

**If you're planning to hire a car either here in the UK or abroad you may need to show a code from 8 June, as the paper counterpart of photocard driving licences is being replaced with a new online system that day.**

At present, anyone who passed their driving test after 1998 has a photocard driving licence and a paper counterpart. The paper part of the licence shows any points you may have received for breaking the rules –for example, being caught driving faster than the speed limit.

Drivers can already check their record on [Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk), but from 8 June points will be stored online and not added to the paper licence, rendering it useless.

This means if you're hiring a car or need to provide your employer with evidence of your driving record, you may be asked for a code, which gives car hire companies or employers up to 72 hours to check your history.

You may not be asked to provide a code, but to be safe, ensure you get one in advance (see below for how). See website for Cheap Car Hire.

If you passed your driving test before 1998, you'll have only have a paper driving licence, unless you've renewed after this date and now have a photocard licence plus a paper counterpart.

However if you're one of 7 million drivers who have a traditional paper driving licence only, don't throw this away, as it's different from the photocard paper counterpart and is still valid as your driving licence.

In this scenario, points will also be recorded online instead of on paper from 8 June, so you're still caught by this 72-hour code rule.

### **How do I request this code?**

After 8 June, the paper part of your licence will no longer be valid, and the traditional paper-only licences may not have your latest points and fines recorded, so you will have to plan ahead and request an access code for the company from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA).

You can do this via the new Share Driving Licence online service that will be launched at [Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk), or by calling the DVLA on 0300 790 6801. The DVLA says these services will be available before 8 June, although a date has yet to be set.

You will need to provide your driving licence number found on your photocard (or on your paper driving licence for paper-only motorists), National Insurance number and the postcode on your driving licence.

The code will be valid for 72 hours, meaning those travelling abroad will have to be mindful of journey times and time differences.

Drivers will also be able to download a PDF of their licence, which will be worth taking as a precaution, but they will still need a code as well.

### **Do hire companies actually check driving licences?**

In the UK, car rental companies are legally required to check your full driving licence, which currently includes the paper counterpart.

When travelling abroad, it varies country by country, but some hire companies do currently ask to see the paper counterpart of your photocard licence to check for any points and fines. So it's likely they will continue to check, but via the online system, from 8 June.

### **Is there any alternative to requesting a code?**

You can give permission for the car rental company to contact the DVLA and check the details over the phone when you get there, but beware of any international call charges or extra service costs this could rack up.

### **What should I do with my paper counterpart?**

The DVLA is advising drivers to destroy the paper part of their photocard licence, although some driving organisations such as the AA are advising motorists to adopt a "belt and braces" approach and keep hold of their paper counterpart for now in case there are any problems with the online service.

In particular, it is warning drivers who want to hire a car abroad to be extra cautious, as the companies, or even traffic police abroad, may not be aware of the changes.

However, DON'T destroy the traditional paper licences that were issued before 1998.

### **What happens if I get any new points or a fine from 8 June?**

You will still have to submit your licence and pay any fines, but the way the offence is recorded will change. From 8 June, any new endorsements will be recorded only online and will not be physically put onto your photocard licence or traditional paper licence.

If you submit the paper counterpart of your photocard licence and your photocard to record a fine, only the photocard will be sent back to you.

If you send off a pre-1998 traditional paper licence, it will be sent back to you and the points will be recorded online instead.