

STANDARD 4
CLASSIFIED DRIVER LICENSING SYSTEM

Although this Standard appears in the *National Safety Code for Motor Carriers*, it is important to note that it applies to all drivers, including commercial drivers.

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CLASSIFIED DRIVER LICENSING SYSTEM

INTRODUCTION

The Classified Driver Licensing System is comprised of seven distinct classes, each designating a certain type of vehicle in accordance with the degree of capability necessary for its operation.

Class 7

This is designed as a Learner/Instructional Driver Licence. It is generally issued to those persons who desire either private or professional driver training.

This licence authorizes the holder to operate a motor vehicle other than a motorcycle while accompanied by a driver holding the class of licence required to operate the vehicle in which training is being given. Jurisdictions which do not issue instruction permits to operate motorcycles would exclude this type of vehicle from Class 7. Those issuing instruction permits permitting the operation of motorcycles would be required either to issue a separate instruction permit specifically authorizing the operation of motorcycles, or to endorse the classified licence.

Age: Left to the discretion of each jurisdiction.

Reciprocity: It is not recommended that reciprocity be extended to this class of licence.

Class 6

This licence class permits the operation of motorcycles, motor-scooters or minibikes only. Any other class of licence must be endorsed to include Class 6 before the holder may operate a motorcycle, motor-scooter or minibike.

Age: Left to the discretion of each jurisdiction, but reciprocity is applicable only when the holder of this class of licence reaches the age of sixteen.

Reciprocity: It is recommended that this licence, subject to the provision referred to under "Age", be fully reciprocal between jurisdictions.

Class 5

Permits the operation of:

- any two-axle single vehicle;
- any combination of a two-axle towing vehicle and a towed vehicle that does not exceed 4,600 kg;
- any recreational vehicle;
- any bus, taxi or ambulance without passengers;
- any motorcycle known as a moped, but excluding the operation of any other type of motorcycles; and

- any motor vehicle known or described as a tractor, grader, loader, shovel, roller, scraper or any other self-propelled road building machine used for grading or paving of highways or other construction work, but excluding a construction vehicle with more than two axles other than a grader or three-axle compactor. (The operation of a vehicle equipped with air brakes is not allowed unless specifically permitted in the licence.).

Age: Minimum age of sixteen.

Reciprocity: This class of licence shall be fully reciprocal between all jurisdictions.

Class 4

Permits the operation of:

- any bus having a seating capacity of not more than 24 passengers;
- any taxi or emergency response vehicles such as ambulances, fire trucks and police cars; and
- any motor vehicle or combination of vehicles in Class 5.

Age: The minimum age for this class of licence is eighteen. No maximum is established. This standard will not preclude any jurisdiction from establishing a higher standard if it so desires. Jurisdictions may prescribe a maximum age and require drivers to undergo re-examination upon reaching age sixty-five and at such intervals thereafter as may be deemed desirable.

Reciprocity: This class of licence shall be fully reciprocal. Those that have established a maximum age are not under any obligation to extend reciprocity to persons having reached or exceeded the limit.

Class 3

Permits the operation of:

- any single vehicle with three or more axles;
- any motor vehicle or combination of vehicles in Class 5; and
- any combination of vehicles where the towed vehicle does not exceed 4,600 kg.

Age: Minimum age of sixteen, but jurisdictions may establish a higher age.

Reciprocity: This class of licence shall be fully reciprocal between jurisdictions except in those cases where a jurisdiction has established a higher minimum age.

Class 2

Permits the operation of:

- any motor vehicle or combination of vehicles in Classes 5 and 4; and
- any bus of any seating capacity.

Age: Minimum age of eighteen. No maximum is recommended, but jurisdictions may establish one.

Reciprocity: This class of licence shall be fully reciprocal, except in those cases where a jurisdiction has established a higher minimum age or a maximum age. In the latter event, reciprocity shall be accorded only to those licence holders who are within the age limit prescribed by the laws of a particular jurisdiction.

Class 1

Permits the operation of:

- any tractor semi-trailer or truck trailer combination; and
- all vehicles in Classes 5, 4, 3 and 2.

Age: Minimum age of eighteen. No maximum is recommended, but jurisdictions may impose a higher minimum and prescribe a maximum age.

Reciprocity: This licence shall be fully reciprocal between jurisdictions. However, reciprocity shall be limited to those persons whose age falls within the range prescribed by the laws of that jurisdiction.

NOTE:

The above licence classes provide for specific divisions of vehicle types or styles. In some cases, a jurisdiction may desire to subdivide a particular class. For example, Class 2 could be divided in order to distinguish between buses used for transit operation as opposed to those used as school buses. Class 3 could be divided in order to determine the difference between industrial vehicles and ordinary and straight trucks. The mutually agreed method devised is to annotate the basic class numerical designator with an upper case letter. Therefore, in the first example, Class 2A would identify the transit bus operator, while Class 2B would identify the school bus operator.

Class 7, as stated previously, is issued primarily for the purpose of allowing the applicant to undertake driving practice or obtain driving instruction. It has been agreed the person applying for a Class 7 licence must at least qualify to the standards of Class 5, that is, must meet the initial knowledge and vision requirements. However, should the Class 7 licence be issued for a higher licence class (1 through 4), it is recommended that the higher-class vision standards be met and medical assessment be initiated. In addition, it is also highly advantageous to forego the knowledge test part of the examination until the applicant has completed training.

Endorsement to Class 5 or 4 for operators of pickup with gooseneck trailer combinations other than recreational vehicles is permitted under the following conditions:

- it is done in conjunction with Class 5 or 4 only;
- written tests are given to Class 3 standards;
- vision tests meet Class 3 standards;
- medical tests meet Class 3 standards;

- a road test is taken in pickup with gooseneck or similar type trailer; and
- a driver's licence is endorsed upon completion of examination (subject to medical approval).

Please refer to the individual jurisdictions for deviations from the above CCMTA Classified Driver Licensing System.

Air Brake Endorsement

A driver who operates any class of motor vehicle equipped with an air brake system must qualify for an air brake endorsement on his driver's licence.

Air Brake Adjustment Certification

This certification requirement is optional for all drivers involved in intra-jurisdictional operations.

To obtain air brake adjustment certification an applicant must successfully demonstrate his/her ability to inspect, test and adjust the air brake system by means of a practical test.

Training curriculum and/or practical testing criteria must meet or exceed the Canadian Air Brake Standard Curriculum as developed by the Canadian Trucking Alliance.

Certification may be met through testing programs operated or sanctioned by jurisdictional authorities.

Proof of successful completion of the required testing may be reflected as a specific endorsement on the driver licence, incorporated under the existing air brake endorsement, or issuance of separate documentation.