



Policy

CVR test operator authorisations

Common expiry dates for CVR test operator authorisations

Approved by Keith Walsh.

Policies and Procedures of the Road Safety Authority

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Policy to achieve a common expiry date for authorisations held by CVR test operators.

The purpose of this policy is to clarify the procedure, processes, and timelines for the expiry of Commercial Vehicle Roadworthiness (CVR) test operator authorisations.

This policy takes account of the following:

- The importance of consistent and effective CVR testing to road safety
- The need for the competent delivery of CVR testing
- The requirement for a well-functioning, well-maintained, accessible, competitive, integrated and safe network of CVR testing centres.
- The requirement for CVR test operators to have appropriate and adequate premises, testing facilities and equipment for the purposes of carrying out testing
- The co-operation and the co-ordination of CVR test operators within the CVR system,
- The fact commercial vehicle testing is deregulated and may be undertaken by any person, company or group of investors wishing to open a CVR testing centre who meet the statutory provisions set out in the Road Safety Authority (Commercial Vehicle Roadworthiness) Act 2012 and the Authorisation of Commercial Vehicle Roadworthiness Test Operators and Testers Regulations 2013 (S.I. 107 of 2013).
- The strict timelines for application and renewal of authorisation set out in section 15 of the CVR Act of 2012

Relevant Legislation

Section 11 of the Road Safety Authority (Commercial Vehicle Roadworthiness) Act 2012 sets out the requirements for Issue, Amendment and Renewal of authorisation as a CVR test operator.

Section 15 of the Road Safety Authority (Commercial Vehicle Roadworthiness) Act 2012 sets out the requirements for Renewal of authorisation as a CVR test operator.

Timelines:

11. (5) An authorisation granted under this section shall not be granted for a period of more than 10 years.

15. (1) Subject to section 10, a CVR test operator may, at any time up to 12 months prior to its expiry or revocation, apply to the Minister for the renewal of his or her authorisation and the Minister may either renew or refuse to renew the authorisation.

(6) An authorisation renewed under this section shall not be renewed for a period of more than 10 years.

(7) A renewal of an authorisation under this section shall commence immediately upon the expiration of the authorisation of which it is a renewal and, unless it is suspended under section 18 or revoked under section 19 shall continue in force until the expiry date specified by the Minister.



Approach adopted and current situation:

There are 135 CVR test operator authorisations with a common expiry date of 18/03/2024. All new applications since 18/03/14 have received a 10-year authorisation. This approach was taken to ensure that any new entrants to this deregulated market could be assured that they would be authorised for a period of at least 10-years. It was considered that not to provide this 10-year authorisation period would have served as a barrier to entry to the market.

As a result of this approach 15 CVR test operators have authorisations that will expire later than 18/03/2024. One, will expire later in 2024, Six will expire in 2025, one in 2026, two in 2027, two in 2028, two in 2030 and one in 2031. In addition, we expect that there will be four new CVR testing centres authorised in 2023 all of whom will have an expiry date of 2033.

Proposed Policy Approach

The 10-year renewals cycle allows the RSA to periodically review the suitability of the CVR testing regime to the RSA’s road-safety goals. The objective is to put in place a policy approach which allows all CVR test operators authorisations to achieve a common expiry date while not impacting negatively on new entrants to the market.

The first periodic review of the suitability of the CVR testing regime to the RSA’s road-safety goals was carried out during 2019. 2019 was chosen as it was five years or halfway into the authorisation period and was the appropriate time to consider the future of the CVR testing regime, as not to do so was likely to cause CVR test operators to defer necessary investments in the period leading up to 2024 – with a corresponding impact on test quality. It was proposed at that time to carry out regular reviews halfway through every 10-year authorisation period.

Policy Approach

1. Recognise the 18/03/2024 as the first common expiry date for CVR test operator authorisations.
2. The next cycle of authorisation should re-sync all authorisations such that they have a common end date in 2034, i.e., 18/03/2034.
3. All new entrants shall have a first authorisation period of 10-years.
4. The period of a second authorisation should bring the authorisation date to the next common expiry date. The table below shows how this will work in practice.
5. The RSA shall carry out a strategic review of CVR testing every 10 years (with a baseline of 2019) to determine the CVR testing requirements for the next 10-year period.
6. This policy shall be shared with all CVR test operators.

Example using dates:

Date authorised	Expiry	No. of years	Next Expiry	No. of years	Next Expiry	No. of years
18/03/14	18/03/24	10	18/03/34	10	18/03/44	10
17/06/17	17/06/27	10	18/03/34	5	18/03/44	10
16/12/21	16/12/31	10	18/03/34	3	18/03/44	10
24/07/25			24/07/35	10	18/03/44	9
26/09/27			18/03/37	10	18/03/44	7
19/03/31			18/03/41	10	18/03/44	3

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