Certificates of Professional Competence

CPC Live – Issue 1

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WELCOME!

WELCOME TO CPC LIVE, OCR’S NEW ‘ROLLING NEWSLETTER’!

We’ve created CPC Live to make sure you are always up to date with our latest developments, news and information.

New content will be added to the beginning of CPC Live, with older items moving down.

This will mean all information stays together in one place, and you never miss an item, whenever you start using CPC Live.

How will I know when you’ve added news?

We will use the OCR’s online CPC community (the ‘e-community’) to let you know about updates to CPC Live.

You can find out more about the e-community, including how to sign up, later in this newsletter.

Once you’ve joined the e-community, you can set up alerts so that you receive an email any time we post a message.

This means you’ll:
• Always know when CPC Live has been updated
• Always have the latest news and information at your fingertips
• Only have to check CPC Live when you know there’s something new to see!

We hope you find this new service helpful. If you have any feedback, do let us know at customerfeedback@ocr.org.uk.

QUICK LINKS

Go to the OCR web page for the 2012 Road Haulage CPC.
Go to the OCR web page for the 2012 Passenger Transport CPC.

For information on how to contact us, on fees, key dates and timetables, post-result services, administration and much more, please see our CPC Key Information document.
E-COMMUNITY

In March 2012 we set up the CPC ‘e-community’. The community is a forum where members can post questions or comments and share answers and resources with each other. OCR staff also interact on the forums, answering questions and sharing information with centres. The community is a place where you can find out what you need to know, by asking others or reading posts.

There is a general discussion forum (‘Administration’) where we post things like multiple choice pass rates, key dates and links to useful documents such as the presentation from our December CPC Centre Event. There are also haulage and passenger forums, for subject-specific discussion and questions.

We use the e-community as our main channel for communicating information to centres, so do sign up. You can set up alerts so that you receive an email every time a message is posted. That way, you know immediately when any new information is available.

Get started by reading our ‘getting started’ post here.

Please see our training manual for instructions on signing up, posting, editing your profile, etc.

Tip: Section 7 of the manual tells you how to set up useful alerts!

Click here to go to the e-community.
INTERNATIONAL UNITS 6 AND 7 COMING TO AN END

National CPCs in Road Haulage or Passenger Transport, gained at any time, remain valid.

However, candidates who have a National CPC (gained after October 1999), and would like to 'top up' to an International CPC in Road Haulage or Passenger Transport by taking just one unit, need to act soon.

Why?

The legislation to which the previous CPC qualifications related expired in December 2011. OCR developed new 2012 CPC qualifications in Road Haulage and Passenger Transport, relating to the new legislation, which have been available since March 2012.

In line with this new legislation, the new 2012 CPC qualifications in Road Haulage and Passenger Transport are both International. There are no National versions.

The DfT allowed us to continue to offer the single International units (Units 6 and 7) from the previous qualification, after the introduction of the new qualification. However, these single International units are coming to an end, with the last session for both on 6 December 2013.

After this date, National CPC holders who want or need an International CPC will have to sit and pass both the new 2012 CPC units (R1 and R2 or P1 and P2).

Full information can be found in our Top Up Notice.

ocr.org.uk/cpc
EXTENSION TO THE CASE STUDY EXAM DURATION

Feedback from centres suggests that candidates in the case study exams R2 and P2 sometimes struggle to read the case study and finish the questions within the two-hour exam limit.

The two-hour duration is set by the legislation, and the DfT manages the interpretation of the legislation. Following our second discussion on exam duration, the DfT has agreed that we may extend the exam duration to 2 hours 15 minutes. This will allow candidates more time to read the case study carefully before beginning to answer the questions.

This extended duration will begin from the March 2014 exams for the case study units R2 (05689) and P2 (05678). Other exams will not be affected.

To ensure fairness for candidates, we will compare the difficulty of the 2014 exams with those set from March 2012 to December 2013 at our awarding meetings. We will adjust the pass mark to ensure that the change does not advantage or disadvantage any candidate who has taken, or will take, the exam.

You can find out more about awarding here.
CANDIDATE ID FORM

In response to centre feedback, we're pleased to let you know that you now only need to submit a candidate ID form once for each candidate.

If a candidate takes another exam or a resit in a later session, you don’t need to send in another photocopy or scan.

You must keep a copy of the form on file at your centre, and you must visually check a returning candidate’s identity against the form you hold on file, but you don’t need to resubmit the form to us.

We have updated the form to reflect this change and to make the process clearer and you can find it here.
On 17 December 2012 we held an event at our Coventry office for OCR CPC centres.

The event focused on the kinds of questions now posed in OCR CPC exams, and ways candidates could tackle these effectively.

The event was well received with very positive feedback from delegates.

The presentation given on the day is now available on both the Road Haulage and Passenger Transport CPC web pages.

We hope you’ll find the presentation useful in guiding your students towards understanding what is required of them in the exams.

The presentation also highlights
• Improvements we’ve made to the qualification and supporting documents like the Chief Examiner Reports
• How we ensure both flexibility and fairness for candidates.

Coming soon will be a voiceover for the presentation, so you can hear our commentary on the information in the slides. Sign up to the e-community so that you are alerted when this is uploaded!

ocr.org.uk/cpc
CANDIDATE INFORMATION SHEET

We’ve heard from you that your prospective candidates often have common questions and it would be useful to have a document that you could give to them which is an overview of the CPC.

The new Candidate Information Sheet is now available on our website and is designed to give candidates an understanding of the qualification and links to useful information. You may find it useful to make it or its contents available to your prospective candidates.

We want this document to be as useful as possible for you as centres. If you have any feedback on it, do let us know at customerfeedback@ocr.org.uk.
MULTIPLE CHOICE EXAMINATIONS – CANDIDATES LEAVING EARLY

We are always listening to feedback, and centres have let us know that some candidates were finishing the multiple choice exam before the end of the two-hour duration, and, in line with other qualifications, wanted to leave the room to study for later exams.

From September 2013, candidates will therefore be allowed to leave the exam room after 1 hour 15 minutes.

It is up to centres to manage this new change and avoid disruption for those candidates still taking the exam. Depending on the number of candidates in the room, you may find it less disruptive to allow one ‘exit time’, for example, at 1 hour 15 minutes or 1 hour 30 minutes.

Our invigilator instructions will shortly be updated to include this new allowance.

Please note that you must continue to observe all other invigilation rules, and be careful to make sure that:

• Candidates who are leaving do not communicate with candidates still completing the exam
• Candidates who remain in the room do not, during the exam, communicate with candidates who have left.

Remember:

• Candidates who have been allowed to leave the examination room early must hand in their work before they leave.
• Question papers must not be removed from the examination room until the end of the examination session in the centre.
• Candidates must not return to the exam room once they have left.
CAST – ADMIN SUPPORT SERVICES FOR YOU

As part of our ongoing support to centres, OCR’s Customer Admin Support Managers are on hand to support you in the administration of our qualifications.

Our five highly experienced, friendly and professional Customer Admin Support Managers covering the UK offer you:

• A named point of contact whom you can contact via a direct email and phone number – this means someone is always on hand to answer questions, listen to your opinions and help solve your problems

• One-to-one, bespoke local training on any administrative topics you may find challenging

• An opportunity for you to give us your feedback and for us to tell you what we’ve done to improve the issues you raise – your views are vital to us as it is only with your input and ideas that we can tailor our service to meet your needs.

You can find out more here.

ocr.org.uk/cpc