

What is an LGV* DRIVER?

- LGV stands for Large Goods Vehicle and our drivers transport and deliver goods between suppliers and customers.
- Their role is critical. Without LGV drivers, there would be no fresh produce on supermarket shelves.
- LGV drivers are crucial to the economy, and there is a **huge** demand for professional drivers.
- The average LGV Driver age in the UK is 57, so you can understand why it is essential for companies to recruit young people to the industry.
- Young people who enter logistics, in the next few years, will have great potential for earnings and advancement.
- Tomsetts pay a full wage and will fund your courses while you are trained to a professional standard
- Earn a salary between £18,000 - £35,000 per annum.
- Your progress depends on you. If you demonstrate the right skills, we will continually support you in your career.

1. Entry requirements

You need to be over 18 and hold a full car driving licence.

You can become a trainee with us or complete an LGV course with a private training provider. You'll also need a Certificate of Professional Competence (Driver CPC).

If you get into this job through an apprenticeship with us, you get paid to learn plus your courses will be funded.

2. Skills required

You will need:

- Excellent driving skills and road safety knowledge
- The ability to work alone and concentrate for long periods
- A calm and polite manner with customers
- The ability to complete record sheets and paperwork accurately

3. The job role

You'll drive commercial vehicles over 7.5 tonnes, including 18T curtain-siders and articulated lorries pulling 13.6 metre trailers. You'll work from our depot in Newhaven carrying goods all over the UK and possibly overseas.

Apart from driving, your duties may include:

- Planning delivery schedules and routes with transport managers
- Supervising or helping to load and unload goods
- Making sure loads are safely secured
- Following traffic reports and changing your route if necessary
- Completing delivery paperwork and log books
- Vehicle checks and reporting any faults to the workshop

4. Earnings potential

These figures are a guide and steadily increasing as the demand for drivers cannot currently be met.

Starter: £18,000 to £22,000

Experienced: £23,000 to £28,000

Highly Experienced: £27,000 to £35,000

Overtime may be available. There is also a bonus system linked to driving performance and other benefits such as gym membership.

5. Working hours, patterns and environment

You'll usually work between up to 50 hours a week. Overtime may be available, but there are strict laws about the number of hours you can spend driving between rest breaks.

Most of your time would be spent on the road, and you would drive day or night in all weather conditions.

Overnight stays may be necessary for long haul but over half our fleet deliver locally.

6. Career path

Start as an apprentice:

Work alongside experienced staff driving long wheelbase vans and 3.5T curtain-siders gaining job-specific skills

Earn a full wage with holiday pay while you work towards your LGV License and Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (DCPC) How fast you progress is determined by how quickly you learn and consistently demonstrate the required skills.

The LGV license is divided into two, Category C1 (able to drive rigid vehicles up to 7.5 tonnes) and Category C (able to drive rigid vehicles over 7.5 tonnes). There's also an additional test - Category C+E - which allows you to drive with trailers. You will start your apprenticeship training for Category C1 and hopefully progress with us right through to your C+E

The course for the LGV license generally lasts between one and three weeks and includes driving skills, learning how to load and secure loads, and basic mechanics. The test comprises questions on vehicle safety, manoeuvres, road driving for 25 miles, and a theory test based around both the highway code and LGV regulations.

Alongside your LGV license, you also need a Driver CPC. This is made up of four tests; a theory test, a case study test, a driving ability test and a practical demonstration. Once passed you are qualified. However, it must be kept updated, so every five years all drivers need to undertake an additional 35 hours of Driver CPC training.

7. Career Progression

With experience become an international driver throughout Europe.

Train to be a Driver Assessor or, if you've been a qualified LGV driver for at least three years, you could even apply to become an LGV instructor via the Road Haulage Association (RHA) and Freight Transport Association (FTA), who offer CPC instructor training and the Operator's Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) which will allow you to move into transport management roles.

After all, the former Managing Director of Palletline plc is an ex-driver so THE SKY'S THE LIMIT!