

Fitness to Drive or Work (for various professions) Criteria

The following has been published by The College of Optometrists in Summer 2026

Occupation	VA Requirements	Visual fields requirements	Colour Vision Requirements	Other considerations	Reference
Group 1 drivers (cars/motor cycles)	Binocular VA $\geq$ 6/12; number plate at 20m	No significant central field defects	N/A	Beware glare/night vision anomalies	DVLA
Group 2 drivers (HGV/bus)	VA $\geq$ 6/7.5 better eye. $\geq$ 6/60 worse eye	Field $\geq$ 160 degrees horizontal	N/A	Spectacle limit +8D	DVLA
Pilots	6/9 each eye, 6/6 binocular	Full fields	Normal	Avoid monovision and caution with varifocals and tints	UK CAA
Railway workers	Distance 6/9 binocular, near N8	“functional” fields	Normal		RSSB
Police Officers	Uncorrected $\geq$ 6/36; corrected $\geq$ 6/6 binocular, near N6	N/A	Normal	Refractive surgery history may eliminate applicants	College of Policing

Fire Service	Distance unaided $\geq 6/12$ unaided, corrected to $\geq 6/9$, near N6	N/A	Normal	Poor contrast sensitivity and low light issues may be problematic.	NFCC
Military Personnel	Varies, typically 6/12 to 6/6 role dependant		Graded for roles		British Army
Electricians	N/A	N/A	Normal essential		HSE
Maritime	Typically 6/6 to 6/12	Full	Normal	Consider glare, contrast and low light problems	MCA