



# IOWA COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE (CDL) — QUICK GUIDE —

*CDL study manuals are available by request from Iowa driver's license issuance sites and on the Iowa DOT's website.*

*Due to the implementation of new CDL rules by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration in July 2015, this document is subject to updates as the Iowa DOT develops additional guidance.*



Available electronically at:

<https://forms.iowadot.gov/FormsMgt/External/434003.pdf>

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## Definitions

### CLP – commercial learner's permit

### CMV – commercial motor vehicle

A motor vehicle or combination of vehicles used to transport passengers or property if any of the following apply.

1. The combination of vehicles has a GCWR of 26,001 or more pounds provided the towed vehicle has a GVWR of 10,001 or more pounds.
2. The motor vehicle has a GVWR of 26,001 or more pounds.
3. The motor vehicle has a GVWR less than 26,001 pounds and is designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver; or is redesigned or modified to transport fewer than 16 persons with disabilities.
4. The motor vehicle has a GVWR less than 26,001 pounds and is used to transport placardable amounts of hazardous materials (HAZMAT).

### FMCSA – Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

### GCWR – gross combination weight rating.

The combined gross vehicle weight ratings of two or more units. ( ex. GVWR of power unit + GVWR of trailer = GCWR)

### GVWR – gross vehicle weight rating.

This is the manufacturer's rating of the maximum load plus the weight of the vehicle. The GVWR label may be located in the cab, on the trailer hitch, or on the front of the trailer.

### Hazardous material

A substance or material that has been determined by the U.S. Department of Transportation to be capable of posing an unreasonable risk to health, safety, and property when transported in commerce, and which has been so designated.

### Interstate commerce

Moving goods or passengers across a state line, including international boundaries, or wholly within one state as part of a through movement that originates or terminates in another state or country.

### Intrastate commerce

Moving goods or passengers solely within the state of Iowa provided those goods and passengers originate in Iowa and their destination is within Iowa.

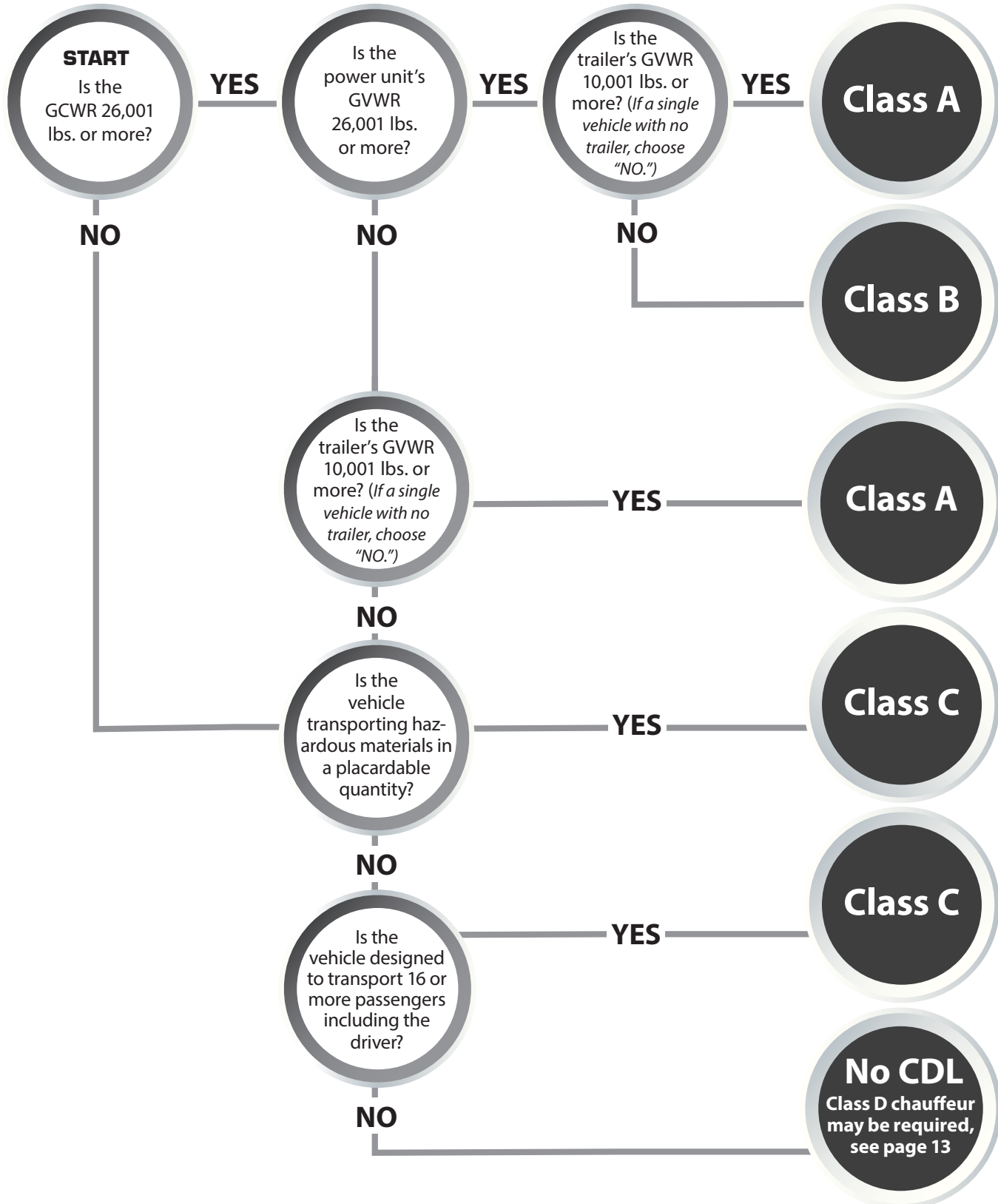
# Determining the CDL class needed

## CDL class type quick reference diagram

**GVWR:** weight of an individual power unit, trailer, or other towed unit.

**GCWR:** combined weight of the two vehicles that make up a combination vehicle.

$GVWR (\text{Power Unit}) + GVWR (\text{Trailer}) = GCWR$

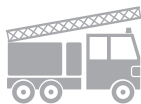


## Who is exempt from holding a CDL in Iowa?



### Firefighter and police officer

A volunteer or paid firefighter while operating a fire vehicle or a peace officer operating a commercial motor vehicle while executing related emergency governmental functions.



### Military

Active duty military personnel while operating equipment owned or operated by the U.S. Department of Defense.



### Recreational vehicle/motor home

A person operating a recreational vehicle for personal or family use or a person operating a vehicle with less than 26,001 GVWR towing a travel trailer or fifth-wheel trailer for personal or family use.



### Farmer

A farmer or person working for a farmer operating a covered farm vehicle. Covered farm vehicles must be identified in one of the following ways: a special farm license plate, an "F" sticker on the license plate, or drivers must carry a completed "Designation as Iowa Covered Farm Vehicle" form in the covered farm vehicle during operation. A Class D chauffeur's license is required if the covered farm vehicle is a truck-tractor/semitrailer combination. (See more information about Class D licenses on page 13). For more information about covered farm vehicles, visit: [iowadot.gov/farmersafety/map-21-covered-farm-vehicle-exceptions](https://www.iowadot.gov/farmersafety/map-21-covered-farm-vehicle-exceptions)



### Home care

An in-home care aide operating a motor vehicle in the course of the in-home care aide's duties.

## Requirements to obtain a CDL

- Be at least age 18.
- Provide proof of full name, date of birth, and Social Security number.
- Proof of citizenship or lawful permanent residency.
- Provide proof of Iowa residency
- Vision screening
- Hold a CLP (commercial learner's permit) for at least 14 days prior to application for CDL
- An interstate driving record check will be performed for all CDL applicants; the check must show the applicant is eligible for commercial licensing in all other states.

### Knowledge tests

The knowledge test(s) that an applicant is required to take depends on the type of license, including any endorsements, the driver is applying for.

(number of questions/allowed to miss):

General knowledge for any CDL	(50/10)
Combination vehicle for Class A	(20/04)
Air brake	(25/05)
Passenger	(20/04)
School bus	(20/04)
Doubles/Triples	(20/04)
Hazmat	(30/06)
Tank	(20/04)
Iowa operator (if applicable)	(25/05)

- **Skills test** – You must provide a vehicle representing the type and class of license you are applying for. **There are three phases of tests:**
  1. **Pre-trip vehicle inspection skills.**  
Review section 11 in the CDL Manual  
<https://forms.iowadot.gov/FormsMgt/External/430004.pdf>
  2. **Basic vehicle control skills (turning and backing maneuvers).**  
See section 12 of the CDL manual.  
<https://forms.iowadot.gov/FormsMgt/External/430004.pdf>
  3. **Safe on-road driving skills.**  
See section 13 of the CDL manual.  
<https://forms.iowadot.gov/FormsMgt/External/430004.pdf>

*The use of interpreters and/or translators is prohibited by federal law. However, the knowledge test may be administered in a written form, verbally, or in an automated format and can be administered in a foreign language, provided no interpreter is used in administering the test.*



# Commercial Learner's Permit (CLP) Requirements

FMCSA regulations require all drivers applying for a CDL for the first time to obtain a Commercial Learner's Permit (CLP). A CLP is also required for applicants who wish to upgrade their existing CDL by adding an endorsement or removing a restriction and doing so requires a skills test.

## Upgrades that require a skills test include:

- Upgrade from a Class C CDL to a Class B CDL or Class A CDL
- Upgrade from a Class B CDL to a Class A CDL
- Add an endorsement for passenger vehicles
- Add an endorsement to operate a school bus
- Remove a restriction that only permits a CDL holder to operate CMVs without air brakes
- Remove a restriction that only permits a CDL holder to operate CMVs without full air brakes (i.e. driver may operate CMV with air over hydraulic brake system)
- Remove a restriction that only permits a CDL holder to operate CMVs that are not a tractor-trailer combination
- Remove a restriction that only permits a CDL holder to operate CMVs with automatic transmissions
- Remove a restriction related to passenger and school bus vehicles that limits the driver to Class B or Class C vehicles when operating passenger vehicles or school buses

**1** Individual passes required knowledge test(s). Iowa DOT issues the individual a CLP.

**2** Individual uses CLP for behind-the-wheel training for at least 14 DAYS.

**3** Individual takes required driving test. If successful, Iowa DOT issues the individual a CDL.

The purpose of the CLP is to allow accompanied behind-the-wheel training in a type and class of Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) that the individual's current license (commercial or noncommercial) is not valid to operate.

To obtain a CLP, a person will be required to pass the appropriate knowledge test(s) for the CMV they wish to operate.

The CLP will specify the type and class of CMV the individual may operate when accompanied by a person that holds a CDL valid for the same type and class of CMV. **Individuals must hold the CLP for at least fourteen days before they may take the required skills (driving) test.**

For more information about CLPs, please visit [iowadot.gov/mvd/cdl/commercial-learner-s-permit](http://iowadot.gov/mvd/cdl/commercial-learner-s-permit)

# CDL licensing

This chart offers another way to look at what type of CDL is required for some common commercial motor vehicles.

## CDL vehicle/license classification system

### Type A vehicle/ Class A CDL

Any combination of vehicles with a GCWR of 26,001 or more pounds, provided the GVWR of the vehicle(s) being towed is in excess of 10,000 pounds.

Examples include, but are not limited to:



*Class A license holders may, with appropriate endorsements, operate vehicles within types B and C.*

### Type B vehicle/Class B CDL

Any single vehicle with a GVWR of 26,001 or more pounds, or any such vehicle towing a vehicle not in excess of 10,000 pounds GVWR.

Examples include, but are not limited to:



*Class B license holders may, with appropriate endorsements, operate vehicles within Type C.*

### Type C vehicle/Class C CDL

Any single vehicle, or combination of vehicles, that meets neither the definition of Type A nor Type B but is designed to transport 16 or more passengers including the driver; or is redesigned or modified to transport fewer than 16 persons with disabilities.

This also applies to vehicles not meeting the Type A or B definitions but are used in the transport of placardable amounts of hazardous materials.

Examples include, but are not limited to:














### CDL fees: \$8 per year

(initial and renewal) plus applicable endorsement or restriction fees.











*The holder of a Class A, B, or C CDL may also operate passenger cars and other non-CMV's, except a motorcycle, without additional licensing.*

# CDL Licensing and Passenger Vehicle Configurations

This chart offers an alternative way of determining which type of CDL license you require by use of towed GVWR, GCWR, and power unit GVWR. Additionally, there is guidance on Iowa driver licensing requirements for some common passenger vehicles.

Iowa driver's licensing requirements for some common truck configurations						
Power unit GVWR		Towed vehicle GVWR		GCWR		License class
		Less than 10,001 pounds	10,001 pounds or more	Less than 26,001 pounds	26,001 pounds or more	
	Less than 16,001 lbs.			<b>X</b>		C noncommercial
	16,001 to 26,000 lbs.			<b>X</b>		D noncommercial
	26,001 lbs. or more				<b>X</b>	B CDL
	Less than 16,001 lbs.	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>		C noncommercial
	Less than 16,001 lbs.		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		C noncommercial
	Less than 16,001 lbs.		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	A CDL
	16,001 to 26,000 lbs.	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>		D noncommercial
	16,001 to 26,000 lbs.		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	A CDL
	26,001 lbs. or more	<b>X</b>			<b>X</b>	B CDL
	26,001 lbs. or more		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	A CDL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR):</b> weight specified by the manufacturer as the loaded weight of a single vehicle.</li> <li><b>Gross combination weight rating (GCWR):</b> combined weights specified by the manufacturer as the loaded weight of each vehicle in a combination of vehicles.</li> </ul>						
 The towed vehicle affects license class.						

## Iowa driver's licensing requirements for some common passenger vehicles

Typical vehicle	Seating capacity*	Driver status		GVWR		License class
		Volunteer	Paid	Less than 26,001 lbs	26,001 or more lbs	
	Less than 16	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>		C noncommercial
	Less than 16		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		D noncommercial
 <i>before Jan. 1, 2017</i> <b>See Chauffeur's License page 13</b>	Less than 16		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		D noncommercial
 <i>Jan. 1, 2017 and after</i> <b>See Chauffeur's License page 13</b>	7-15		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		D noncommercial
 <i>Jan. 1, 2017 and after</i> <b>See Chauffeur's License page 13</b>	Less than 7		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		C noncommercial
<b>Ridesharing Vehicle</b> <i>Jan. 1, 2017 and after</i> <i>(any personal vehicle used for ridesharing such as Uber, Lyft, etc.)</i> <b>See Ridesharing Services page 13</b>	Less than 16		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		C noncommercial
	16 or more	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		C CDL
	16 or more	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	B CDL
	16 or more	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	B CDL
	16 or more	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	B CDL
	16 or more	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	B CDL

\* Seating capacity includes the driver.




- **Gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR):** weight specified by the manufacturer as the loaded weight of a single vehicle.
- A Class C noncommercial license is the basic driver's license.



## Typical tow truck configurations

The type of license required when driving the tow truck only, without a towed vehicle, may be different from the license required when the tow truck is towing another vehicle, depending upon the weight of the towed vehicle.

This chart shows the license required for the tow truck alone and the license required when the tow truck is towing another vehicle.

Iowa driver's licensing: Typical tow truck configurations					
Tow Truck Alone	Vehicle GVWR		License Class		
 <b>Example 1</b>	Less than 16,001 lbs.		C noncommercial		
 <b>Example 2</b>	16,001 to 26,000 lbs.		D noncommercial		
 <b>Example 3</b>	26,001 lbs. or more		B CDL		
Tow Truck Example (above)	Towed Vehicle GVWR		GCWR		License Class (tow truck plus towed vehicle)
	Less than 10,001 lbs.	10,001 lbs. or more	Less than 26,001 lbs.	26,001 lbs. or more	
1	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>		C noncommercial
1		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		C noncommercial
1		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	A CDL
2	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>		D noncommercial
2		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	A CDL
3	<b>X</b>			<b>X</b>	B CDL
3		<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	A CDL

### Notes:

A driver who tows a vehicle in an emergency "first move" from the site of a vehicle malfunction or accident on a highway to the nearest appropriate repair facility is not required to have the endorsement(s) applicable to the towed vehicle. In any subsequent move, a driver who tows a vehicle from one repair or disposal facility to another is required to have the endorsement(s) applicable to the towed vehicle with one exception: a tow truck driver is not required to have a passenger endorsement to tow a passenger vehicle.

## CDL and CLP endorsements

### **P (passenger) FEE: \$10**

Required for any vehicle rated for 16 or more people, including the operator, or originally designed for 16 or more people, but altered to provide space for passengers with disabilities. Knowledge and driving test required.

### **S (school bus) FEE: \$10**

Required when transporting pre-primary, primary, or secondary school students in a yellow school bus. The passenger endorsement is always required. Knowledge and driving test.

### **H (hazardous materials [hazmat]) FEE: \$5**

Required for operating any vehicle carrying a quantity of hazardous materials requiring placarding. Knowledge test for initial issuance or out-of-state hazmat endorsement transfer, renewal, and upgrade required.

CDL holders applying for an Iowa DOT hazardous materials endorsement must have a valid Transportation Security Administration's Security Threat Assessment. The Iowa DOT does not administer this program. For information about the assessment, call the TSA at 855-347-8371 or visit: [www.hazprints.com](http://www.hazprints.com). Knowledge test required.

### **T (doubles/triples) FEE: \$5**

Required when pulling multiple trailers. Knowledge test required.

- Note: Iowa law does not permit the operation of triple trailers; however, a driver whose home state is Iowa may obtain the endorsement to haul a triple trailer in those jurisdictions where they are legal

### **N (tank) FEE: \$5**

Required for vehicles with a permanent or temporarily attached tank or tanks with an individual rated capacity of more than 119 gallons and a combined rated capacity of 1,000 gallons. This does not include vehicles transporting an empty storage tank with a rated capacity of 1,000 gallons or more that is not designated for transportation and is temporarily attached to a flatbed trailer.

### **X (tank and hazmat)**

Both the tanker knowledge test and the hazmat knowledge tests are required and the endorsements are paid for separately (see above for fee information).

- Note: the hazmat endorsement fee is charged at each renewal. All other endorsement fees are only charged one time when the driver obtains the endorsement for the first time. This does not apply to individuals reinstating endorsements on their CDL. A reinstatement of endorsements will accrue endorsement fees at time of issuance.

## CDL and CLP restrictions

### The following restrictions may apply to a CDL or a CLP

**E – No manual transmission equipped CMV.** This restriction applies to a licensee who performs the skills test in a vehicle equipped with automatic transmission and prohibits the operation of a commercial motor vehicle equipped with a manual transmission

**K – Intrastate only.** This restriction applies to a licensee who self-certifies to non-excepted intrastate or excepted intrastate driving and prohibits the operation of a commercial motor vehicle in interstate commerce. For more information about medical certification requirements visit <http://iowadot.gov/mvd/cdl/medical-cards-and-certification>.

**L – no air brake equipped CMV.** This restriction applies to a licensee who either fails the air brake component of the knowledge test or performs the skills test in a vehicle not equipped with air brakes and prohibits the operation of a commercial motor vehicle equipped with an air brake system.

**M – no Class A passenger vehicle.** This restriction applies to a licensee who applies for a passenger endorsement and performs the skills test in a passenger vehicle that requires a Class B commercial driver's license and prohibits operation of a passenger vehicle that requires a Class A commercial driver's license.

**N – no Class A and B passenger vehicle.** This restriction applies to a licensee who applies for a passenger endorsement and performs the skills test in a passenger vehicle that requires a Class C commercial driver's license and prohibits operation of a passenger vehicle that requires a Class A or Class B commercial driver's license.

**O – No tractor-trailer CMV.** This restriction applies to a licensee who performs the skills test in a combination vehicle for a Class A commercial driver's license with the power unit and towed unit connected with a pintle hook or other non-fifth wheel connection and prohibits operation of a tractor-trailer combination connected by a fifth wheel

**V – medical variance.** This restriction applies to a licensee when the department is notified that the driver has been issued a medical variance and indicates there is information about a medical variance on the driver record accessible to law enforcement.

**Z – No full air brake equipped CMV.** This restriction applies to a licensee who performs the skills test in a vehicle equipped with air over hydraulic brakes and prohibits the operation of a commercial motor vehicle equipped with any braking system operating fully on the air brake principle

### The following additional restrictions may *only be applied to a CLP*

**P – no passengers in CMV bus.** This restriction applies to a permit holder who has a commercial learner's permit with a passenger or school bus endorsement and prohibits the operation of a commercial motor vehicle carrying passengers, other than federal/state auditors and inspectors, test examiners, other trainees, and the commercial driver's license holder accompanying the permit holder

**X – no cargo in CMV tank vehicle.** This restriction applies to a permit holder who has a commercial learner's permit with a tank vehicle endorsement and prohibits the operation of any tank vehicle containing cargo or any tank vehicle that previously contained hazardous materials that has not been purged of any residue.

## Restricted CDL

A restricted CDL may be issued to suppliers or employees of suppliers of agricultural inputs. Agricultural inputs means applicators of agricultural chemicals, fertilizer, seed, or animal feeds. The applicant may operate Class B or Class C vehicles, but not a Class A combination vehicle.

The applicant must have two years of driving experience with a license permitting at least two years of unaccompanied driving. This does not include a motorized bicycle license, a minor's school license, or a minor's restricted license.

Additionally, the applicant must have a good driving record for the most recent two-year period. A "good driving record" means a driving record showing:

- No multiple licenses.
- No driver's license suspensions, revocations, disqualifications, denials, bars, or cancellations of any kind.
- No convictions in any type of motor vehicle for:
  - Driving under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance.
  - Leaving the scene of an accident.
  - Committing any felony involving a motor vehicle.
  - Speeding 15 miles per hour or more over the posted speed limit.
  - Reckless driving, drag racing, or eluding or attempting to elude a law enforcement officer.
  - Improper or erratic lane changes.
  - Following too closely.
  - A moving violation that contributed to a motor vehicle accident.
  - A violation deemed serious under 761 IAC 615.17(321).
- No record of contributive accidents

A restricted CDL is valid for a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) requiring tank, air brake, and hazardous materials endorsements/restrictions; but no CDL knowledge or driving tests will be required, nor will endorsement fees be charged, and no CDL endorsements/restrictions will show on the license.

Restricted CDL holders may operate between the place of business and the farm currently being serviced, but not to exceed 150 miles from the place of business.

Individual periods that are less than 180 days may be taken in 60 or 90 day increments, provided the cumulative period of validity in the calendar year does not exceed 180 days. An individual period of validity may be extended by 30 days, provided the application for extension is made before the individual period expires and again provided the cumulative period of validity in the calendar year does not exceed 180 days. (An application for extension that is made after an individual period expires will be treated as an application for a new individual period.)

A restricted commercial driver's license must be validated for commercial motor vehicle operation for each individual period of validity. This means that the licensee must have their good driving record confirmed and a new card issued at each application for an individual period of validity.

### Examples:

**Driver A** elects a single restricted CDL valid for 180 days, beginning March 15 and continuing through Sept. 11. Driver A will go to a driver's license issuance site for the restricted CDL before it is issued to confirm his good driving record and be issued the card, and after the restricted CDL expires will not be eligible for an extension or another restricted CDL until the next calendar year.

**Driver B** elects to divide her 180 days for the calendar year into two 90-day periods, one beginning March 1 and continuing through May 29, and one beginning Sept. 1 and continuing through Nov. 29. Driver B will go to a driver's license issuance site for each restricted CDL before it is issued to confirm her good driving record and be issued the card, and after the second restricted CDL expires will not be eligible for an extension or another restricted CDL until the next calendar year.

**Driver C** elects to divide his 180 days for the calendar year into three 60-day periods, one beginning April 10 and continuing through June 9; one beginning Aug. 14 and continuing through Oct. 13; and one beginning Nov. 1 and continuing through Dec. 29. Driver C will go to a driver's license issuance site for each restricted CDL before it is issued to confirm his good driving record and be issued the card, and after the third restricted CDL expires will not be eligible for an extension or another restricted CDL until the next calendar year.

**Driver D** initially applies for a restricted CDL that is valid for 90 days, beginning March 20 and continuing through June 18, but because of flooding decides to extend that period of validity by 30 days to July 18. Driver D expended 120 days of her total 180 days for the calendar year, and would be eligible only for a second restricted CDL valid for a period of 60 days the remainder of the calendar year.

### The only hazardous materials allowed to be carried with a restricted CDL:

- **Liquid fertilizers**, such as anhydrous ammonia, in quantities of 3,000 gallons or less.
- **Solid fertilizers**, such as ammonium nitrate, provided they are not mixed with any organic substance.

The cost of a restricted CDL is \$8 per year. Each time the driver comes in to update the validation period there will be a \$10 charge and a complete search of the applicant's driving record.

When the driver is not operating a CMV, he/she can only drive the types of vehicles he/she was valid for before the restricted CDL was issued. That license type will be indicated on the restriction supplement. A person already holding a CDL or commercial learner's permit is not eligible for a restricted CDL.

## Tickets/Violations

Federal regulations require that Iowa licensed commercial drivers must report **all** violations (except parking violations) to their employers within 30 days of conviction, whether the driver was operating a commercial or noncommercial vehicle.

The drivers must also notify Driver & Identification Services, Iowa Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 9204, Des Moines, Iowa 50306-9204 of any out-of-state violations received (except parking violations) in commercial or noncommercial vehicles.

Unemployed drivers should notify Driver & Identification Services of all violations (except parking violations). Information required in this notification includes date, location (town and state), driver's name, driver's license number, driver's signature, nature of violation, and type of vehicle operated. Individual drivers should determine if the requirements of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's regulations in the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations 383.31 and 391.27 apply to them.

## Disqualifications

Federal regulations require that certain offenses committed in a CMV or non-CMV will result in a CDL holder's disqualification for specified periods of time, up to and including possible lifetime disqualification. For further information on specific disqualification reasons, please refer to CFR 383.51 or refer to our CDL manual online at <https://forms.iowadot.gov/FormsMgt/External/430004.pdf>.

## Open Container law

Iowa law and federal safety regulations prevent the driver of any commercial vehicle from having **opened or unopened** alcohol in the vehicle. The penalty for a violation is a fine and 24-hours out-of-service.

It is illegal in Iowa to drive with an open container of beer or any other alcoholic beverage if the open container is in the passenger compartment, including the glove compartment of a noncommercial vehicle. This applies to both drivers and passengers.

The penalty for violating this open container law can be a \$100 fine or 30 days in jail.

***A work permit (temporary restricted license) may not be used to operate a CMV.***

## Class D chauffeur's license requirements

Class D license fees: \$8 per year (initial and renewal)

The Class D (chauffeur's) license is NOT valid as a CDL.

Iowa law requires the following drivers to possess a Class D (chauffeur's) license unless they possess a CDL valid for the vehicle when:

- Transporting 15 or fewer persons, including driver, for wages, compensation, or hire.
- Operating a covered farm vehicle if the vehicle is a truck-tractor/semitrailer combination. Visit [iowadot.gov/farmersafety/map-21-covered-farm-vehicle-exceptions](http://iowadot.gov/farmersafety/map-21-covered-farm-vehicle-exceptions) for more information about covered farm vehicles.
- Operating a single vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) specified by the manufacturer of 16,001 to 26,000 pounds.

Persons exempt from Class D (chauffeur's) license requirements are:

- Military personnel while on active duty and while operating military vehicles.
- A farmer or farmer's hired help while operating a truck, other than a truck-tractor/semitrailer, owned by the farmer and used to transport the farmer's own products or property.
- A person operating a farm tractor or implement of husbandry to or from the home farm to any adjacent or nearby land.
- A volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance driver while operating a fire, ambulance, or rescue vehicle.
- An Iowa Department of Corrections or Department of Human Services employee transporting persons in an automobile.

The Class D (chauffeur's) license will have an endorsement on the license according to the type of vehicle in which the test was taken.

### Class D (chauffeur's) endorsements

1. Truck-tractor semitrailer combination. (Also valid for endorsements 2 and 3.)
2. Vehicle with GVWR 16,001 or more pounds (not to exceed 26,000 pounds), not valid for truck-tractor semitrailer combination. (Also valid for endorsement 3.)
3. Passenger vehicle designed to carry 15 or fewer persons, including the driver.

A Class D license is also valid to operate a private passenger car or other vehicles, except a motorcycle or a vehicle requiring specific licensing to operate.

Applicants must pass the General Knowledge exam to obtain any Class D chauffeur's license. A driving test will be required to obtain the "2" endorsement listed above and may be required to obtain the "3" endorsement.








### Beginning January 1, 2017

**Ridesharing Services:** A person driving a personal, noncommercial vehicle as a rideshare driver to offer or provide prearranged rides through a digital network controlled by a ridesharing company (for instance, Uber or Lyft) in return for compensation or payment or fee is **not** required to obtain a Class D Chauffeur's license and may drive for that purpose with a Class C noncommercial driver's license.

**Taxicab drivers:** A person operating a taxicab with a seating capacity of less than seven persons that is not being operated on a regular route or between specified points is **not** required to obtain a Class D chauffeur's license and may drive for that purpose with a Class C noncommercial driver's license.



## Examples of vehicles that require a Class D license

	Farm semitrailer or truck-tractor operated by a farmer or employee of a farmer engaged in their own farming operations
  	16,001-26,000 lbs. GVWR trucks
  	Passenger vehicles and school buses with a seating capacity of 15 or fewer (including the driver)

## CDL Testing

The CDL skill/driving tests are given Tuesday through Saturday at the Iowa DOT's driver's license stations. Some Iowa county treasurer's offices also offer the CDL skill/driving tests.

**Visit:** [iowadot.gov/mvd/iowa-dot-locations](http://iowadot.gov/mvd/iowa-dot-locations)

to locate the testing site nearest you, and find additional information such as hours.

### Contact Information

**Driver & Identification Services :** 515-244-8725 or 515-244-9124

**Office of Motor Vehicle Enforcement – Commercial vehicle information:** 515-237-3305

**Office of Vehicle & Motor Carrier Services:** 515-237-3264

**All CDL holders must certify how they use or intend to use their commercial motor vehicle and may be required to submit a medical certificate to the DOT.**

You will be asked to certify before you are issued a Commercial Learner's Permit. Please visit [iowadot.gov/mvd/cdl/medical-cards-and-certification](http://iowadot.gov/mvd/cdl/medical-cards-and-certification) for more information about these requirements so you are prepared to make this selection.

## CDL/CLP testing study guide

The following may not be used during the actual test, however, this document at this link can be:  
[iowadot.gov/mvd/motorcarriers/cdl\\_pretrip.pdf](http://iowadot.gov/mvd/motorcarriers/cdl_pretrip.pdf)

### ALL VEHICLES

#### Engine Start

- Safety belt
- Emergency equipment
- Safe start
- Temperature gauge
- Oil pressure gauge
- Ammeter/voltmeter
- Air pressure gauge
- Lighting indicators
- Horn(s)
- Heater/defroster
- Windshield/mirrors
- Windshield wipers
- Parking brake check
- Service brake / ABS
- [Air brake/hydraulic brake check](#)

### ALL COMBINATION VEHICLES

#### TRUCK

- Air/electric connectors

#### Coupling System

- Mounting bolts
- Pintle hook
- Hitch release lever
- Safety devices

#### TRAILER

- Air/electric connectors and lines
- Tongue storage area

#### Coupling System

- Tongue/drawbar
- Mounting bolts
- Safety devices
- Sliding pintle

#### TRACTOR

- Air/electric connectors and lines

#### Coupling System

- Mounting bolts
- Platform
- Locking jaws/lever
- Release arm/safety latch
- 5th wheel skid plate
- Sliding 5th wheel pins

#### SEMI-TRAILER

- Air/electric connectors

#### Coupling System

- Kingpin
- Apron
- Gap

### FRONT OF VEHICLE

- Lights/reflectors

#### Engine Compartment

- Oil level
- Coolant level
- Power steering
- Water pump
- Alternator
- Air compressor
- Hoses/lines

#### Steering

- Steering box/Steering linkage

#### Front Wheel

- Tires
- Rims
- Lug nuts
- Hub oil seal

#### Front Suspension

- Springs/shocks
- U-bolts
- Spring mounts

#### Front Brake

- Hoses/lines
- Brake chamber
- Slack adjuster
- Drum/rotor/disk

### FUEL AREA/UNDER/SIDE/REAR

#### Driver/Fuel Area

- Door/mirror
- Fuel tank
- Catwalk/steps
- Lights/reflectors

#### Under Vehicle

- Drive shaft
- Exhaust system
- Frame

#### Rear Wheels

- Tires
- Rims
- Lug nuts
- Axle seal
- Spacers/bud spacing

#### Rear Suspension

- Springs/airbags/shocks/U-bolts
- Mounts-springs/air/torque

#### Rear Brakes

- Hoses/lines
- Brake chamber
- Slack adjuster
- Drum/rotor/disk

### BACK OF VEHICLE

- Doors/ties/lift
- Splash guards
- Lights/reflectors

### TRAILER/SEMI TRAILER

#### Trailer Front

- Header board/bulkhead
- Lights/reflectors

#### Side of Trailer

- Landing gear
- Frame/tandem release
- Doors/ties/lift
- Lights/reflectors

#### Wheels

- Tires
- Rims
- Lug nuts
- Axle/hub oil seal
- Spacers/bud spacing

#### Suspension

- Springs/air bags/shocks
- U-bolts
- Mounts-springs/air/torque

#### Brakes

- Hoses/lines
- Brake chamber
- Slack adjuster
- Drum/rotor/disk

#### Rear of Trailer

- Doors/ties/lift
- Splash guards
- Lights/reflectors/ABS

### ALL PASSENGER VEHICLES

#### PASSENGER ITEMS

- Passenger entry/lift
- Emergency exits
- Seating

#### BAGGAGE COMPARTMENT

- Doors/compartments)

#### STUDENT LIGHTS

- Student lights

#### STUDENT SAFETY ITEMS

- Stop arm/safety arm
- Student mirrors
- Emergency kit/body fluid kit

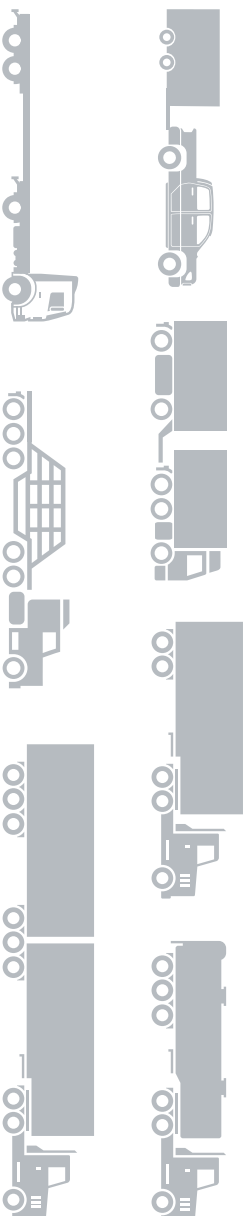
# CDL Classifications

## Representative Vehicle Examples

### CLASS A CDL

Any **combination of vehicles** with a GVWR of 26,001 or more lbs. provided the **GVWR of the vehicle(s) being towed is in excess of 10,000 lbs.**

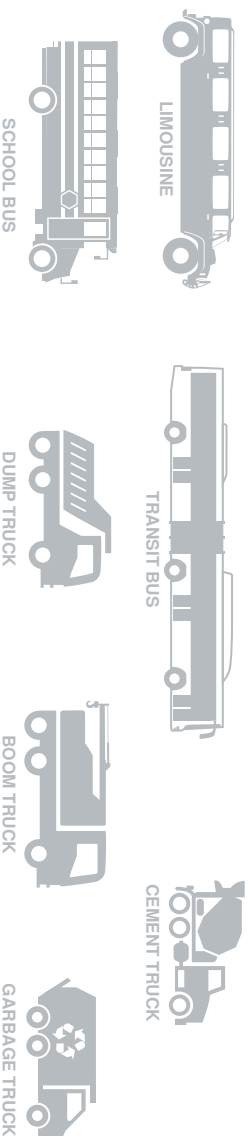
*A common Class A vehicle is a tractor trailer also known as a semi.*



### CLASS B CDL

Any **single vehicle** with a GVWR of 26,001 or more lbs. or **any such vehicle towing a vehicle NOT in excess of 10,000 lbs. GVWR.**

*Common vehicles include school buses, dump trucks and straight trucks.*



### CLASS C CDL

Any single vehicle, or combination of vehicles, that **does not meet the definition of Class A or B**, but is either **designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver, or is placarded for hazardous materials.**



## COMMERCIAL LEARNER'S PERMIT (CLP)

You must have a CLP for at least 14 days before getting an initial CDL or a CDL upgrade, if it requires a skills test.

You can't take a skills test during the first 14 days after issuance. Scheduling a skills test when issuing the CLP is OK, as long as it is scheduled 15 days or more after the CLP was issued.

Your CLP is valid for one year from the date of issuance, with no renewal period.

## NEW RESTRICTIONS

- E** – No manual transmission equipped CMV
- O** – No tractor-trailer CMV (see below)
- Z** – No full air brake equipped CMV

***Drivers must test in a representative vehicle.***



## CDL RENEWALS

### (PROOF OF LAWFUL PRESENCE)

***U.S. citizens are only required to show proof of lawful presence one time.*** When renewing their CDL, drivers will need to **bring one of the following documents:**

- Certified copy of US Birth Certificate
- Valid US Passport
- Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA)
- Certificate of Naturalization
- Certificate of Citizenship
- Permanent resident card
- Employment authorization document (EAD) or I-94 document

Licensing requirements		Possible endorsements and restrictions that may be added to the license based on the type of vehicle driven	
KNOWLEDGE TESTS REQUIRED	REQUIRED TESTING	POSSIBLE ENDORSEMENT	POSSIBLE RESTRICTIONS ■ Blue Text - Restrictions only added to a CLP
<b>CLASS A</b>  General Knowledge knowledge exam  Combination Vehicle-knowledge exam  Air brake – knowledge exam (if applicable)	    Pre-Trip Inspection Basic Skills Road Test	    <b>H</b> – Hazardous Materials <b>N</b> – Tank Vehicle <b>T</b> – Doubles/Triples <b>X</b> – Hazmat & Tank comb	    <b>E</b> – No manual transmission equipped CMV <b>K</b> – CDL Intrastate Only <b>L</b> – No air brake equipped CMV <b>M</b> – No Class A passenger vehicle <b>N</b> – No Class A & B passenger vehicle <b>O</b> – No tractor trailer CMV <b>V</b> – CDL Medical Variance <b>X</b> – <b>No cargo in a CMV tank vehicle</b> <b>Z</b> – No full airbrake equipped CMV
<b>CLASS B</b>  General Knowledge – knowledge exam  Air brake – knowledge exam (if applicable)	    Pre-Trip Inspection Basic Skills Road Test  Adding the following endorsements always requires pretrip/ skills/road testing:	    <b>H</b> – Hazardous Material <b>N</b> – Tank Vehicle <b>P</b> – Passenger Vehicle <b>S</b> – School Bus <b>X</b> – Hazmat & Tank comb	    <b>E</b> – No manual transmission equipped CMV <b>K</b> – CDL Intrastate Only <b>L</b> – No air brake equipped CMV <b>N</b> – No Class A & B passenger vehicle <b>P</b> – <b>No Passengers in a CMV Bus</b> <b>V</b> – CDL Medical Variance <b>X</b> – <b>No cargo in a CMV tank vehicle</b> <b>Z</b> – No full airbrake equipped CMV
<b>CLASS C</b>  General Knowledge – knowledge exam  Air brake – knowledge exam (if applicable)	    Pre-Trip Inspection Basic Skills Road Test  Adding the following endorsements always requires pretrip/ skills/road testing:	    <b>H</b> – Hazardous Materials <b>N</b> – Tank Vehicle <b>P</b> – Passenger Vehicle <b>S</b> – School Bus <b>X</b> – Hazmat & Tank comb	    <b>E</b> – No manual transmission equipped CMV <b>K</b> – CDL Intrastate Only <b>L</b> – No air brake equipped CMV <b>P</b> – <b>No Passengers in a CMV Bus</b> <b>V</b> – CDL Medical Variance <b>X</b> – <b>No Cargo in a CMV tank vehicle</b> <b>Z</b> – No full airbrake equipped CMV





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Federal and state laws prohibit employment and/or public accommodation discrimination on the basis of age, color, creed, disability, gender identity, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran's status. If you believe you have been discriminated against, please contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission at 800-457-4416 or Iowa Department of Transportation's affirmative action officer. If you need accommodations because of a disability to access the Iowa Department of Transportation's services, contact the agency's affirmative action officer at 800-262-0003.