



## SAFETY IN SCOUTING IN BERKSHIRE



### **MINIBUS DRIVER LICENSING REQUIREMENTS**

This information sheet reviews the driving licence needs for volunteers wishing to drive a minibus, whether a Scout owned minibus or one hired/borrowed from elsewhere.

#### **Licence requirements**

Drivers who passed their UK driving test before January 1st 1997 may drive a 'bus with up to 16 passenger seats, on their current car licence, as long as it's not for 'hire or reward' (see 'Minibus Permits' below).

If someone passed their UK road test *after* 01/01/97 they don't automatically get the D1 provision on their licence, permitting them to drive a minibus. *This doesn't mean that they can't drive a minibus.*

They can drive a minibus, providing:

- That they are driving on a *voluntary basis* and the bus has a Maximum Authorised Mass ("MAM") of 3500kg. A 12 seat minibus falls in this category but a 17 seat would not. A 15 seat may or may not (depending upon the MAM) and needs to be checked by the driver before driving.
- They are 21 or older *and* meet the medical requirements – see ['Group 2' medical standards](#) (note that drivers aged over 70 will need a more stringent medical assessment).
- That they have held their regular (not provisional) driving licence for two years or more.
- That the vehicle is being used only for social purposes by a non-commercial body
- *That they are not towing a trailer.*

A 'D1 licence' can be obtained, usually after an intensive course, through a specialist driver training school. Note that a MiDAS certificate holder (see below) does not exempt the holder of parts of the D1 test requirements.

#### **Minibus Licensing Scheme ("Minibus Permits")**

ALL Scout Groups, Districts and Counties who operate (own, borrow or hire) a minibus require a Standard Bus Permit so that voluntary groups can charge or accept a form of remuneration for providing transport for their own members, without having to comply with the full PSV operator licensing or PCV driver licensing requirements. See link:

<http://members.scouts.org.uk/supportresources/3413/minibus-permits>

## **MiDAS**

MiDAS (the **M**inibus **D**river **A**wareness **S**cheme) is a voluntary assessment. Its syllabus includes

- Driving for Safety and Economy
- Drivers' legal responsibilities
- Passenger safety
- Health and safety awareness
- Manual handling awareness
- Personal safety for drivers
- Collision and breakdown procedures.

The successful assessment leads to a certificate, valid for four years, which is recognized (and often *required*) by a large number of non-commercial organisations who hire/let out their vehicles (such as schools, colleges, BSEL, Scout Group/Districts and other similar organisations), in order to satisfy themselves of the competency of the proposed driver(s). In many cases, the insurers of these vehicles specifically require that only MiDAS drivers may drive the vehicles covered.

It is not a requirement of the Scout Association or of Berkshire Scouts for drivers to hold a MiDAS certificate. However, Executive Committees should note that MiDAS trained and certificated drivers have had their competence assessed, and this should help reassure those that approve activities (and their associated risks) involving the use of minibuses. Management committees might also consider requiring D1 licence holders to also become MiDAS certificated, again as an assurance of their competence with regard to passenger safety etc.

There are many organisations offering MiDAS training, at a range of prices. Amongst other providers, MiDAS training is available in Berkshire from BSEL (see <http://www.bsel.org.uk/index.php/training>).

Howard de Silva

Berkshire County Safety Adviser

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