



# Problem solvers

Are you facing a community transport problem? Perhaps you're assessing the implications of recent legislation or considering the specifications of a new vehicle. Whatever your community transport poser, *CTA Journal* can help.

Problem solvers like Amanda Eastwood, this issue's author (pictured), belong to the CTA's advice and information team. Every day they field enquiries from across the UK's community transport sector and have a

wealth of knowledge and experience to draw upon.

If you have a problem that you'd like solved on this page, please write to Problem Solvers at *CTA Journal*, Unit 4, 25a Vyner Street, London E2 9DG.

**"We employ a driver who has a licence with passenger carrying vehicle (PCV) entitlement (category D1). She has just confirmed that she has diabetes which is being treated with insulin. Can she still drive our minibus?"**

Medical advisers at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) are responsible for deciding whether a person is fit to drive. Standards are set by advisory panels which advise on the medical requirements for safe driving. Panels meet regularly to review the standards in the light of new research.

Diabetes mellitus affects drivers differently according to the "group" of their licence: group one licences cover ordinary car and motorcycle licences, and group two licences apply to vocational drivers, including those with PCV entitlement.

The restrictions for group two drivers are much higher than those for group one because of the size and weight of the vehicle. This also reflects the higher risk caused by the length of time the driver may spend at the wheel.

D1 vocational licence holders developing insulin-dependent diabetes are barred from driving PCV vehicles and they lose the D1. If they have D1 (101) entitlement, which allows them to be paid for driving and the vehicle to be used for hire or reward, they lose this too. This means that your driver will no longer be able to drive your minibus. You should make

## Diabetes and driving

Diabetes treatment	Group 1 entitlement (Cars and motorcycles)	Group 2 entitlement (Vocational licences including PCV)
Insulin treatment	Must recognise warning symptoms of hypoglycaemia and meet required visual standards. Will be issued with one, two or three-year licence.	Since 1 April 1991, new applicants on insulin or existing drivers who start taking insulin have been barred from driving PCV vehicles. Drivers licensed before 1 April 1991 on insulin are dealt with individually and licensed subject to satisfactory annual consultant assessment.
Temporary insulin treatment	May retain licence but should stop driving if experiencing disabling hypoglycaemia. Notify DVLA again if treatment continues for more than 3 months.	Legal bar to holding a licence while insulin-treated. May reapply when insulin treatment is discontinued.
Managed by tablets	Will be able to retain licence until the age of 70 unless they develop relevant disabilities, eg diabetic eye problems.	Drivers will be licensed unless they develop relevant disabilities or become insulin-treated.
Managed by diet alone	Need not notify DVLA unless develop relevant disabilities, eg diabetic eye problems.	Need not notify DVLA unless develop relevant disabilities, eg diabetic eye problems.

reasonable efforts to redeploy her, but in the end her contract can be ended.

Research published in March by the Department for Transport suggests that insulin-treated type II diabetes (normally managed with diet alone, sometimes with tablets and occasionally insulin) may not present as serious a risk as previously believed. If correct there could be implications for the vocational licence entitlements of drivers with this type of diabetes. ■

## Correction

In the May/June 2006 issue of *CTA Journal* we stated that the child car seat regulations which are being introduced in September 2006 would apply to small minibuses. This is not the case and the regulations will only apply to cars (including MPVs), vans and goods vehicles.

However, the CTA is keen to encourage best practice and appropriate child restraint systems should be used in minibuses.

## The CTA advice and information service

The CTA's advice and information service covers the UK and the Republic of Ireland. It is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm. There's also more information and advice on the CTA's website, [www.ctauk.org](http://www.ctauk.org). To contact an expert adviser, telephone 0845 130 6195, or email [adviceuk@ctauk.org](mailto:adviceuk@ctauk.org). In Northern Ireland, telephone 028 9040 3535 or email [adviceNI@ctauk.org](mailto:adviceNI@ctauk.org). In the Republic of Ireland contact [CTAIS@eircom.net](mailto:CTAIS@eircom.net).

## More information

Driver restrictions for diabetes: [www.dvla.gov.uk/at\\_a\\_glance/content.htm](http://www.dvla.gov.uk/at_a_glance/content.htm)

Diabetes research: [www.gnn.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=193072&NewsAreaID=2&NavigatedFromDepartment=False](http://www.gnn.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=193072&NewsAreaID=2&NavigatedFromDepartment=False)