



Fit to Drive

1st International Traffic Expert Congress
Berlin from May 3rd – 5th 2006



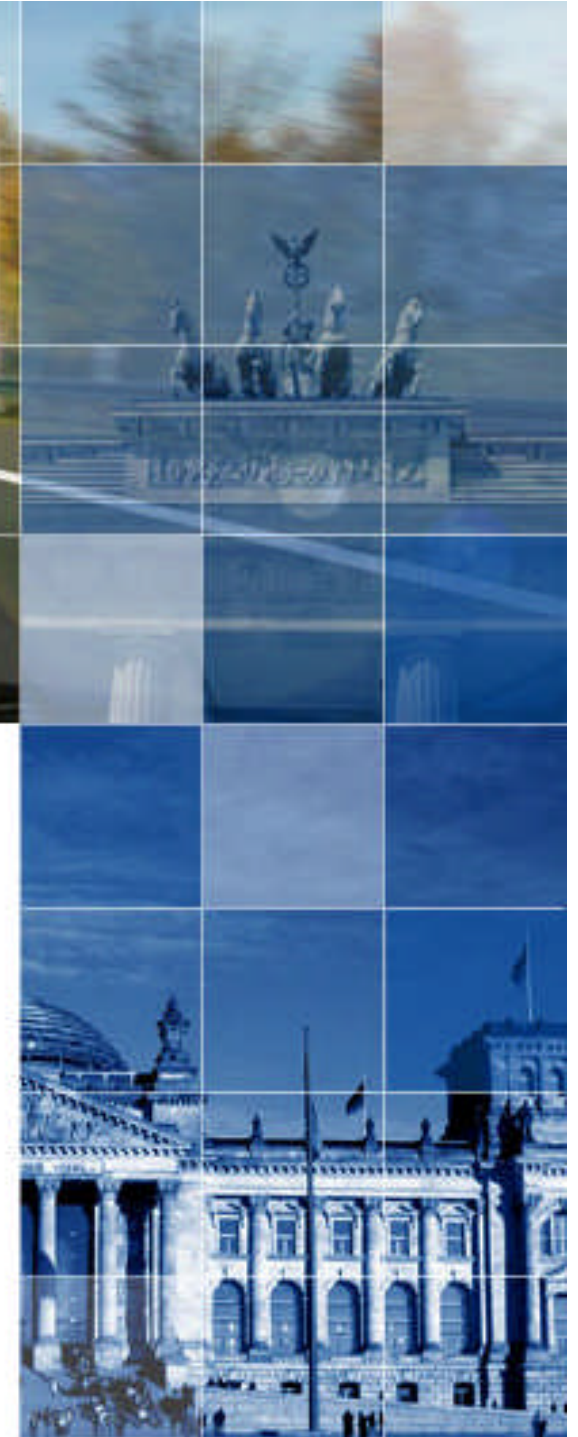
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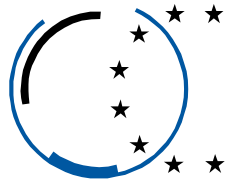
Driving aptitude from the driving instructor's point of view

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- The driving instruction is not very suitable to identify possible weaknesses in aptitude.
- There are three barriers, which could help to identify insufficient aptitude in driving license applicants.
- The driving license applicants are obliged to assist in their elimination, otherwise they can be excluded from acquiring a driving license.



- More than 600 driving license agencies in the individual federal states have their own procedure when dealing with the official application.
- From "no query" to the following query:

"Data pertaining to the physical and mental aptitude (e.g. severe forms of amblyopia, brain lesion, severe cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, seizure disorder, mental disorders, alcohol and drug abuse, amblyacousia, deafness, amputation, paralysis".

Applicable? () yes () no

If yes, which type?"



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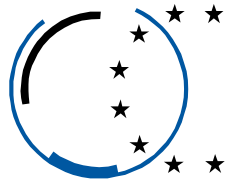


These are subdivided in the following way:

1. Into the group for the vehicle classes for passenger cars, motorcyclists and operators of slow agricultural vehicles
(B, BE, A, A1, M, S and L)

This group requires:

- Visual test of an officially recognised visual test facility (max. two years old).



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These are divided into:

2. The vehicle group for medium-heavy and heavy commercial road vehicles, truck-trailer combinations, tractor-trailers and tractors of fast agricultural vehicles (C1, C1E, C, CE, T)

This group requires:

- Medical attestations (general medicine, eyes) (max. one to two years old).



These are subdivided into:

3. The vehicle group for omnibuses and railway buses, which are intended for the transport of passengers (D1, D1E, D, DE)

This group requires:

- Medical attestations (general medicine, eyes) (max. one to two years old).
- Occupational medical attestations or a driver aptitude appraisal. (max. one year old).



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The driving instructor regulations, especially the ordinance on learner driver training, do not oblige the driving instructor to detect or document any aptitude deficiencies or report them to the driving license authorities.



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Especially when considering the growing problems relating to alcohol, medication and drug abuse, the question arises, why the authorities do not demand a drug test certification from the driving license applicants.



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§ 18 clause 3 of the driving license ordinance:

“If the official expert or appraiser identifies any details, which lead him to doubt the aptitude of the applicant, he is obliged to notify the driving license authorities and inform the applicant of this.”

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Conclusion:

- If a learner driver has sufficient physical and mental aptitude to be "fit to drive", cannot be answered satisfactorily from the driving instructor's perspective.



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Conclusion:

- The driving instruction does not really constitute much of a barrier for unsuitable driving license applicants to not succeed.



Conclusion:

- If drug consumption, medication abuse and alcohol conspicuity can be detected in driving license applicants, this could easily be cleared up by means of some relatively simple tests.
- The legal basis for this must be integrated into the official application procedure for a driving license, which can only be done by the respective law-makers.