



DRIVING SURVEY

Total of responses received: 32

EU MEMBERS:

- Austria:** Epilepsie Dachverband
- Belgium:** Information provided by Eric Schmedding on behalf of the Belgian IBE member
- Bulgaria:** Association of Parents with Children with Epilepsy
- Cyprus:** Cyprus Association of Support for People with Epilepsy
- Czech Republic:** EpiStop
- Denmark:** Danish Epilepsy Association
- Finland:** Finnish Epilepsy Association
- France:** Epilepsie France
- Germany:** Deutsch Epilepsy Vereinigung
- Greece:** Greek National Association Against Epilepsy
- Hungary:** National Association of Hungarian People Living with Epilepsy
- Ireland:** Brainwave – The Irish Epilepsy Association
- Italy:** AICE Italy
- Lithuania:** LESIA
- Malta:** Caritas Malta Epilepsy Association
- Netherlands:** Epilepsie Vereniging NL; Epilepsy Fonds
- Poland:** Polish Association for People Suffering from Epilepsy
- Portugal:** Epi-Apfape (EPI)
- Romania:** Epi Romania
- Slovenia:** Slovenia League Against Epilepsy
- Spain:** Asociación Española de Epilepsia
- Sweden:** Swedish Epilepsy Association
- United Kingdom:** Epilepsy Action UK; Epilepsy Society UK; Epilepsy Connections Scotland

NON EU MEMBERS:

- Croatia:** Croatia Association for Epilepsy
- Georgia:** Epilepsy & Environment Association of Georgia
- Iceland:** LAUF
- Norway:** Norwegian Epilepsy Association
- Russian Federation:** All Russian Charity Foundation
- Switzerland:** Epi-Suisse

Regarding Group 1 license

1. In your Country a person with epilepsy is fit to drive after a seizure free period of

- 1 Year:** 21
- 2 Years:** 2
- 3 Years:** 1
- Other:** 5

1 Year: 70%	2 Years: 6%
3 Years: 4%	Other: 10%
No Response: 10%	

Comments:

Netherlands:

- 1 year but also sometimes after 3 months or 6 months (Epilepsie Vereniging NL)
- One year in case of two or more seizures; When only one seizure, it's 6 months (Epilepsy Fonds NL);

Poland: no legal regulations;

Greece: 2 years seizure free on treatment or 3 years off a successful treatment;

Czech Republic: 1 year if the neurologist does not find a reason for a longer period;

Russian Federation: 5 years;

2. In your Country a person with a provoked epileptic seizure from a recognizable provoking factor that is unlikely to re-occur, can drive subject to an appropriate neurological assessment on individual basis

- YES:** 22
- NO:** 6

YES: 75%
NO: 20%
No Response: 5%

Comments:

Malta: Usually after a period of 1 year followed by the Neurologist's definite report;

Netherlands: Not allowed to drive for 3 months;



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Belgium: 3 months seizure-free period at least;

3. In your Country a person with the first or single epileptic seizure is able to drive after a seizure free period of

6 MONTHS: 20 **2 Years:** 1
1 Year: 4 **3 Years:** 0
Other: 4

6 Months: 60%	2 Years: 2%	Other: 14%
1 Year: 14%	3 Years: 0%	No Response: 10%

Comments:

Netherlands:

- 6 months but sometimes (1 seizure or several in 24 hours) and no "evidence" of epilepsy: 3 months (Epilepsie Vereniging NL);
- Three months if no signs on EEG and MRI. If so it's six months (Epilepsy Fonds NL);

Finland: 3 months;

Poland: no legal regulations;

Czech Republic: 1 year - when no antiepileptic drug was given;

4. In your Country a person with epileptic seizures during sleep is fit to drive if this pattern is established for a period of

6 MONTHS: 0 **2 Years:** 5
1 Year: 10 **3 Years:** 6
Other: 7

6 Months: 0%	2 Years: 15%	Other: 15%
1 Year: 33%	3 Years: 20%	No Response: 17%

Comments:

Croatia: 1 year seizure-free period is required.

Finland: 3 months;

Poland: no legal regulations;

Malta: Normally one has to be seizure-free for one year. Any exception depends on the Neurologist's report;

Czech Republic: 6 months - no other type of seizures;

Hungary: 5 years;

Russian Federation: Never allowed to drive;

5. In your Country a person with epilepsy with no loss of consciousness or any functional ability is allowed to drive

YES: 17
NO: 10

YES: 60%
NO: 30%
No Response: 10%

Comments:

Croatia: 1 year seizure-free period is required.

Malta: Any seizure even "petit-mal" must be followed by 1 year seizure-free;

Netherlands: Yes, but only after the pattern of this kind of seizure is established for a period of one year;

Belgium: after 1 year;

6. In your Country a person with epilepsy and driving license is allowed to drive during the withdrawal period

YES: 8
NO: 17

YES: 25%
NO: 60%
No Response: 15%

Comments:

Denmark: That problem isn't addressed in our rules yet.

7. In your Country a person with epilepsy is allowed to drive after anti-epileptic drug withdrawal if a seizure free period has occurred for a period of

6 Months: 10
1 Year: 4
Other: 13

6 Months: 30%	Other: 55%
1 Year: 5%	No Response: 10%

Comments:

Croatia: withdrawal period is not specified;

Denmark: That problem isn't addressed in our rules yet.

Netherlands:

- If you are seizure free for 2 years or more: driving is allowed during withdrawal. If your seizure-free period is less than 2 years: no driving during withdrawal and 3 month after withdrawal (with success of course) (Epilepsie Vereniging NL);
- Two years (Epilepsy Fonds NL);



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UK:

- Recommended not to drive during period of withdrawal and 6 months afterwards (Epilepsy Action UK);
- License holders are advised not to drive during withdrawal and for a period of 6 months thereafter (Epilepsy Connections Scotland);

Switzerland: 3 months;

Germany: 3 months;

Poland: no legal regulations;

Belgium: No restrictions unless there is a seizure;

Portugal: Not specified, depends on the doctor's (neurologist) opinion and health authorities' decision.

Austria: 3 months;

Hungary: 2 years;

8. In your Country a person with epilepsy is not allowed to drive after a seizure occurring during physician's advice to change or withdraw medication, for a period of

1 Year: 7

2 Years: 0

3 Years: 0

Other: 21

1 Year: 30%	2 Years: 0%
3 Years: 0%	Other: 65%
No Response: 5%	

Comments:

Croatia: 6 months.

Denmark: That problem isn't addressed in our rules yet.

Netherlands:

- mostly 3 months and AED on original level (Epilepsie Vereniging NL);
- Three months, only when the medication is adapted immediately (Epilepsy Fonds NL);

Finland: 1 month if there are no more seizures;

Germany: 3 months;

Italy: 3 months;

Slovenia: 6 months;

Poland: no legal regulations;

Norway: 3 months, if medication is started again. Otherwise 1 year;

Greece: 3 months if the previously effective treatment is reinstated;

UK: 6 months;

Belgium: If the same treatment is reinstated, it's 3 months; if another treatment is given, it's 6 months;

Portugal: Not specified, depends on the doctor's (neurologist) opinion and health authorities' decision.

Czech Republic: 3 months;

Austria: 3 months;

France: 3 months;

Sweden: 6 months;

Hungary: 5 years;

Russian Federation: 5 years;

9. In your Country a person with epilepsy is allowed to drive after curative epilepsy surgery

YES: 18

NO: 8

YES: 60%
NO: 30%
No Response: 10%

Comments:

Croatia: 1 year seizure freedom;

Malta: Only after a seizure-free period of 1 year or less if specifically indicated by the Neurologist/Neurosurgeon;

Netherlands: After a seizure-free period of 1 year;

Belgium: As in the directive, namely after 1 year of seizure-freedom;

Regarding Group 2 license

1. In your Country a person with epilepsy is allowed to obtain Group 2 license if no seizures without AEDs for a period

6 MONTHS: 0

2 Years: 0

5 Years: 8

1 Year: 0

3 Years: 1

10 Years: 17

6 Months: 0%	2 Years: 0%	5 Years: 20%
1 Year: 0%	3 Years: 5%	10 Years: 60%
No Response: 15%		

Comments:

Belgium: 10 years, but only for category C1. Category B can be 2 years if exceptionally favourable prognostic factors are present;



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2. In your Country a person provoked seizure because of a recognizable provoking factor unlikely to re-occur, the person can be declared able to drive after an EEG and Neurological assessment on individual basis

YES: 16
NO: 10

YES: **60%**
NO: **25%**
No Response: **15%**

Comments:

Malta: Unless the diagnosis is revised;

Netherlands: Yes, after two years (and a clear MRI);

Belgium: Yes, on an individual basis, but seizure-free period has to be at least 6 months (if favorable) otherwise 1 year;

3. In your Country, a person with the first or single unprovoked seizure can be declared fit to drive if he has no seizures with no AEDs for

1 Year: 4
3 Years: 1
5 Years: 19
Other: 1

1 Year: **10%** 5 Years: **60%** No Response: **20%**
3 Years: **5%** Other: **5%**

Comments:

Malta: The Neurologist report and advice has bearing on protocol;

Netherlands: Two years

4. Has the new 2009/112/EC & 2009/113/EC Commission Directive for Driving been implemented in your country?

YES: 20
NO: 6

YES: **60%**
NO: **25%**
No Response: **15%**

Comments:

Portugal: But it only applies to the first directive.

Insurance

1. Regarding insurance cover and driving for a person with epilepsy. The insurance is...

Public: 5
Private: 18

Public: **15%**
Private: **60%**
No Response: **25%**

2. The insurance covers the driver with epilepsy?

YES: 19
NO: 6

YES: **65%**
NO: **20%**
No Response: **15%**

3. The insurance covers the driver with epilepsy at an increase fee?

YES: 5
NO: 18

YES: **15%**
NO: **60%**
No Response: **25%**

Comments:

Netherlands: Sometimes the fee is increased;

GENERAL COMMENTS:

The Greek Association Against Epilepsy: The New Greek directive for driving license (no 1409/6 September 2010) is in accordance with the new Commission Directive 2009/112/EC & 2009/113/EC of 25 August 2009

- a. Complete regarding Group 2
- b. Regarding Group 1, everything is similar except that regarding "epilepsy" where the driver needs 2 years seizure freedom on treatment and 3 years seizure freedom after coming off treatment.

Epilepsy Society UK: The DVLA have had a consultation on the proposed changes to the driving regulations to bring them into line with the EU directive, but as yet we are not aware that any decision has been made about the UK's adoption of the changes. We would expect such a decision to be made in the near future.

Clarification of questions

Group 1



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6. A person with epilepsy is advised not to drive during the period of withdrawing from medication, and for 6 months afterwards (due to risk of seizure recurrence due to medication withdrawal).
 7. A person with epilepsy is advised not to drive during a period of withdrawing from medication, and for 6 months afterwards (due to risk of seizure recurrence due to medication withdrawal). This is also the case if they have been seizure free for 12 months (which is the normal standard for being able to resume driving).
 8. See above.
- With all the above, if someone has not been seizure free for a period of 12 months they would not be able to drive under the normal standards.
9. Yes – a person with epilepsy is able to drive after curative epilepsy surgery, on the condition that they fulfill other driving regulations of being seizure-free for a period of 12 months.

Group 2

2. the regulations for driving under a group two license following a provoked seizures are that group two drivers are 'possibly' assessed on an individual basis if there is no seizure history.
5. I believe that these are the regulations that have recently been consulted upon, and we are awaiting a final outcome decision. They have not yet been adopted.

Insurance

Whether drivers are charged an increase fee for insurance is difficult – if someone has been approved to drive by the DVLA, insurance companies should not use the fact that they have a restricted license, or that they have had to stop driving due to seizures, as a reason for increasing the cost of insurance.

Epilepsy Vereining NL: I would like to inform you that since the European regulations for driving have been introduced in the Netherlands, all PWE get a permission to drive for category 1. If you need your license for your work (cat. 1) your employer has to fill in a form and should be informed about your epilepsy (seizure free for 10 years). If you are allowed to use your license for work it can be for max 4 hours a day. And we are, I think, the only country where the use of AEDs is of influence on the permission to drive e.g. If you are using more than 600mg a day of cbz and you were allowed to drive it becomes forbidden for 1 year even though you might have been seizure free for years. I think this idiotic rules are not based on research and knowledge, but in an obscured way it was introduced and I am struggling for months to rearranged it.

Finnish Epilepsy Association: In Finland the legislation is about to change according to the directive, the experts (Finnish Neurological Society including Reetta Kälviäinen as Chair of the Society) have given comments on a draft asked by officials of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. In Finland the regulations according to the draft might be a bit stricter than the directive itself. According to our experts/doctors, there are some complicated aspects in the directive (for instance seizures under sleep).

LESIA Lithuania: We cannot answer this questionnaire, because LESIA does not have this kind of information. In Lithuania, this information is not being accumulated and is not provided.

Epilepsy & Environment Association of Georgia: About the Driving licenses, I would like to inform you that there are no restrictions about epilepsy because the legislation on epilepsy is yet to be elaborated. We are preparing recommendations on this subject and in October after the International Symposium in Tbilisi, Georgia, we are planning to submit them for discussion to the Georgian Medical and Legal Issues Committees.

EPI Romania: This questionnaire is not applicable in Romania. We have in theory a law which states that after 2 years seizure free a person with epilepsy can drive. But it's a lie and we can't said that in Romania this law exists in practice. The problem is very simple. No neurologist gives permission for a person with epilepsy to drive. Gelu Stanculescu is 7 years seizure free and doesn't have permission to drive.

The problem is very simple. In our law is not very clear whose responsibility is it if a person with epilepsy has a seizure while driving and kills a person. In theory the neurologist is responsible for this fact because he gave permission for the person with epilepsy to drive. So that's why no neurologist gives his consent.

LESIA: Sorry, but information about Driving we didn't find and we can't help to you with questionnaire.

Cyprus Association of Support for People with Epilepsy: According to Cyprus Constitution (Article 52/Cyprus Legislation 2001) a person with any kind of epilepsy is not allowed to have a driving license. I hope, the voice of IBE will soon make a difference for all of people with epilepsy in countries like Cyprus.

All Russian Charity Foundation: We tried to find the answers on your questions. Our regulations in the field are not established yet. There is no clear written law. That is why neurologists prefer just to prohibit driving for their patients in any case.