



The ECDL START Program

European Computer Driving Licence START Program

ECDL START is a certificate which certifies the passing of any four modules of the ECDL program. The ECDL Start certificate will list the four modules chosen and completed by the trainee.

About The European Computer Driving Licence

Perhaps you know something about computers, but find it hard to define exactly what your level is! You're confident you can use a PC efficiently, but you can't really prove it. On the other hand, you may have no experience with PCs and want to get up to speed! Business requires "basic competence", but what does that mean? And how can you be sure when you have reached this level? What you need is a structure for your learning - one that is thorough and instantly recognised wherever you go.

The European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) establishes standards for everyone who uses a computer in either professional or a personal capacity. It is a certificate that verifies your competence, declares your computer skills and makes you readily mobile within Irish business and across the European Community.

The European Computer Driving licence is for anyone who wants certified computer skills according to a pan-European industry standard. Large multinationals have adopted the licence, setting it as the benchmark they expect from their employees. The licence matches the needs of both Irish staff and employers in its clear definition of essential computer skills. It dispels any vagueness in your professed experience or in your job specifications. Simply you either have the licence or you don't!

The ECDL is based around seven key modules, as follows: 1. Basic Concepts of IT, 2. Using a Computer and Managing Files, 3. Word Processing, 4. Spreadsheets, 5. Databases, 6. Presentation and Drawing and 7. Information and Communication. The ECDL START program is the completion of any four of the above seven modules.

Each module is approximately 7 hours in duration inclusive of the ¾ hour exam at the end of the training. When you complete and pass any four modules, you will receive your ECDL START certificate.

The key objectives of ECDL

- To raise the general level of competency of all users in the practical use of a PC.
- To improve productivity of all workers in the daily use of a PC.
- To enable employers to invest more efficiently in IT.
- To ensure that best practice and quality issues are understood and implemented.
- To optimise professional training plans in the field of PC utilisation and office applications.

The benefits of ECDL to the Individual

- A computer qualification that demonstrates real-world abilities.
- A computer qualification that is recognised throughout Europe.
- A qualification that is free of any bias towards a particular hardware or software vendor.

The benefits of ECDL to a Company

- ECDL is a precise definition of employees IT competence.
- Because the examination is based on practical experience rather than just theoretical knowledge, employers know that a holder of the ECDL qualification is capable of 'real-world' use of the PC in a business environment.
- Because of its Pan-European nature ECDL is of relevance to large companies training throughout the whole of Europe. Europe-wide training programs can now be developed.

