

The new UK Driving license

||||| A European driver's license for UK motorists



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Europe phasing out 110 models of licenses

To harmonize standards and improve road safety across the European Union (EU), member states are phasing out the 110 different models of driver's license currently in use. After first introducing the principle of mutual recognition of driver's licenses issued by member states, the EU established the new Community Model driver's license to both standardize license categories and conditions for issue and facilitate road enforcement. As of 2013, a single credit-card size format with photograph—and in some cases a microprocessor—will be issued. The new European driver's license will carry a validity period of 10 or 15 years.



Delivering better value for UK taxpayers

The United Kingdom's Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) is a recognized center of excellence for the issuance of secure national documents like the Driving License and Biometric Residence Permit. The agency had previously replaced paper driver's licenses with photocard licenses featuring enhanced security in 1998 and move from Teslin to polycarbonate in 2006. DVLA is now seizing on the EU initiative as an opportunity to make DVLA licenses even more secure through tamper-evident design. As part of the UK's parliamentary structure, DVLA is accountable to the general public. Expectations are therefore high to produce a driver's license that meets the UK's stringent quality standards and delivers better value for taxpayers.

New secure documents for 2013

Placing its confidence in the expertise of Gemalto, DVLA signed a contract for the supply of up to 80 million Sealys secure documents. The cards will be manufactured to the specifications of not only the new European driver's license, but also the digital tachograph cards and biometric residence permits that DVLA additionally issues. Compliant with EU specifications and the latest ICAO standards, the 100% polycarbonate cards feature laser-engraved images and visible security patterns to deter tampering. The combined strength of these security features enables the fullest protection possible. The first-class durability of polycarbonate also ensures a longer document life.



Cost savings with visibly more secure documents

The UK Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) aims to enhance security and lower costs. The Sealys Secure documents exemplifies the next generation of highly secure polycarbonate cards. The Sealys operating systems included in the Resident Permit and Tachograph cards are among the fastest, most interoperable on the market, enabling significant cost savings both at the personalization stage and in usage.

According to DVLA, the new contract signed delivers millions of pounds of saving for the UK taxpayer and allows DVLA to issue even more secure driving licenses, and provide the next generation of high-security smart cards for other parts of UK government.

The agreement has been entered into with Gemalto UK Ltd, the Fareham-based central hub for Gemalto in Britain, which is in charge of managing the entire project.

Secure documents and electronic identities: Gemalto's key expertises

Gemalto is the world leader in digital security with 2011 annual revenues of €2 billion and 10,000 employees.

In the public sector, Gemalto provides secure documents, robust identity solutions and services for governments, national printers and integrators in the service of citizens.

Its products and solutions are deployed in more than 60 government programs worldwide.

Contribution to these projects provides the company with an excellent overview of the technology involved, its applications and the quality of information systems, as well as the social context of its use.

Furthermore, Gemalto's experts have provided support for national debates on how to improve systems, in particular to fight fraud and increase citizen's trust and usability.

Finally, Gemalto is an active collaborator in European and global standardization organizations.

The DVLA will begin deploying the products in 2013 using Gemalto's EU-compliant eco-friendly Sealys polycarbonate portfolio of secure documents, fitted with unique security features such as Sealys Edge Sealer, a laser engraving process applied during the production stage to the edge of the polycarbonate document, adding an additional layer of security. Furthermore, with Gemalto's Sealys Laser Sealer feature, the laser-engraved images will be digitally enhanced to include an additional visible security pattern, which prevents modification of the photo without leaving visible marks.



Sealys Edge Sealer

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