

# Changes to the Drug Driving Law from 2 March 2015



Drug drive law is changing to make it easier for the police to detect and prosecute drug drivers.

A new offence of driving with certain controlled drugs above specified limits is due to come into force on 2 March 2015. These new rules will mean it will be an offence to be over the specified limits for each drug whilst driving, as it is with drink driving. The new offence will work alongside the existing offence of driving whilst impaired through drink or drugs. Drugs covered by the new rules include cannabis, cocaine, ecstasy and ketamine. The limits for illegal drugs will be extremely low – one smoke of cannabis could put you over the limit. (see below)

## Crime and Courts Act 2013 (excerpt)

(1) Provision offence	(2) General nature of offence	(3) Mode of prosecution	(4) Punishment	(5) Disqualification	(6) Endorsement	(7) Penalty points
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(4) In Part 1 of Schedule 2 to the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988 (prosecution and punishment of offences under the Traffic Acts), after the entry beginning “RTA section 5(1)(b)” insert—

“RTA section 5A(1)(a) and (2)	Driving or attempting to drive with concentration of specified controlled drug above specified limit. (see below)	Summarily.	On conviction in England and Wales: 51 weeks or level 5 on the standard scale or both. On conviction in Scotland: 6 months or level 5 on the standard scale or both.	Obligatory.	Obligatory.	3-11
RTA section 5A(1)(b) and (2)	Being in charge of a motor vehicle with concentration of specified controlled drug above specified limit.	Summarily.	On conviction in England and Wales: 51 weeks or level 4 on the standard scale or both. On conviction in Scotland: 3 months or level 4 on the standard scale or both.	Discretionary.	Obligatory.	10

## New Drug Drive Limits 2015

### Illicit drugs limits

1. Benzoyllecgonine, 50 µg/L
  2. Cocaine, 10 µg/L
  3. Delta-9-Tetrahydrocannabinol (Cannabis and Cannabinol), 2 µg/L
  4. Ketamine, 20 µg/L
  5. Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (LSD), 1 µg/L
  6. Methylamphetamine - 10 µg/L
  7. Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA – Ecstasy), 10 µg/L
- 6-Monoacetylmorphine (6-MAM – Heroin and Diamorphine), 5 µg/L

### Generally prescription drugs

1. Clonazepam, 50 µg/L
2. Diazepam, 550 µg/L
3. Flunitrazepam, 300 µg/L
4. Lorazepam, 100 µg/L
5. Methadone, 500 µg/L
6. Morphine, 80 µg/L
7. Oxazepam, 300 µg/L
8. Temazepam, 1000 µg/L

We do not know what these measures equate to – what 2 µg/L of Cannabis is in relation to common use.