

## National Apprenticeship - Occupational Profile

---

**Apprenticeship Title** Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) Driver

---

**NFQ Level** 5

---

**Duration** 3 Years

---

**Typical tasks/  
responsibilities**

The occupation of **HGV Driver** involves transporting raw materials and finished goods over land, typically to and from manufacturing plants or retail and distribution centres.

The fully licensed driver of an HGV is able to couple and uncouple an articulated or drawbar vehicle, to prepare the vehicle for driving, and to protect the vehicle and the load. The HGV driver drives the articulated or draw-bar or rigid vehicle in a safe and fuel efficient manner, ensures the vehicle is loaded, secured and unloaded correctly.

The HGV Driver transports goods using multiple transport modes; monitors vehicle movements, supervises the receipt, storage and dispatch of goods; applies technology in logistics operations, minimises the environmental impact of logistics operations, and is aware of and adheres to the various health and safety requirements associated with the HGV industry.

The HGV Driver navigates routes, calculates cargo loads and dimensions, and demonstrates best practice around the transportation of various types of goods. The driver effectively processes all transportation documentation relevant to HGV drivers and understands the various electrical and mechanical operations of the vehicle while also possessing the skills to assess the vehicle for faults and respond appropriately. The HGV driver is aware of the regulations around the transportation of airfreight and hazardous goods.

The HGV Driver maintains effective communications and develops productive, professional working relationships with colleagues in logistics operations; ensures compliance with legal, regulatory, ethical and social requirements in logistics operations; contributes to the provision of customer service in logistics operations. The HGV Driver is aware of personal responsibilities within the HGV industry in relation to planning, using initiative, time management, working independently and personal presentation.

On successful completion, the HGV Driver will be able to:

---

#### Core Skills

##### Core Skills required are:

- Achieve a full HGV Rigid and Articulated drivers licence (C, CE Class)
  - Adhere to relevant health & safety requirements
  - Demonstrate economical driving and fuel efficiency
  - Operate relevant IT / telematic / tachograph equipment
  - Achieve all modules of the driver's CPC
  - Describe the electrical and mechanical operations of an HGV vehicle
  - Conduct a logical, structured, mechanical and electrical fault diagnosis and respond appropriately
  - Organise and properly load, secure and unload goods on an HGV
  - Demonstrate geographical awareness and navigation of routes
  - Interpret, complete and maintain all relevant transportation documentation
- 

#### Specialist Skills

##### Specialist Skills required are:

- Transport hazardous goods under ADR – the European agreement concerning the international carriage of dangerous goods by road
  - Conduct transport of airfreight and its heightened security and legal requirements
  - Complete relevant safety qualifications around the transportation of goods to construction and other sectors
  - Complete Good Distribution Practice training for transportation of pharmaceutical, medical device and allied products
  - Supervise the receipt, storage and dispatch of goods
  - Operate manual, electrical and mechanical goods handling equipment safely
-

---

## Common Skills

### Common Skills required are:

- Discuss legal, regulatory, ethical and social requirements within the road transport operations sector
- Describe best practice around the transportation of the following:
  - Agriculture
  - Livestock
  - Food
  - Car transportation
  - Waste recycling
  - Forestry
  - Abnormal load haulage
  - General haulage
- Calculate weights and dimensions of cargo

---

## Personal Skills

### Demonstrate competent skills in:

- Communications
- Customer relations
- Adaptability
- Teamwork
- Working independently
- Showing initiative
- Problem solving
- Planning
- Time management
- Personal presentation on behalf of the employer