

# Drug Laws in England and Wales



**Since 2 March 2015 new drug driving laws in England and Wales state that it is illegal to drive if either:**

- you're unfit to do so because you've taken legal or illegal drugs
- you have certain levels of illegal drugs in your blood (even if they haven't affected your driving)

If you're convicted of drug driving you'll get:

- a minimum 12 month driving ban (with the conviction remaining on your driving licence for 11 years)
- an unlimited fine
- up to 6 months in prison
- a criminal record

**The penalty for causing death by dangerous driving under the influence of drugs is a prison sentence of up to 14 years.**

The new law also includes **eight drugs commonly associated with medicinal use;**

- Morphine (pain treatment) opiate based medication
- Diazepam, clonazepam, flunitrazepam, lorazepam, oxazepam, temazepam (used to treat anxiety or inability to sleep)
- Methadone (used to treat drug addiction)
- Amphetamine (used to treat ADHD and Parkinson's disease)

## What will happen if I'm stopped by the Police?

- The Police may use a roadside test to screen for any of the drugs
- If suspected to be under the influence of drugs, the type and level of the drugs in your body can be confirmed by a blood test taken at the police station
- There is a medical defence that can be raised for the new offence if drivers are taking medication as directed and found to be over the limit and not impaired

Drivers taking prescribed medicines are advised to have evidence with them when driving.

## What should I do if I need to take any of the specified medicines?

- Keep taking your medicines as prescribed
- Check the leaflet that comes with your medicines for information on how your medicines may affect your driving ability
- **Do not** drive after taking your medicines until you know how they affect you
- **Do not** drive if you feel drowsy, dizzy, unable to concentrate or make decisions, or if you have blurred or double vision
- If you are taking your medication in accordance with the advice of a healthcare professional and/or as printed in the accompany leaflet and your driving is not impaired, then you are not breaking the law.

If you are unsure how the change will affect you, talk to your doctor or local pharmacist.



Certain medicines may affect your ability to drive

**DRUG DRIVE**  
AM I FIT TO DRIVE?

For more information go to:  
[www.gov.uk/drug-driving-law](http://www.gov.uk/drug-driving-law)