Driving License and Driver Testing in The Netherlands

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Licensing in the Netherlands

» Licensing and testing are separate
» Training by private instructors / schools
» Testing by driving test organisation (CBR)
The trainer

» Trainers must hold a license
» Trainers trained at private schools
» Final test supervised by Minister of Transport
» Renewal every 5 years
The Examiner

» Training by the CBR
» Duration about 1 year
» Compulsory annual renewal
Driver Training in the Netherlands (1)

Legal requirements:

» Legal obligation to take a driving test
» Legal requirements imposed in the driving test
» Driving lessons not compulsory
Driver Training in the Netherlands (2)

Actual situation:

» Almost all novice drivers take driving lessons

» Prior to practical test an average of 38 hours practical training
How to obtain a licence

» Obligatory requirements
  – Theory test
  – Practical test

» Additional options
  – Pre-test by an examiner (= Learner Interim Test)
  – Driver Training Stepwise (DTS)
DTS

» Learning/testing step by step
» higher pass rate (>15%)
» Better driving performance in the final driving test
CBR
Dutch driving test organisation

» Private enterprise (since 1927)
» Financially independent
» Report to the Minister of Transport
» Supervisory Board
Where in Holland?

- 1 head office
- 5 regional main offices
- 27 theory test classrooms
- 85 practical test locations
CBR in figures (2005)

Staff: 1.250
- Theory tests: 640.000
- Practical test: 480.000
- Average pass rate: 50-55 %
- Medical fitness approved: 450.000
- Assessment alcohol/lack of skills: 18.000
- Licences withdrawn: 6.000
Legal aspects

- Duties in Road and Traffic Act
- Testing according EU-directives
- Fees under approval Minister of Transport
Core business

- Driving licence tests
- Assessment fitness to drive
- Testing professional drivers
- Assessment driving licence holders/withdrawal of licence
Driving tests
- Classroom theory tests
  *(licence A, B, C, D, and AM)*
- Practical tests in traffic
  *(licence A, B, C, D, and E)*

Medical fitness
- Regular assessment according EU-directive
- Special attention for disabled; adaptation of vehicles
Theory test

» Audio-visual classroom test
» 50 questions
» Multiple choice / Yes or no
» To pass: 44 correct answers
» Pass rate: 58 per cent
» Two examples

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Are you allowed to overtake the motorcycle here?
What is the correct order of priority here?

1. pedestrians, 2. motorcycle, 3. car

2. motorcycle, 2. car, 3. pedestrians

3. pedestrians, 2. car, 3. motorcycle

Correct answer: 1. pedestrians, 2. motorcycle, 3. car
Practical Driving test

» Cat A:
  20 min vehicle control.
  55 min in traffic test

» Cat B:
  55 min in traffic test

» Cat C and D:
  70 min. In traffic test

» Cat E:
  55 min in traffic

All including at least 2 special manoeuvres
Testing Professionals

- Proficiency bus/truck drivers
- Dangerous goods
- Taxi and ambulance
- Light aircraft (theoretical test)
- Inland navigation (theoretical test)
Withdrawal of Driving licence

- Assessment after alcohol or drug abuse
- Unsafe driving/lack of skills
Driving licence “chain”

» Training by 5000 private driving schools
» Schools on-line with CBR
» Driving test by CBR
» Issue driving licence by Mayor
Near future (1)

- Improving driving tests
  - Testing on higher skills (GDE matrix,)
  - More independent driving e.g: routes and planning
  - Low fuel consumption driving
  - Self-reflection on skills
Near future (2)

- New procedures (no more paperwork)
  - Examiners use PDA
- Implementing new categories, e.g. moped, small trucks, agricultural vehicles
Thank you for your kind attention!