

Preparing for the CDL Drive Test

To prepare for the CDL driving test, review the Texas Commercial Motor Vehicle Driver Handbook. This free handbook is available online at www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense under Handbooks & Forms or at any driver license office.

Your Commercial Learners Permit (CLP) allows you to legally practice driving a commercial motor vehicle with a licensed CDL driver in the front seat. Practice all the maneuvers covered in the Driver Handbook before scheduling your drive test.

Scheduling a Drive Test

Driver license offices offer commercial drive test scheduling online. To schedule a drive test at selected locations online, visit [www.dps.texas.gov/Driver License](http://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense) under “More Online Services,” or scan the QR code.



Vehicle Assessment

Before you begin the drive test, the vehicle you bring must pass a safety inspection to ensure the vehicle is safe and can be legally operated on public roadways.

The Customer Service Representative will check for:

- Current registration, liability insurance, and inspection certificate (VIR or VIC)
- Trailers over 4,500 pounds must present VIR or VIC
- Working headlights (for bright and dim) and taillights
- Working turn signals (all models)
- Working horn
- Current license plates (front and back)
- Working windshield wipers
- Rearview mirror (if applicable)
- Working safety belts
- Working hazard warning lights
- Working flashing lights (school buses: two red alternately flashing lights, front and back)
- “School Bus” sign (if applicable)
- Working brakes: full-service and parking
- Pre-trip air brake system (for Class A and Class B, if applicable)
- Working brake lights, clearance lamps, side marker lamps, and reflectors

Before the Drive Test

You must present one valid form of identification to the Customer Service Representative, before the drive test.

All questions should be asked prior to your drive test. Once the test starts, the Customer Service Representative is not permitted to engage in general conversation.

During the Drive Test

No pets or unauthorized passengers are allowed in the vehicle during the drive test.

The drive test will consist of the following maneuvers:

- Pre-Trip Inspection
- Start
- Parallel parking
- Off set backing
- Straight-line backing
- Upshifting (if applicable)
- Downshifting (if applicable)
- Lane change
- Merge
- Use of lanes
- Right-of-way
- Traffic signs and signals
- Left and right turns
- Intersections
- Railroad Crossing
- Curves
- Roadside Stop/Start

If at any time a dangerous or illegal maneuver is performed, the drive test will be immediately ended and will result in an automatic failure.

After the Drive Test

After you complete the drive test, you will be informed if you passed or failed.

If you do not pass the drive test, your application will be held in the driver license office for 90 days from the date of your initial application. After 90 days — or three failed tests — a new application and fee must be submitted.

Commercial Driver License (CDL)

How to Prepare for a Commercial Drive Test



www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/CommercialLicense.htm



DRIVER LICENSE DIVISION

Creating a faster, easier, friendlier driver license experience and a safer Texas

Class A CDL

A Class A-CDL vehicle is a combination of truck and trailer with a GVWR of 26,001 pounds or more pulling a trailer with a GCWR of 10,001 pounds or more. To apply for a Class A CDL, several tests are required.

Step 1

A Commercial Learners Permit (CLP) is required to allow you to legally practice driving while a Class A-CDL driver is in the front seat with you. You must already have a valid non-CDL driver license to obtain a CLP.

To apply for a CLP, you will need to complete the Supplemental Examination (CDL-40), and pay the \$25 fee prior to testing. You will also need to pass the required Knowledge Examinations: Texas Commercial Rules, General Knowledge, Combination, Air Brakes (if applicable) and any endorsement test requested.

- CDL-1, plus CDL-4 (Interstate) or CDL-5 (Intrastate) or CDL-10, and MCSA-5876 (or MSCA-5875)*
- Forms are online at www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense under “Handbooks & Forms” with the exception of MCSA-5876 (or MSCA-5875)* and CDL-40, but all forms are available at your local driver license office.

Step 2

You are required to hold the CLP for 14 days before you can apply for a Class A CDL. Schedule your drive test and complete the required forms below, and submit them to a driver license office with the \$61 fee.

- CDL-1, plus CDL-4 (Interstate) or CDL-5 (Intrastate) or CDL-10, and MCSA-5876 (or MSCA-5875)* .
- Forms are online at www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense under “Handbooks & Forms” with the exception of MCSA-5876 (or MSCA-5875)* and CDL-40, but all forms are available at your local driver license office.

Step 3

Pass a drive test. To take your drive test, you are required to bring a vehicle that meets the weight requirements of a Class A CDL vehicle as noted in the first paragraph above.

Endorsements

For a Class A CDL, you are eligible to apply for the following endorsements, which require additional testing:

- ✓ Tanker
- ✓ Hazmat †
- ✓ Doubles/Triples
- ✓ Passenger
- ✓ School Bus ‡

Class B CDL

A Class B-CDL vehicle has a GVWR of 26,001 pounds or more, or is designed to carry 24 passengers or more. To apply for a Class B CDL, several tests are required.

Step 1

A Commercial Learners Permit (CLP) is required to allow you to legally practice driving while a Class B-CDL or a Class A-CDL driver is in the front seat with you. You must already have a valid non-CDL driver license to obtain a CLP.

To apply for a CLP, you will need to complete the Supplemental Examination (CDL-40), and pay the \$25 fee prior to testing. You will also need to pass the required Knowledge Examinations: Texas Commercial Rules, General Knowledge, Air Brakes (if acceptable) and any endorsement test requested.

- CDL-1, plus CDL-4 (Interstate) or CDL-5 (Intrastate) or CDL-10, and MCSA-5876 (or MSCA-5875)*
- Forms are online at www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense under “Handbooks & Forms” with the exception of MCSA-5876 (or MSCA-5875)* and CDL-40, but all forms are available at your local driver license office.

Step 2

You are required to hold the CLP for 14 days before you can apply for a Class B CDL. Schedule your drive test and complete the required forms below, and submit them to a driver license office with the \$61 fee.

- CDL-1, plus CDL-4 (Interstate) or CDL-5 (Intrastate) or CDL-10, and MCSA-5876 (or MSCA-5875)* .
- Forms are online at www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense under Handbooks & Forms with the exception of MCSA-5876 (or MSCA-5875)* and CDL-40, but all forms are available at your local driver license office.

Step 3

Pass a drive test. To take your drive test, you are required to bring a vehicle that meets the weight requirements of a Class B CDL vehicle as noted in the first paragraph above.

Endorsements

For a Class B CDL, you are eligible to apply for the following endorsements, which require additional testing:

- ✓ Tanker
- ✓ Hazmat †
- ✓ Passenger ‡
- ✓ School Bus ‡

Class C CDL

A Class C CDL vehicle has a GVWR of 26,000 pounds or less and is designed to transport hazardous materials, or is designed to carry 16 to 23 passengers including the driver. To apply for a Class C CDL, several tests are required.

You are not required to have a non CDL Class C driver license to apply for a Class C CDL, but it will quicken the application process.

Step 1

To apply for a Class C CDL, complete the required forms below and submit them to a driver license office with the \$61 fee.

- CDL-1, plus CDL-4 (Interstate) or CDL-5 (Intrastate) or CDL-10, and MCSA-5876 (or MSCA-5875)*
- Forms are online at www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense under “Handbooks & Forms” with the exception of MCSA-5876 (or MSCA-5875)* but all forms are available at your local driver license office.

Step 2

Pass all required knowledge tests with a score of 80% or better.

Step 3

Pass a drive test. To take your drive test, you are required to bring a vehicle that meets the weight requirements of a Class C CDL vehicle, unless you are also applying for a passenger endorsement. In this case, you must take the drive test in a vehicle designed to transport 16 to 23 passengers including the driver.

Endorsements

For a Class C CDL, you are eligible to apply for the following endorsements, which require additional testing:

- ✓ Hazmat †
- ✓ Passenger

* *Motor Carrier Safety Administration (MCSA) forms are issued by authorized Medical Examiners. Additional information available online at www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/medCertReq.htm*

† *Must hold a valid CDL license when applying for a Hazmat Endorsement and a security background check is required.*

‡ *If the drive test is taken in a passenger vehicle that does not meet the Class B CDL weight requirements, a weight restriction will be placed on the license.*

