

# The legal framework for assessing fitness to drive in selected European countries.

**Austria, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, France, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland**

**As at: September 2010**

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# Austria

## Traffic psychological Assessment

### Laws

Driving Licence Act - Health Ordinance - FSG-GV, ordinance of the Federal Minister for Science and Transport on the health requirements for driving a motor vehicle, 1997

Driving Licence Act FSG,  
federal law on driving licences

### Before permission to drive is granted

#### Group 1

A traffic psychological assessment is necessary for:

- > People who have driven a vehicle while under the influence of addictive substances or drugs. (§14 FSG-GV)
- > Applicants for a probationary driving licence for Class B under the L17 scheme, unless the parent or guardian has confirmed that the applicant has the necessary intellectual maturity and sense of social responsibility. (§17 FSG-GV)
- > Driving licence applicants who have failed the theoretical part of the driving test on 5 occasions or the practical part of the test on 4 occasions and whose driving-specific ability (especially intelligence and memory) is in doubt. (§17 FSG-GV)
- > People who are suspected of having reduced driving-specific ability or insufficient willingness to adapt to traffic conditions.  
Reduced driving-specific ability is assumed if the person has already caused accidents. Insufficient willingness to adapt to traffic conditions is assumed if the driver's authorisation to drive has been withdrawn three times within five years or if the driver has been convicted of driving while under the influence of alcohol at a level in excess of 0.8mg/l or of refusal to take a breathalyzer test (Note: this applies mainly to offences committed with a motorised light vehicle, such as a moped, or to toll evasion.) (§17 FSG-GV)
- > People thought to lack intellectual maturity or be affected by age-related performance deterioration. (§17 FSG-GV)
- > People whose "driving reliability" is in doubt (e.g. people who have committed crimes involving particularly ruthless behaviour, such as assault, robbery, rape, manslaughter etc.). Here the authorities decide on a case-by-case basis. (§7 FSG-GV)
- > As a supplement to a medical report.
- > Severe mental illnesses and dependencies. (§5 FSG-GV)

#### Group 2

A traffic psychological assessment is necessary for:

- > People who are suspected of having reduced driving-specific ability or inadequate willingness to adapt to traffic conditions.
- > Reduced driving-specific ability is assumed if the person has already caused accidents. Insufficient willingness to adapt to traffic conditions is assumed if the driver's authorisation to drive has been withdrawn three times within five years or if the driver has been convicted of driving while under the influence of alcohol at a level in excess of 0.8mg/l or of refusal to take a breathalyzer test (Note: this applies mainly to offences committed with a vehicle in Group 1.) (§17 FSG-GV)
- > People thought to lack intellectual maturity or be affected by age-related performance deterioration. (§17 FSG-GV)
- > People whose "driving reliability" is in doubt (e.g. people who have committed crimes involving particularly ruthless behaviour, such as assault, robbery, rape, manslaughter etc.). Here the authorities decide on a case-by-case basis. (§7 FSG-GV)
- > As a supplement to a medical report.
- > Severe mental illnesses and dependencies. (§5 FSG-GV)
- > Applicants for a driving licence for Class D (bus). (§17 FSG-GV)

## After permission to drive has been granted

### Group 1 and 2

A traffic psychological assessment is compulsory for:

- > Drivers of motor vehicles who have been found to have a breath alcohol level of 0.8 mg/l or more. (14 FSG-GV)
- > People who, without having a dependency, have driven a vehicle while under the influence of addictive substances or drugs. (§ 14 FSG-GV)
- > As a supplement to a medical report.
- > Severe mental illnesses and dependencies. (§5 FSG-GV)
- > People whose "driving reliability" is in doubt (e.g. people who have committed crimes involving particularly ruthless behaviour, such as assault, robbery, rape, manslaughter etc.). Here the authorities decide on a case-by-case basis. (§7 FSG-GV)

### Methods

A traffic psychological assessment involves testing driving-specific ability (ability tests) and willingness to adapt to traffic conditions (personality tests and exploratory interview).

Assessment of driving-specific ability must cover the following dimensions (§18 FSG-GV):

- > Observational ability
- > Obtaining an overview
- > Reaction behaviour (in particular the speed and accuracy of decisions and reactions) and the resilience of reaction behaviour
- > Concentration
- > Sensomotor functions
- > Intelligence
- > Memory

Assessment of willingness to adapt to traffic conditions must cover the following dimensions (§18 FSG-GV):

- > Sense of social responsibility
- > Self-control
- > Mental stability
- > Readiness to take risks
- > Tendency to aggressive interaction while driving
- > Abnormal relationship to driving

In addition to the assessment by means of tests, evaluation of willingness to adapt to traffic conditions must include a detailed exploratory interview.

Applicants for a Class D driving licence are required to undergo a traffic psychological screening to assess observation and concentration, resilience and coordination; in addition, factors including the motivation for acquiring a driving licence should be covered in an exploratory interview. If screening gives rise to a suspicion of inadequate driving-related ability or inadequate willingness to adapt to traffic conditions, the full traffic psychological assessment must be carried out.

The tests used must be in accordance with the current state of traffic psychological science and must be validated for use in traffic psychological assessment. The tests must be approved by the Federal Minister for Science and Transport. (§18 FSG-GV)

## Note

In Austria tests used in traffic psychological assessment are almost always computerised. Around 94% of traffic psychological assessment centres use the Vienna Test System. The following tests are authorised:

- > AMT Adaptive Matrices Test (intelligence)
- > COG Cognitrone
- > DT Determination Test
- > RT Reaction Test
- > ATAVT Adaptive Tachistoscopic Traffic Perception Test
- > LVT Visual Pursuit Test
- > 2HAND Two-Hand Coordination
- > ZBA Time- Movement Anticipation
- > VISGED Visual Memory Test
- > WRBTV Vienna Risk-Taking Test Traffic
- > IVPE Inventory of Driving-related Personality Traits
- > AVIS Aggressive Driving Behavior
- > FFT Questionnaire Concerning Functional Drinking
- > PP Peripheral Perception

However, the assessment centres of the Austrian Road Safety Board (Kuratorium für Verkehrssicherheit) use their own tests and test devices (ART 2020).

## Fees

For a traffic psychological assessment the client is required to pay:

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Screening under §18 para. 4 (= bus)   | 130 euros |
| 2. Driving-related ability               | 181 euros |
| 3. Full traffic psychological assessment | 363 euros |

# Denmark

## Examination of Fitness to Drive

### Laws

Law on Road Traffic, see law announcement no. 1058 of 4 November 2008.

### Before permission to drive is granted

§20: A driving licence can only be issued to a person who has adequate sight and hearing and who in addition has the necessary mental and physical health.

The president of the state national police force, by agreement with the health authority, specifies more detailed guidelines for applicants who have health impairments that require medical reports, opinions or judgements. The medical report is drawn up by the family doctor or a specialist.

### Group 1

In the following cases a driving licence can only be issued after a favourable medical report has been received:

- > diseases of the nervous system; regular check-up examinations are required
- > severe senility
- > severe personality-related impairment of judgement, behaviour or adaptability
- > alcohol dependency with observance of abstinence; regular check-up examinations are required.

A driving licence cannot be issued in the following cases:

- > severe mental illness
- > significant mental disability
- > alcohol dependency
- > psychotropic drugs (or other drugs) if fitness to drive is impaired
- > other substance misuse

### Group 2

In the following cases the doctor evaluates the further risks:

- > mental illness or disability
- > substance dependency/alcohol
- > use of medicinal drugs

A driving licence cannot be issued in the following cases:

- > diseases of the nervous system: a driving licence cannot be issued to applicants who have or could have epileptic fits or other severe disorders of consciousness
- > substance dependency and other substance misuse

### After permission to drive has been granted

#### Group 1/ Group 2

The following drivers cannot retain a driving licence:

- > drivers suffering from acquired severe mental disorders as a result of disease, injury or neurosurgical intervention
- > drivers who have or could have epileptic fits or other severe disorders of consciousness
- > alcohol dependency
- > psychotropic drugs (or other drugs) if fitness to drive is impaired
- > substance misuse

### Extension

The president of the state national police force, by agreement with the health authority, specifies more detailed guidelines for applicants who have health impairments that require medical reports, opinions or judgements. The medical report is drawn up by the family doctor or a specialist.

### Group 1

Examination of cognitive functioning level is obligatory for extension of the driving licence beyond the age of 70 and is also required for people in respect of whom there are reasons to suspect a reduced level of cognitive functioning.

For the following drivers an extension of the driving licence can only be applied for after a favourable medical report has been received:

- > diseases of the nervous system: regular check-up examinations are required
- > alcohol dependency with observance of abstinence
- > regular intake of psychotropic drugs

### Group 2

A driving licence cannot be renewed in the following cases:

- > diseases of the nervous system with epileptic attacks or other severe disorders of consciousness
- > alcohol dependency
- > psychotropic drugs (or other drugs) if fitness to drive is impaired
- > substance dependency

### Methods

Examination of cognitive functioning level with clock hand test and word-finding for extension of the driving licence beyond the age of 70. In the event of cognitive performance weakness the applicant/driver must be referred to the family doctor or a specialist in psychiatry/geriatrics or neurology for the purpose of a test observation drive.

# Germany

## Traffic-psychological assessment

### Laws

Driving Licence Ordinance FEV

Driving Licence Ordinance Annexe 5 FEV

### Guidelines

Guidelines for the assessment of fitness to drive

Criteria for judgement formation in medical/psychological assessment of fitness to drive

### Before permission to drive is granted

Applicants for a driving licence must meet the necessary physical and mental requirements. The requirements are not met if the applicant has an illness or defect (e.g. defective sight, poor hearing, impaired mobility, heart or circulatory disease, diabetes, mental impairment etc.). In addition, applicants must not have committed motoring or criminal offences. Applicants for a driving licence for Class D or D1 (bus) must also demonstrate that they are capable of the special responsibility involved in transporting passengers (FEV).

#### Group 1

A medical/psychological report to clarify doubts about fitness to drive can be required if

- > Despite a medical report there is an additional need for a medical/psychological report
- > A decision needs to be made on a young person's early driving licence
- > Irregularities have been observed in the driving test
- > A major traffic offence or repeated traffic offences have been committed
- > Criminal offences have been committed that are related to driving, particularly if there are indications of high aggression potential or if the crime has involved the use of a vehicle
- > When the driving licence is being renewed after it has been withdrawn

#### Group 2

A medical/psychological report to clarify doubts about fitness to drive can be required if

- > A licence for Class C/D is being applied for (assessment in accordance with FEV Annexe 5)

### After permission to drive has been granted

#### Group 1 and 2

A medical/psychological report must be obtained if:

- > A medical report indicates signs of alcohol misuse or other factors point to the possible misuse of alcohol
- > The applicant has repeatedly committed driving offences while under the influence of alcohol
- > A vehicle has been driven with a breath alcohol level of 0.8 mg/l or more
- > To clarify whether alcohol misuse or alcohol dependency still exists
- > The applicant occasionally uses cannabis and other factors cast doubt on his/her fitness to drive
- > The driving licence has been withdrawn because of narcotics dependency
- > There is a need to clarify whether the client is still dependent on or misusing addictive substances
- > The applicant has on several occasions driven a vehicle with an alcohol level of more than 0.25 mg/l
- > When the driving licence is being renewed after withdrawal because the holder has 18 points.

## EXTENDING THE DRIVING LICENCE

### Group 2

Extending a driving licence for Classes C and D (every 5 years): Assessment in accordance with FEV Annexe 5 (from the age of 50)

## Methods

The Guidelines for the Assessment of Fitness to Drive and the Criteria for Judgement Formation in Medical/Psychological Assessment of Fitness to Drive lay down the rules for assessing fitness to drive.

Information on personality dimensions is obtained from biographical data and anamnesis. The assessment of personality aspects depends on the reason for the investigation. The use of appropriate personality tests is being discussed and is due to be introduced in the foreseeable future.

Assessment of driving-specific ability must cover the following five dimensions (FEV):

- > Stress tolerance
- > Orientation ability
- > Concentration
- > Attention
- > Ability to react

The assessment guidelines specify the assessment of intellectual capacity in certain situations.

The assessment of capacity uses computerised systems almost exclusively.

Only tests whose suitability for traffic psychological assessment has been proved may be used.

## Notes

According to a survey (Poschadel & Falkenstein 2009), the Vienna Test System is used in by far the majority of cases of traffic psychological assessment. Other systems in use are the Corporal program package and the outdated ART 2020 of the Austrian Road Safety Board.

The following from the VTS tests are most frequently used:

- > DT                      Determination Test
- > ATAVT                Adaptive Tachistoscopic Traffic Perception Test
- > COG                    Cognitrone
- > LVT                    Visual Pursuit Test
- > RT                      Reaction Test
- > AMT                    Adaptive Matrices Test

## Fees

> DUI alcohol related assessment	383,18 €
> demerit point system related assessment	332,01 €
> DUI alcohol related + demerit point system related assessment	546,21 €
> DUI drug related assessment	535,50 €
> crime related convictions	332,01 €
> DUI drug related + demerit point system related assessment	698,53 €
> DUI alcohol + drug related assessment	724,12 €

# Great Britain

## Assessing fitness to drive

### Laws

Statutory Instrument 1999 No. 2864

The Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) Regulations 1999

### Groups 1 and 2

The following disabilities are defined as relevant disabilities in relation to an applicant for or holder of a Group 1 or Group 2 licence:

- > epilepsy;
- > severe mental disorder (mental illness, arrested or incomplete development of the mind, psychopathic disorder and severe impairment of intelligence or social functioning);
- > liability to sudden attacks of disabling giddiness or fainting which are caused by a disorder or defect of the heart;
- > liability to sudden attacks of disabling giddiness or fainting, other than attacks falling within paragraph (1)(c);
- > persistent misuse of drugs or alcohol, whether or not such misuse amounts to dependency.

# France

## Assessing fitness to drive

### Laws

Road traffic regulations, consolidated version of 1 January 2010

### Before permission to drive is granted

#### Group 1

Driving licences in categories A and B are issued without prior medical examination except in cases in which this examination is mandatory under the instructions issued by the Minister of Transport in implementation of Article R.221-19 (physical disabilities).

A Category B driving licence only entitles the holder to drive

- > taxis and hire cars
- > ambulances
- > school transport vehicles
- > public transport vehicles

if the holder has a doctor's certificate confirming that he is physically fit.

#### Group 2

Before being granted a driving licence for categories C, D or E the applicant must first pass a medical examination.

### Extension

#### Group 2

Before a driving licence for categories C, D or E can be extended, the holder must first pass a medical examination.

Periodic extension:

- > Below the age of 60 – every 5 years
- > From the age of 60 – every 2 years
- > From the age of 76 – every year

If the licence holder refuses or omits to undergo a required medical examination within the specified time limits, the driving licence may be withdrawn or permission to drive may be extended until a satisfactory medical report is available.

### Note

A time limit may be placed on the validity of one or more driving licence categories if it is apparent at the time of issuing or extension of the licence that the applicant suffers from a disease that does not prevent him holding a licence but that may become worse in future.

# Italy

## Assessing fitness to drive

### Laws

§ 119 "Nuovo codice della strada" – "New road traffic regulations", legislative decree of 30 April 1992 No. 285, as amended.

### Before the driving licence is issued

#### Group 1

- > If the doctor's findings cast doubt on fitness to drive

#### Group 2

- > If the doctor's findings cast doubt on fitness to drive
- > If the applicant has diabetes

### After the driving licence has been issued

#### Group 1

- > Upon the instructions of the authorities

#### Group 2

- > Upon the instructions of the authorities
- > If the applicant has diabetes

### Extension of the driving licence

#### Group 2

- > From the age of 65
- > If the applicant has diabetes

### Methods

Measuring reaction times to simple and complex light and sound stimuli.

Upon the specific instructions of the health authority or the responsible doctor the following are also assessed:

- > attention
- > perception
- > aspects of personality

### Note

The assessment of mental and physical fitness is carried out by the unita sanitaria locale (local health authority). The examination can also be conducted by a doctor registered with the ministry of health. Upon request this medical report can be supplemented by a psychological opinion.

Psychologists who examine the attention, perception and personality factors must have undergone specific training.

# Netherlands

## Examination of fitness to drive

### Laws

Resolution of 30 May 1996 on implementation of the Road Traffic Act 1994 (driving licence ordinance).

### Group 1

The following must undergo an examination:

- > an applicant who has reached the age of 70
- > an applicant who has reached the age of 65 and who holds a driving licence that expires on or after the day on which he reaches the age of 70

### Group 2

The following must undergo an examination:

Applicants for one or more of the driving licence classes C, C1, D, D1, E to C, E to C1, E to D or E to D1

### Methods

The applicants referred to above must submit a medical report that is not more than 2 weeks old. The medical report must confirm the applicant's physical and mental fitness to drive vehicles of the driving licence class or classes to which the application relates.

The authorities can require the applicant to be examined, at his own expense, by particular doctors/experts, or to undergo a driving test, if:

- > the medical report contains cause for this
- > the authorities have information which indicates that the applicant may be physically or mentally unfit
- > doubts about the applicant's mental or physical fitness arose during the driving test

# Portugal

## Traffic psychological Assessment

### Laws

Legislation on traffic Psychology (Legislation nr. 313/2009)

### Introductory Note

The medical and psychological examination of applicants for a driving license and drivers will be done by Medical and Psychological Examination Centers (CAMP). The public institutions, namely the State Department for Traffic and Terrestrial Transportation (IMTT) and the State Department for Public Health (DGS) will intervene as instances of appeal. These institutions will also be responsible for the supervision and inspection of the CAMP. This legislation has come into effect on the 27th of January 2010.

### Before permission to drive is granted

#### Group 1

1. Applicants for a driving license or drivers, of any class of vehicle, whose examination was determined by judicial decision in sequence of serious violations of the traffic regulation.
2. Applicants whose driving license has been withdrawn.
3. Applicants who obtained the result of "Not Qualified" in a CAMP and presented a complaint.
4. Whenever the physician recommends a psychological examination or when the psychological examination is determined by judicial decision.
5. Whenever the physician of the CAMP considers that the psychological examination is important in order to make a decision on the psychological aptitude of the applicant.

#### Group 2

1. Applicants to a driving license of Group 2 are obliged to undergo medical and psychological examination.
2. Applicants for a driving license of any class of vehicle, whose examination was determined by judicial decision in sequence of serious violations of the traffic regulation.
3. Applicants whose driving license has been withdrawn.
4. Applicants who obtained the result of "Not Qualified" in a CAMP and complaint.

### After permission to drive has been granted

#### Group 1

1. Drivers with driving license for Class B (obtained before 1998) who drive ambulances, fire vehicles, vehicles for transportation of school children and taxis are obliged to undergo a medical and psychological examination within the next 2 years.
2. Drivers whose driving license has been withdrawn.
3. Drivers who obtained the result of "Not Qualified" in a CAMP and presented a complaint.
4. Drivers of Group 1, whenever the physician recommends a psychological examination or when the psychological examination is determined by judicial decision.
5. Drivers whose provisional driving license expired.
6. Whenever the physician of the CAMP considers that the psychological examination is important in order to make a decision on the psychological aptitude of the driver.

#### Group 2

1. Drivers for a driving license of any class of vehicle, whose examination was determined by judicial decision in sequence of serious violations of the traffic regulation.
2. Drivers whose driving license has been withdrawn.
3. Drivers who obtained the result of "Not Qualified" in a CAMP and presented a complaint.

### Extending the driving licence

Drivers over 70 years, who intend to extend their driving license, have to visit their family doctor in order to get a detailed medical report which includes their clinical history, namely information on cardiovascular and neurological diseases, diabetes and psychiatric disorders. Afterwards, this report is handled over to the physician in the CAMP, responsible for the final medical examination. The physicians working in the CAMP are allowed to ask the drivers for further medical examinations of any speciality. They are also allowed to ask for a psychological examination.

## Methods

The psychological examination intends to analyse the perceptive-cognitive, psychomotor and psychosocial areas which are important for a safe driving behaviour.

- a) Examination of applicants to a driving license and drivers of Group 2

**Table I**

Areas	Factors	Name of the Procedure	Test/Version
Perceptive/Cognitive	1 - Intelligence	Raven's Standard Progressive Matrices	SPM
	2 - Attention & Concentration:		
	2.1 - Concentration	Cognitrone	COG/S8 or S9
	2.2 - Distributed attention	Tachistoscopic Traffic Test	TAVTMB or ATAVT/S1
	2.3 - Vigilance	Reaction Test	RT/S6
	3 - Perception:		
	3.1 - Perceptual speed	Visual Pursuit Test	LVT/S2 or S3
	3.2 - Perceptual integration	Cognitrone	COG/S11
	4 - Memory	Visual Memorisation Test	VISGED/S11
Psychomotor	5 - Motor abilities:		
	5.1 - Steadiness	Motor Performance Series	MLS/S2
	5.2 - Manual Dexterity		
	6 - Coordination:		
	6.1 - Two-hand	Two-Hand Coordination	2HAND/S3
	6.2 - Eye-Hand-Foot	Determination Test	DT/S5
7 - Reaction:			
7.1 – Simple choice reaction	Reaction Test	RT/S3	
7.2 - Multiple and discriminative reaction	Determination Test	DT/S1	
	8 - Multimodal performance	Time/Movement Anticipation	ZBA/S2
Psychosocial	9 - Personality	Inventory of Driving-related Personality Traits	IVPE

- b) Examination of applicants to a driving license and drivers of Group 1 who were recommended for psychological examination and drivers of group 2 at the moment of renewal of their driving license

**Table II**

Areas	Factors	Name of the Procedure	Test/Version
Perceptive/Cognitive	2 - Attention & Concentration: 1. - Concentration	Cognitrone	COG/S8 or S9
	2 - Perception : 2.1 - Perceptual speed	Visual Pursuit Test	LVT/S2 or S3
Psychomotor	3 - Coordination : 3.1 - Eye-Hand-Foot	Determination Test	DT/S5
	4 - Reaction : 4.1 - Simple choice reaction	Reaction Test	RT/S3
Psychosocial	5 - Personality	Inventory of Driving-related Personality Traits	IVPE

- c) The examination in accordance to Table II should be complemented with the methods of Table I whenever necessary, considering the reasons that motivated the examination.

## Notes

Responsibilities of the medical and psychological examination centers

1.1. The CAMP are responsible for the examination of the physical, mental and psychological aptitude of applicants for a driving license and drivers who are obliged to renew their driving license.

1.2. Whenever an applicant/driver obtains the result of "Not Qualified" in the CAMP and wants to appeal, psychological examination will be carried out by the State Department for Traffic and Terrestrial Transportation (IMTT)

## Fees

.4. The prices for the examination carried out by the CAMP are approved by the State Department for Traffic and Terrestrial Transportation (IMTT) and the State Department for Public Health (DGS).

# Sweden

## Examination of Fitness to Drive

### Laws

Ordinance of the Swedish Road Administration ("Vägverket") concerning changes to the ordinance (VVFS 2008:158) on the medical requirements for holding a driving licence etc.

### Groups 1 and 2

Any mental illness or disorder that involves abnormal behaviour, altered control of impulses or pronounced lack of judgement or adaptability must be considered from the point of view of traffic safety. In particular, documented incidents of risky driving behaviour must be taken into account.

The risk assessment must be carried out in the light of the following:

1. insight into illness
2. compulsory detention in the past or present
3. relapse-free observation period
4. excessive alcohol consumption or use of other substances that adversely affect driving ability
5. treatment compliance and
6. effects of treatment.

### Schizophrenia:

In particular, the following behaviour must be taken into account:

1. delusions
2. hallucinations
3. fits of rage
4. disoriented behaviour and
5. persistence of problems after the active phase of the illness.

### Schizoaffective (cycloid) syndromes:

Particular attention must be paid to mania-like symptoms.

### Affective syndromes:

Attention must in particular be paid to manic hypomanic episodes and to the increased risk of a relapse after recurrent episodes of illness.

### Personality disorders:

Particular attention must be paid to paranoid, schizotypic, antisocial, borderline and narcissistic personality disorders.

### Groups 2 and 3 (transport of passengers)

- > In connection with a driving licence for Group III, particular attention must be paid to behaviours that could pose a risk to the safety of passengers.
- > Conditions for medical confirmation may be specified, and the question of continuing possession of the driving licence can be re-considered at intervals that appear appropriate to the individual case.
- > In connection with the commercial transport of passengers, the doctor must give particular attention to mental illnesses and/or disorders as part of which the patient may in response to relatively minor causes repeatedly display signs of behaviour that might pose a risk to the safety of passengers.
- > The doctor must give particular attention to those illnesses and pathological events which in the event of an attack or as a consequence of one may impair the patient's alertness and perception or limit psychomotor responsiveness.

ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder), DAMP (Deficits in Attention, Motor control and Perception), autistic spectrum disorders (e.g. Asperger's syndrome), Tourette's syndrome and disorders of mental development:

The symptoms must be examined from the point of view of traffic safety. If the examination reveals that a traffic safety risk exists, this is an impediment to possession of a driving licence. The assessment must take account of disorders of:

- > impulse control
- > concentration
- > attention and judgement, and
- > compulsive fixations.

Cognitive disorders:

Attention must be paid to:

- > consequences of the functional impairment in everyday life
- > the presence of dependencies, misuse or excessive consumption of alcohol, narcotics or other substances that impair the ability to drive
- > the ability to comply with rules and to understand the behaviour of other people in traffic and
- > criminality.

# Switzerland

## Traffic psychological Assessment

### Laws

Road Traffic Act (Straßenverkehrsgesetz - SVG)

Traffic Authorisation Regulation (Verkehrszulassungsverordnung – VZV)

### General

In Switzerland there are three classes of driving licence:

#### Group 1

- > Driving licence category D

#### Group 2

- > Driving licence categories C, C1, D1
- > Permit for the professional transportation of passengers
- > Traffic experts

#### Group 3

- > Driving licence categories A and B together with sub-categories A1, B1
- > Special categories F, G and M

### Before permission to drive is granted

#### Groups 1, 2 and 3

- > If the driving test is failed several times a test of fitness to drive is required (Art. 16 and Art. 23 VZV). If the candidate fails this test the provisional driving licence is no longer valid (Art. 16 para. 3 VZV) and there is the option of undergoing a full traffic psychological suitability examination.
- > The authority can require applicants to undergo a traffic psychological or psychiatric examination if their character-related or mental fitness to drive a motor vehicle is in doubt (Art. 11b VZV).

#### Group 2 Driving licence for the professional transportation of passengers

Someone wishing to obtain a provisional or full driving licence or a permit for the professional transportation of passengers must submit an application to the licensing authority. If the application is submitted after annulment of the provisional driving licence, a traffic psychological report must also be supplied. The report must have been compiled within the last three months (Art.11 VZV).

#### Group 2 Traffic experts

An applicant for this category of driving licence must submit a report that confirms traffic psychological fitness (Art.65 VZV).

### After permission to drive has been granted

- > Provisional driving licence holders whose licence has been withdrawn must submit a positive traffic psychological report before they can obtain a new driving licence (Art. 15a SVG).
- > After 3 serious traffic offences (serious traffic offences are: exceeding the speed limit by > 25 km/h in a built-up area, by > 30 km/h outside a built-up area or by > 35 km/h on a motorway, driving with an alcohol concentration of > 0.80 promille or driving under the influence of drugs), a traffic psychological examination is required (cascade system for repeat offenders).

## Extension

The procedure for extending the validity of the driving licence involves a check-up by an independent medical examiner (Art. 27 VZV).

This is required every 5 years for holders of a driving licence for categories C and D and sub-categories C1 and D1 and holders of a permit for the professional transportation of passengers, reducing to every 3 years from the age of 50 and to every other year from the age of 70.

Drivers must undergo a similar check-up after a serious accident or illness.

## Methods

Measurement of intelligence, reaction ability, attention and concentration – e.g. in the canton of St. Gallen; Zurich including with test devices of the SCHUHFRIED company.

## Note

An examination by an independent medical examiner is required for people who:

- a) wish to obtain a driving licence for categories C or D or sub-categories C1 or D1;
- b) wish to obtain a permit for the professional transportation of passengers;
- c) are aged 65 or over;
- d) are physically handicapped.

Withdrawal on safety grounds on account of inadequate fitness to drive

The withdrawal of the driving licence on safety grounds is designed to protect road users from unsuitable drivers. To enable a person's fitness to drive to be clarified, the driving licence can be withdrawn on a precautionary basis and the driver required to undergo a driving-related traffic medical and/or psychological examination.

Reasons for withdrawal of the licence on safety grounds (Art. 16d para. 1 SVG):

- > physical or mental illness or frailty
- > alcohol, drug or medicine addiction
- > character-related unsuitability (insufficient assurance that the applicant will comply with traffic regulations and be sufficiently considerate of other road users).

Medical and traffic psychological reports are valid in all cantons if they have been compiled by an officially accredited examination centre and are not more than twelve months old.