

Preparing for the Driving 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.

Practice all maneuvers in “Driving Safely” (Section 2) and the prologues (Section 1 and 2) with another commercial driver before scheduling your driving test. While practicing, ask the person with you to give you instructions and point out any mistakes.

Scheduling a Driving Test

Most driver license offices now offer the option of scheduling your commercial driving test online. To schedule a driving test at selected locations online, visit www.dps.texas.gov under “More Online Services.”



Vehicle Assessment

Before you begin the driving test, the vehicle you bring must pass an assessment to ensure it is safe and can be legally operated on public roadways.

The customer service representative will check for:

- Current registration, liability insurance, and inspection certificate
- 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
- 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)
- Working brake lights, clearance lamps, site marker lamps, and reflectors

Before the Driving Test

You must present one valid form of identification to the customer service representative before the driving test.

Try to ask all questions before your driving test begins. Once the test starts, the customer service representative is not permitted to engage in general conversation.

During the Driving Test

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

The driving test will consist of the following maneuvers:

- Start
- Parallel parking
- 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

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

After the Driving Test

After you finish the driving test, you will be told if you passed or failed. You will also receive detailed feedback on the areas where you did well and the areas where you need to improve.

If you do not pass the driving 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.

Texas Commercial Driver License (CDL)

How to Prepare for a Commercial Driving 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 GCWR of 26,001 pounds or more pulling a trailer with a GVWR of 10,001 pounds or more. To apply for a Class A CDL, several tests are required.

Step 1

If you need to practice your commercial driving skills before you get a CDL, you first need a permit.* You must already have a non-CDL driver license to obtain a permit. The permit allows you to legally practice driving while a Class A-CDL driver is in the front seat with you.

To apply for a permit, you will need to complete the Supplemental Examination (DL-40), and pay the \$11 fee prior to testing. You will also need to pass the Texas Commercial Rules test with a score of 70% or better and the Combination test with a score of 80% or better.

Step 2

After you have your permit,* you may apply for a Class A 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, plus CDL-7 and MCSIA.
- Forms are online at www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense under “Handbooks & Forms” with the exception of MCSIA and DL-40, but all forms are available at your local driver license office.

Step 3

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

Step 4

Pass a driving test. To take your driving 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

If you need to practice your commercial driving skills before you get a CDL, you first need a permit.* You must already have a non-CDL driver license to obtain a permit. The permit allows you to legally practice driving while a Class B-CDL driver or Class-A CDL driver is in the front seat with you.

To apply for a permit, you will need to complete the Supplemental Examination (DL-40), and pay the \$11 fee prior to testing. You will need to pass the Texas Commercial Rules test with a score of 70% or better.

Step 2

After you have your permit,* you may apply for a Class B 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, plus CDL-7 and MCSIA.
- Forms are online at www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense under “Handbooks & Forms” with the exception of MCSIA, but all forms are available at your local driver license office.

Step 3

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

Step 4

Pass a driving test. To take your driving 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 do not need 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, plus CDL-7 and MCSIA.
- Forms are online at www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense under “Handbooks & Forms” with the exception of MCSIA, but all forms are available at your local driver license office.

Step 2

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

Step 3

Pass a driving test. To take your driving 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 driving 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:

- ✓ Hazardous Material
- ✓ Passenger

* *Permit is a Class A or Class B with restriction Q or R.*

† *Security background check is required.*

‡ *If the driving 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.*