

The PENALTY POINTS SYSTEM:

- ALL THAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PENALTIES FOR BREAKING BRITISH DRIVING LAWS

The penalty point system is an effective encouragement to drive more carefully.

A driver who collects 12 or more penalty points within 3 years must be disqualified for a minimum period of 6 months (longer if the driver has previously been disqualified).

For every offence which carries penalty points the court can take away a licence for anything from a week to a few months. For drink-driving and other serious offences then a 1 year ban is certain but it can be up to 3 years. In cases of repeat drink-driving (or drug-driving) then the DVLA may ask for medical reports and withdraw a licence accordingly.

The court can also order a ban until the offender has passed a new test. This will always happen in any case of dangerous driving, whether or not it causes death. If a new driver collects 6 points or more in his first 2 years they will also be ordered to have a retest.

In some cases a vehicle will be confiscated.

Useful websites are:

- www.motorlawyers.co.uk/offences/penalty_points_system.htm
- www.direct.gov.uk/en/Motoring/DriverLicensing/EndorsementsAndDisqualifications/DG_4022550

OFFENCE	IMPRISONMENT	FINE	DISQUALIFICATION	PENALTY POINTS
Causing death by dangerous driving	10 years	Unlimited	Obligatory 2 years minimum	3-11 (if exceptionally not disqualified)
Dangerous driving	2 years	Unlimited	Obligatory	3-11 (if exceptionally not disqualified)
Causing death by careless	10 years	Unlimited	Obligatory 2 years	3-11 (if

driving under the influence of drink or drugs			minimum	exceptionally not disqualified)
Careless or inconsiderate driving		£2,500	Discretionary	3-9
Driving while unfit through drink or drugs or with excess alcohol; or failing to provide a specimen for analysis	6 months	£5,000	Obligatory	3-11 (if exceptionally not disqualified)
Failing to stop after an accident or failing to report an accident	6 months	£5,000	Discretionary	5-10
Driving when disqualified	6 months (12 months in Scotland)	£5,000	Discretionary	6
Driving after refusal or revocation of licence on medical grounds	6 months	£5,000	Discretionary	3-6
Driving without insurance		£5,000	Discretionary	6-8
Driving		£1,000	Discretionary	3-6

otherwise than in accordance with a licence				
Speeding		£1,000 (2,500 for motorway offences)	Discretionary	3-6 or 3 (fixed penalty)
Traffic light offences		£1,000	Discretionary	3
No MOT certificate		£1,000		
Seat belt offences		£500		
Dangerous cycling		£2,500		
Careless cycling		£1,000		
Cycling on pavement		£500		
Failing to identify driver of a vehicle		£1000	Discretionary	3

You can check the relevance of codes on a driving licence against the list below.

Accident Offences

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from the date of offence.

Code	Offence	Penalty points
50 08 028	Failing to stop injury accident	5-10

50 08 031	Failing to give particulars damage only accident	5-10
50 08 032	Failing to stop injury accident	5-10
50 08 035	Failing to give particulars injury only accident	5-10

Disqualified driver

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from the date of offence.

Code	Offence	Penalty points
50 08 021	Driving while disqualified	6

Careless driving

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from date of offence.

Code	Offence	Penalty points
50 08 202	Driving without due care and attention	3-9
50 08 203	Driving without reasonable consideration for other road users	3-9

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for eleven years from date of conviction.

Code	Offence	Penalty points
50 08 204	Causing death through driving carelessly when unfit	3-11
50 08 208	Excess alcohol	3-11
50 08 212	Causing death by careless driving then failing to supply a specimen	3-11

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from date of conviction.

Code	Offence	Penalty points
41 04 001	Causing death by reckless driving	3-11
41 04 002	Causing death by dangerous driving	3-11

Construction and use offences

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from date of offence.

Code	Offence	Penalty points
50 13 022	Using a vehicle with defective brakes	3
50 13 156	Using a motor vehicle in a dangerous condition	3
		3
50 13 049	Defective tyre	
50 13 050	Defective tyres	
50 13 025	Defective steering	3
50 13 265	Using a mobile phone while driving a motor vehicle	3

Reckless/dangerous driving

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from date of conviction.

Code	Offence	Penalty points
50 08 201	Dangerous driving	3-11
41 04 002	Causing death by dangerous driving	3-11
50 08 018	Furious driving	3-9

Drink or drugs

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for eleven years from date of conviction.

Code	Offence	Penalty points
50 08 126	Driving with excess alcohol in breath	3-11
50 08 127	Attempting to drive with excess alcohol in breath	3-11
50 08 129	Driving with excess alcohol in blood	3-11
50 08 130	Attempting to drive with excess alcohol in blood	3-11
50 08 132	Driving with excess alcohol in urine	3-11
50 08 133	Attempting to drive with excess alcohol in urine	3-11
50 08 123	Driving while unfit through drink/drugs	3-11
50 08 124	Attempting to drive while unfit through drink/drugs	3-11
50 08 142	Failing to provide a specimen when attempting to drive with excess alcohol	3-11
50 08 125	In charge of a vehicle while unfit through drink/drugs	10
50 08 139	Failure to provide a specimen when attempting to drive unfit	3-11
50 08 136	Failing to provide specimen of breath for analysis	3-11

Insurance offences

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from date of offence.

Code	Offence	Penalty points
50 08 019	No insurance	6-8

Licence offences

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from date of offence.

Code	Offence	Penalty points
50 10 003	Driving a vehicle having failed to notify a disability	3-6

Miscellaneous offences

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from date of offence.

Code	Offence	Penalty points
50 08 231	Leaving a vehicle in a dangerous position	3
50 08 237	Carrying unauthorised passenger on a motorcycle	3
50 08 121	Refusing to submit to an eyesight test	3
50 08 040	Failure to give information regarding driver	3

Speed limits

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from date of offence.

Code	Offence	Penalty points
50 08 013	Excess speed	3-6
50 08 291	Excess speed for vehicle classification	3-6

Traffic direction and signs

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from date of offence.

Code	Offence	Penalty points
50 08 268	Breach of a traffic sign	3
50 08 007	Fail to obey signal given by constable	3

Special code

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from date of conviction.

Code Offence

Tot To signify a disqualification under 'totting up' procedure. If the total of penalty points reaches 12
up or more within three years, the driver is liable to be disqualified

Theft or unauthorized taking

The following offence codes must stay on a driving licence for four years from date of offence.

Code	Offence	Penalty points
50 08 295	Aggravated vehicle taking causing damage	3-11
50 08 290	Aggravated vehicle taking causing injury	3-11