

# Operators License

**Restricted License**

**Standard National License**

**Standard International License**

## Operators license

### Do I need an Operators License?

The short answer to that is, yes you need an operators license if you are carrying goods, and the gross weight of your vehicle [and trailer if you use one], plus the driver and the load exceed 3500 kgs.

### There are 3 distinct types of operator licenses.

1. **Restricted License.** To carry your own goods in the course of your trade or business you need a restricted licence. You must not carry goods for other people for hire or reward if you have a restricted licence. If you do, you could be fined and lose your licence.

2. **A standard national license** allows you to carry your own goods in Great Britain, AND to carry goods for other people for hire or reward in Great Britain. Even if you carry other people's goods only occasionally, you must have a standard national licence. You can be fined if you use your vehicles for international hire or reward work when your licence covers you for national operations only. However, a standard national licence allows you to haul loaded trailers to or from ports within Great Britain as part of an international journey as long as your motor vehicles do not actually leave Great Britain.

3. **A standard international license** allows you to carry your own goods, and goods for other people for hire or reward, both in Great Britain and on international journeys. Operators who are issued with international licences will also receive Community Authorisations which are required for all hire or reward operations in, or

through European Union countries. These have replaced the need for community permits, bilateral permits between member states and permits for transit traffic through the EU, but not permits for travel to or through non-EU countries where these are still required. Some of the things you need to do are straight forward. You will need to show you have secure off street parking for your vehicles, you will need to prove you have the facilities to repair and maintain your vehicles, or show a relevant service agreement. If you are currently an owner operator of one vehicle of 3500 g.v.w or less, you will not have to comply with the driver hours regulation. With an operators licence you will have to comply with these, as well as complying with the digital tacho graphs. With an operators license you will be able to hire a vehicle above 3500 g.v.w. to deliver goods for hire and reward.

*[Article by Vic Farron : staff writer for RFT Express](#)*