

MEDRIL

*MEDical testing for the DRiving Licence
EU project 2003-2006*

10,000 medical tests for category B driver soon to be launched across Europe

MEDRIL is a CIECA-led EU project on medical testing for drivers. A primary aim is to determine the incidence of major medical disorders amongst the driving population in Europe. To do this, a standardised medical form and test, complete with guidelines for doctors, has been developed by the MEDRIL team (CBR, Netherlands; AKE/INSURAMED, Finland; Ministry of Transport, Luxembourg; ASECEMP, Spain). From November this year, a total of 10,000 standardised medical tests will be carried out on category B drivers across a range of ages (30-85 years old). The results will reveal to what extent specific medical problems are prevalent in the driving population.

MEDRIL is one of a series of EU projects on fitness to drive (AGILE, IMMORTAL, CONSENSUS... see http://europa.eu.int/comm/transport/home/drivinglicence/research/index_en.htm). It should be seen in the context of demographic change in Europe, with a consistently ageing population. The results of the MEDRIL tests are designed to provide statistics on the prevalence of medical problems amongst drivers, such as neurological, cardiovascular and psychiatric conditions, in addition to sleep disorders, eyesight and relevant surgery. Of course, once this data is accumulated, few direct causal links can be established between the disorders and one's fitness to drive, but it is hoped that MEDRIL can lay the foundations for future research in this area.

For more information, or to receive a copy of the standardised medical test form and guidelines, please contact Martina Hendrix or Nick Sanders at the CIECA Project Office.