



Road Traffic Act 1988

1988 CHAPTER 52

PART V **E+W+S**

DRIVING INSTRUCTION

[^{F1} [^{F1} Disabled persons:] emergency control certificates, etc]

[^{F2}133A Assessment of [^{F1} disabled person's] ability to control a motor car in an emergency. **E+W+S**

- (1) This section applies to any person who, by or under any provision of this Part of this Act,—
 - (a) is authorised to apply to undergo an emergency control assessment, or
 - (b) is required by the Registrar to submit himself for an emergency control assessment.
- (2) An emergency control assessment is an assessment of whether the person being assessed would be able either—
 - (a) to take control of a motor car of a [^{F3}prescribed class] without any modifications, or
 - (b) to take control of a motor car of a [^{F4}prescribed class] only with appropriate modifications of such a motor car,if an emergency arose while he was giving, in such a motor car, instruction in the driving of [^{F5}a] motor car.
- (3) Where a person is authorised to apply to undergo an emergency control assessment, for the application to be duly made, it must be made to the Secretary of State and must include—
 - (a) a declaration by the person making the application, in such form as the Secretary of State may require, stating every relevant disability or prospective disability from which the person is suffering or has at any time (or, if a period is prescribed by regulations, has during that period) suffered; and
 - (b) such other particulars as the Secretary of State may require.

Changes to legislation: Road Traffic Act 1988, Section 133A is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 July 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- (4) Where a person is required to submit himself for an emergency control assessment he must furnish to the Secretary of State such particulars as the Secretary of State may require.
- [Regulations may require a person who applies to undergo an emergency control assessment (or a part of such an assessment), or is required to submit himself for such an assessment, to pay a fee to the Secretary of State.]
- ^{F6}(4A) assessment (or a part of such an assessment), or is required to submit himself for such an assessment, to pay a fee to the Secretary of State.]
- (5) An emergency control assessment—
- (a) shall be conducted by a person appointed by the Secretary of State (in this section referred to as “the assessor”); and
 - (b) shall consist of such practical tests and other means of assessment as the Secretary of State may determine.
- (6) On completing an emergency control assessment of a person, the assessor shall grant him an emergency control certificate if he is satisfied either—
- (a) that, in the circumstances mentioned in subsection (2) above, that person would be able to take control of a motor car of a [^{F7}prescribed class] without any modifications, or
 - (b) that, in the circumstances mentioned in subsection (2) above, that person would be able to take control of a motor car of a [^{F8}prescribed class] only with appropriate modifications of such a motor car;
- but if the assessor is not so satisfied, he shall refuse to grant a certificate to that person.
- (7) An emergency control certificate granted to any person—
- (a) shall specify the class of motor car [^{F9}covered by his disabled person’s limited driving licence] in relation to which the assessor is satisfied as mentioned in subsection (6)(a) or (b) above, specifying, in a case falling within paragraph (b) the modifications that are appropriate; and
 - (b) may include a recommendation that that person should undergo a further emergency control assessment after the end of such period as is specified in the certificate;
- and shall otherwise be in such form as the Secretary of State may determine.
- (8) Different modifications for different classes of motor car may be specified under subsection (7)(a) above.
- (9) The assessor who has assessed any person under this section—
- (a) if he grants an emergency control certificate, shall—
 - (i) give or send the certificate to that person, and
 - (ii) send a copy of the certificate to the Registrar; and
 - (b) if he refuses to grant such a certificate, shall—
 - (i) give notice in writing to that person of his decision and of the reasons for it, and
 - (ii) send a copy of the notice to the Registrar.]
- [^{F10}(10) In this Part, “modifications”, in relation to a motor car, includes equipment.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 133A heading omitted (8.6.2015) by virtue of [Deregulation Act 2015 \(c. 20\)](#), s. 115(2), [Sch. 2 para. 24\(6\)](#); S.I. 2015/994, [art. 7\(a\)](#) (with [Sch. Pt. 3](#))

Changes to legislation: Road Traffic Act 1988, Section 133A is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 July 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- F2** Ss. 133A, 133B and cross-heading inserted (9.9.1996) by 1993 c. 31, **s. 3**; S.I. 1996/1980, **art. 2**
- F3** Words in s. 133A(2)(a) substituted (8.6.2015) by virtue of Deregulation Act 2015 (c. 20), s. 115(2), **Sch. 2 para. 24(2)(a)**; S.I. 2015/994, **art. 7(a)** (with Sch. Pt. 3)
- F4** Words in s. 133A(2)(b) substituted (8.6.2015) by virtue of Deregulation Act 2015 (c. 20), s. 115(2), **Sch. 2 para. 24(2)(b)**; S.I. 2015/994, **art. 7(a)** (with Sch. Pt. 3)
- F5** Word in s. 133A(2) substituted (8.6.2015) by virtue of Deregulation Act 2015 (c. 20), s. 115(2), **Sch. 2 para. 24(2)(c)**; S.I. 2015/994, **art. 7(a)** (with Sch. Pt. 3)
- F6** S. 133A(4A) inserted (1.4.2002) by 2000 c. 38, s. 260, **Sch. 29 para. 10**; S.I. 2002/658, art. 2(2), **Sch. Pt. 2**
- F7** Words in s. 133A(6)(a) substituted (8.6.2015) by Deregulation Act 2015 (c. 20), s. 115(2), **Sch. 2 para. 24(3)(a)**; S.I. 2015/994, **art. 7(a)** (with Sch. Pt. 3)
- F8** Words in s. 133A(6)(b) substituted (8.6.2015) by Deregulation Act 2015 (c. 20), s. 115(2), **Sch. 2 para. 24(3)(b)**; S.I. 2015/994, **art. 7(a)** (with Sch. Pt. 3)
- F9** Words in s. 133A(7)(a) omitted (8.6.2015) by virtue of Deregulation Act 2015 (c. 20), s. 115(2), **Sch. 2 para. 24(4)**; S.I. 2015/994, **art. 7(a)** (with Sch. Pt. 3)
- F10** S. 133A(10) inserted (8.6.2015) by Deregulation Act 2015 (c. 20), s. 115(2), **Sch. 2 para. 24(5)**; S.I. 2015/994, **art. 7(a)** (with Sch. Pt. 3)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 133A excluded (23.6.1999) by S.I. 1999/1736, **art. 8(1)(b)(2)(b)**

Changes to legislation:

Road Traffic Act 1988, Section 133A is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 July 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

View outstanding changes

Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 133A words substituted by 2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 15
- s. 133A(2) word substituted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 11(2)(b) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 133A(2)(a) words substituted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 11(2)(a) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 133A(2)(b) words substituted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 11(2)(b) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 133A(6)(a) words substituted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 11(3)(a) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 133A(6)(b) words substituted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 11(3)(b) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 133A(7)(a) words omitted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 11(4) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 133A(10) inserted by 2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 11(5) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 3B-3D inserted by 2024 c. 10 s. 54(1)
- s. 13A(1A) inserted by 2024 c. 10 Sch. 3 para. 1(4)(b)
- s. 22B inserted by 2024 c. 10 s. 54(2)
- s. 25(1) s. 25 renumbered as s. 25(1) by 2024 c. 10 s. 55(a)
- s. 25(2) inserted by 2024 c. 10 s. 55(b)
- s. 34A inserted by 2000 c. 37 Sch. 7 para. 6 (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The amending provision has been repealed)
- s. 34B34C and cross-heading inserted by 2024 c. 10 s. 53(1)
- s. 41(2)(m) inserted by 2006 c. 49 s. 18(1)(a)
- s. 41(2)(ba) inserted by 2006 c. 49 s. 56(3)
- s. 49(3A) inserted by 2006 c. 49 s. 48(1)
- s. 66(7A) inserted by 2006 c. 49 s. 56(5)
- s. 67(1A)(1B) inserted by 2024 c. 10 s. 92(2)(a)
- s. 67(3B)(d) and word inserted by 2024 c. 10 s. 92(2)(b)(ii)
- s. 67(8A) inserted by 2024 c. 10 s. 92(2)(c)
- s. 67(11) inserted by 2024 c. 10 s. 92(2)(d)
- s. 68(6)(d) and word inserted by 2024 c. 10 s. 92(3)(b)(ii)
- s. 68(7)(8) inserted by 2024 c. 10 s. 92(3)(c)
- s. 69(1)(d) and word inserted by 2024 c. 10 s. 92(4)(a)
- s. 69(2)(d) and word inserted by 2024 c. 10 s. 92(4)(b)
- s. 69(10) inserted by 2024 c. 10 s. 92(4)(c)
- s. 76(11) inserted by 2024 c. 10 s. 56

- s. 85(1) words omitted (temp.) by [S.I. 2019/648 reg. 2\(5\)\(a\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 2(5)(a) substituted (1.9.2020) by S.I. 2020/818, regs. 1(b), Sch. 6 para. 39(2)(c)(i))
- s. 85(1) words omitted (temp.) by [S.I. 2019/648 reg. 2\(5\)\(d\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Reg. 2(5)(a) substituted (1.9.2020) by S.I. 2020/818, regs. 1(b), Sch. 6 para. 39(2)(c)(ii))
- s. 85(2) added by [1988 c. 54 Sch. 2 para. 17\(c\)](#)
- s. 97(1)(c)(ia) words repealed by [2006 c. 49 Sch. 3 para. 6\(2\)\(b\)Sch. 7\(4\)](#)
- s. 97(1)(d)(ii) words omitted by [S.I. 2018/1251 reg. 2\(4\)](#)
- s. 97(1ZA) inserted by [2006 c. 49 s. 38\(2\)](#)
- s. 108(1BA) inserted by [S.I. 2018/1251 reg. 2\(5\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 123123A substituted for s. 123 by [2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 2](#)
- s. 123A(3) words inserted by [2009 c. 17 s. 1\(3\)](#)
- s. 124(3)-(5) inserted by [2009 c. 17 s. 3](#)
- s. 124(6) inserted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 2\(b\)](#) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 125(3A)-(3D) inserted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 3\(2\)](#) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 125(5A) inserted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 3\(3\)](#) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 125A(5)-(7E) substituted for s. 125A(5)-(7) by [2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 6\(3\)](#)
- s. 125ZA inserted by [2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 5](#)
- s. 125ZA(2)(b) word omitted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 4\(2\)\(a\)](#) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 125ZA(2)(d) and word inserted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 4\(2\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 125ZA(4)(c) word omitted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 4\(3\)\(c\)](#) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 125ZA(4)(c) words substituted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 4\(3\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 125ZA(4)(ba)(bb) inserted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 4\(3\)\(a\)](#) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 125ZA(4)(ca) inserted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 4\(3\)\(d\)](#) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 126(5) omitted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 6](#) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 126A inserted by [2016 c. 16 s. 1\(3\)](#)
- s. 126A omitted (cond.) by [2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 8A](#) (as inserted) by [2016 c. 16 s. 3\(3\)](#)
- s. 126A heading words inserted by [S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 3\(2\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Regs. 3, 4 omitted (1.12.2023) without ever being in force by virtue of S.I. 2023/1286, regs. 1, 7(3))
- s. 126A(1) words inserted by [S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 3\(3\)\(a\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Regs. 3, 4 omitted (1.12.2023) without ever being in force by virtue of S.I. 2023/1286, regs. 1, 7(3))
- s. 126A(1) words inserted by [S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 3\(3\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Regs. 3, 4 omitted (1.12.2023) without ever being in force by virtue of S.I. 2023/1286, regs. 1, 7(3))

- s. 128A inserted by [2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 11](#)
- s. 128A(4) inserted by 2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 11 (as inserted) by [2016 c. 16 s. 4\(4\)](#)
- s. 128B inserted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 9](#) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 128ZA inserted by [2009 c. 17 s. 1\(1\)](#)
- s. 128ZB inserted by [2009 c. 17 s. 2](#)
- s. 128AZA128AZB inserted by [2016 c. 16 s. 2\(2\)](#)
- s. 128AZA128AZB inserted (cond.) by 2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 10A (as inserted) by [2016 c. 16 s. 4\(2\)](#)
- s. 128AZA128AZB substituted (cond.) by 2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 10A (as inserted) by [2016 c. 16 s. 4\(2\)](#)
- s. 128AZA heading words inserted by [S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 4\(2\)\(a\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Regs. 3, 4 omitted (1.12.2023) without ever being in force by virtue of S.I. 2023/1286, regs. 1, 7(3))
- s. 128AZA(1) words inserted by [S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 4\(2\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Regs. 3, 4 omitted (1.12.2023) without ever being in force by virtue of S.I. 2023/1286, regs. 1, 7(3))
- s. 128AZA(4) words inserted by [S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 4\(2\)\(c\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Regs. 3, 4 omitted (1.12.2023) without ever being in force by virtue of S.I. 2023/1286, regs. 1, 7(3))
- s. 128AZB heading words inserted by [S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 4\(3\)\(a\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Regs. 3, 4 omitted (1.12.2023) without ever being in force by virtue of S.I. 2023/1286, regs. 1, 7(3))
- s. 128AZB(1) words inserted by [S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 4\(3\)\(b\)\(i\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Regs. 3, 4 omitted (1.12.2023) without ever being in force by virtue of S.I. 2023/1286, regs. 1, 7(3))
- s. 128AZB(1) words inserted by [S.I. 2016/1089 reg. 4\(3\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. Regs. 3, 4 omitted (1.12.2023) without ever being in force by virtue of S.I. 2023/1286, regs. 1, 7(3))
- s. 131(A1)-(C1) inserted by 2006 c. 49, Sch. 6 para. 13(1A) (as inserted) by [S.I. 2023/1286 Sch. 3 para. 92\(2\)\(a\)\(i\)](#)
- s. 131(3)(b)(c) substituted for s. 131(3)(b) and word by [2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 13\(4\)](#)
- s. 131(6) inserted by [2016 c. 16 s. 2\(4\)](#)
- s. 131(6) inserted by 2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 13(9) (as inserted) by [2016 c. 16 s. 4\(5\)](#)
- s. 131(6) substituted by 2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 13(9) (as inserted) by [2016 c. 16 s. 4\(5\)](#)
- s. 132-133ZA and cross-heading substituted for ss. 132, 133 and cross-heading by [2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 14](#)
- s. 133(2)(a) words omitted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 10\(a\)](#) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 133(2)(b) words omitted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 10\(b\)](#) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 133D(1A) inserted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 2 para. 14\(2\)](#) (This amendment is to Part 5 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 as amended by Schedule 6 to the Road Safety Act 2006. Those amendments have not yet come into force)
- s. 140(1)(2) inserted by [2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 23\(2\)](#)
- s. 140(1A) inserted in earlier affecting provision 2006 c. 49, Sch. 6 para. 23(2) by [S.I. 2023/1286 Sch. 3 para. 92\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 140(3) s. 140 renumbered as s. 140(3) by [2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 23\(1\)](#)
- s. 141A(5) words repealed by [2006 c. 49 Sch. 3 para. 24Sch. 7\(4\)](#)
- s. 143(1A) repealed (cond.) by [S.I. 2019/1047 Sch. 2 para. 2](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. The insertion of s. 143(1A) by 2018 c. 18, Sch. para. 17 was repealed (1.11.2019) by The Motor Vehicles (Compulsory Insurance) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/1047), reg. 1, Sch. 2 para. 1 (with reg. 5) without ever being brought into force.)

- s. 145(3A) word inserted by [2024 c. 10 Sch. 2 para. 4\(2\)](#)
- s. 173(2)(g)-(gb) substituted for s. 173(2)(g) by [2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 27](#)
- s. 173(2)(n) and word inserted by [2006 c. 49 s. 37\(8\)](#)
- s. 174(1)(da) inserted by [2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 28](#)
- s. 183(6A) inserted by [2006 c. 49 Sch. 6 para. 29](#)
- s. 192(1ZA) inserted by [2024 c. 10 Sch. 2 para. 4\(5\)\(b\)](#)