Article 8 thereof,

Whereas:

(1) The codes and sub-codes set out in Annex I to Directive 2006/126/EC should be updated in the light of technical and scientific progress, especially in the field of vehicle adaptations and technical support for drivers with disabilities.

(2) To take into account new technological developments, the codes and sub-codes should be function-oriented. For reasons of administrative simplification some codes should also be deleted, merged with other codes or shortened.

(3) To reduce the burden on drivers with disabilities, it should be made possible where appropriate for those drivers to drive a vehicle without technical adaptation. Since modern vehicle technology allows drivers to operate certain regular vehicles with limited force, e.g. for steering or braking, and in order to enhance flexibility for drivers whilst ensuring safe operation of the vehicle, codes should be introduced that could allow driving of vehicles which are compatible with the maximum force the driver is able to produce.

(4) Certain codes which are currently restricted to medical conditions may also be relevant for other road safety purposes by limiting high risk situations, e.g. in the case of novice or elderly drivers. Thus a section should also be created for these codes on limited use.

(5) To enhance road safety, several Member States have or are planning programmes restricting drivers to drive only vehicles equipped with an alcohol interlock. To facilitate the deployment and acceptance of alcohol interlock devices and taking into account the recommendation of the Study on the prevention of drink-driving by the use of alcohol interlock devices[(2)], a harmonised code should be introduced for this purpose.

(6) In accordance with the Joint Political Declaration of Member States and the Commission of 28 September 2011 on explanatory documents[(3)], Member States have

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undertaken to accompany, in justified cases, the notification of their transposition measures with one or more documents explaining the relationship between the components of a directive and the corresponding parts of national transposition instruments.

(7) Directive 2006/126/EC should therefore be amended accordingly.

(8) The measures provided for in this Directive are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee on driving licences,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

Article 1

Annex I to Directive 2006/126/EC is amended in accordance with the Annex to this Directive.

Article 2

1 Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive by 1 January 2017 at the latest. They shall forthwith communicate to the Commission the text of those provisions.

When Member States adopt those provisions, they shall contain a reference to this Directive or be accompanied by such a reference on the occasion of their official publication. Member States shall determine how such reference is to be made.

2 Member States shall communicate to the Commission the text of the main provisions of national law which they adopt in the field covered by this Directive.

Article 3

This Directive shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Article 4

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 24 April 2015.

For the Commission

The President

Jean-Claude JUNCKER

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ANNEX

In Annex I, Section 3 of Directive 2006/126/EC concerning page 2 of the driving licence, point (a), point (12) is replaced by the following:

12. additional information/restriction(s), in code form, facing the category affected.

The codes shall be as follows:

— codes 01 to 99 : harmonised European Union codes

DRIVER (medical reasons)

01. Sight correction and/or protection
- 01.01. Glasses
- 01.02. Contact lens(es)
- 01.05. Eye cover
- 01.06. Glasses or contact lenses
- 01.07. Specific optical aid

02. Hearing aid/communication aid

03. Prosthesis/orthosis for the limbs
- 03.01. Upper limb prosthesis/orthosis
- 03.02. Lower limb prosthesis/orthosis

VEHICLE ADAPTATIONS

10. Modified transmission
- 10.02. Automatic selection of gear ratio
- 10.04. Adapted transmission control device

15. Modified clutch
- 15.01. Adapted clutch pedal
- 15.02. Hand operated clutch
- 15.03. Automatic clutch
- 15.04. Measure to prevent obstruction or actuation of clutch pedal

20. Modified braking systems
- 20.01. Adapted brake pedal
- 20.03. Brake pedal suitable for use by left foot
- 20.04. Sliding brake pedal
- 20.05. Tilted brake pedal
- 20.06. Hand operated brake
- 20.07. Brake operation with maximum force of … N[(4)] (for example: “20.07(300N)”)
- 20.09. Adapted parking brake
- 20.12. Measure to prevent obstruction or actuation of brake pedal
- 20.13. Knee operated brake
- 20.14. Brake system operation supported by external force

25. Modified accelerator system
- 25.01. Adapted accelerator pedal
- 25.03. Tilted accelerator pedal
- 25.04. Hand operated accelerator
- 25.05. Knee operated accelerator

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	25.06.	Accelerator operation supported by external force
	25.08.	Accelerator pedal on the left
	25.09.	Measure to prevent obstruction or actuation of accelerator pedal
31.	Pedal adaptations and pedal safeguards	
	31.01.	Extra set of parallel pedals
	31.02.	Pedals at (or almost at) the same level
	31.03.	Measure to prevent obstruction or actuation of accelerator and brake pedals when pedals not operated by foot
	31.04.	Raised floor
32.	Combined service brake and accelerator systems	
	32.01.	Accelerator and service brake as combined system operated by one hand
	32.02.	Accelerator and service brake as combined system operated by external force
33.	Combined service brake, accelerator and steering systems	
	33.01.	Accelerator, service brake and steering as combined system operation by external force with one hand
	33.02.	Accelerator, service brake and steering as combined system operation by external force with two hands
35.	Modified control layouts (lights switches, windscreen wiper/washer, horn, direction indicators, etc.)	
	35.02.	Control devices operable without releasing the steering device
	35.03.	Control devices operable without releasing the steering device with the left hand
	35.04.	Control devices operable without releasing the steering device with the right hand
	35.05.	Control devices operable without releasing the steering device and the accelerator and braking mechanisms
40.	Modified steering	
	40.01.	Steering with maximum operation force of … N[(4)] (for example “40.01(140N)”)
	40.05.	Adapted steering wheel (larger/ thicker steering wheel section, reduced diameter, etc.)
	40.06.	Adapted position of steering wheel
	40.09.	Foot operated steering
	40.11.	Assistive device at steering wheel
	40.14.	One hand/arm operated alternative adapted steering system