

CHAPTER III: COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE

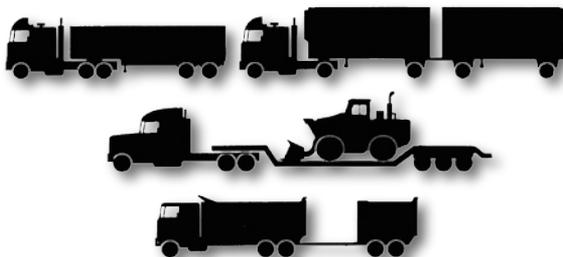
You must acquire a commercial driver's license (CDL) from the Department of Motor Vehicles to drive a commercial vehicle. Nevada and all states have the same minimum licensing standards. Only those drivers with professional knowledge, skills and abilities will be licensed.

CDL Classifications, Endorsements, Restrictions, and Exemptions

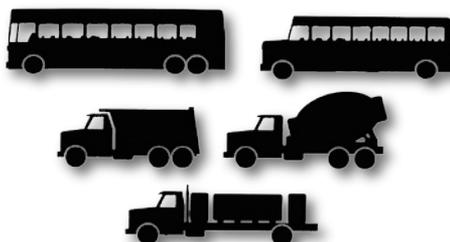
Three classes of commercial driver licenses are available. These licenses come with specific endorsements and restrictions. Also, some vehicles are exempt from CDL requirements.

Classifications

Class "A" Any combination of motor vehicles with a gross combination weight rating (GCWR) of 26,001 pounds or more, provided the vehicle being towed has a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) exceeding 10,000 pounds.



Class "B" Any single vehicle with a GVWR of 26,001 or more pounds, or any such vehicle towing a vehicle not exceeding 10,000 pounds.



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



NOTE: A CDL of any class allows you to drive your personal vehicle. You won't need any other license!

Endorsements

You may need the following CDL endorsements:

- Double/Triple Trailers
- Passengers
- Tankers
- Hazardous Materials
- Hazardous Materials and Tankers

Restrictions

The following CDL restrictions may apply:

- May not operate a vehicle equipped with air brakes
- Towing forklift only
- Transport passengers only in Class B or C vehicle or only in Class C vehicle
- Tow-truck only
- Automatic transmission only
- Intrastate only

Exemptions

You do not need a CDL to operate some vehicles that may fall within the GVWR descriptions. The following are exempt from Nevada CDL requirements:

- Recreational-vehicle drivers using their RV's for non-commercial purposes
- Personnel driving vehicles for military purposes
- Firefighters operating emergency equipment
- Farmers transporting equipment, supplies, or products to or from a farm as long as the vehicle is:
 - Controlled and operated by a farmer, his or her family members or employees.
 - Used within 150 miles of the farm.
 - Not being used as a common or contract motor carrier.
 - Not transporting placarded amounts of hazardous material.

CDL Qualifications

As part of the CDL program you need to meet certain qualifications regarding age, physical condition, and driving record.

Legal Age Requirements

You must be at least 21 years of age to obtain a CDL to operate a commercial motor vehicle in interstate commerce, and 25 years of age or older to drive an overlength combination vehicle (greater than 70 feet). Applicants between 18 to 20 years of age may be granted a CDL to operate a commercial motor vehicle in intrastate commerce. However, 18-to-20-year-olds will not be granted the privilege to transport passengers for hire or transport hazardous materials requiring placards.

NOTE: Like anyone applying for a Nevada driver's license, you will be asked to provide proof of your identity, your age, and your Social Security number. You will also be given a vision test. Please refer to the Nevada Driver's Handbook or your local DMV office for more information.

Medical Examination Requirements

You must be physically examined by a U.S. licensed physician every two years. The doctor will give you a

medical report that must be on a form approved by the DMV. The medical form has to be submitted with your CDL application. Your doctor will also fill out and sign a medical certificate for you to carry with your CDL. You can be cited by law enforcement if you drive commercially with an outdated medical certificate, or if you do not have a current one with you. Your medical form must be filed with the DMV every two years.

Driving Record Requirements

When you apply for your CDL you will be asked to:

- Certify that you do not have a driver license from more than one state.
- Certify that your driver's license is not currently suspended, revoked or canceled in any state, nor subject to any of these actions.
- Surrender your current driver's license.
- Provide proof of your Social Security number.

Before issuing your license, CDL staff will run a nationwide driving-record check.

CDL Renewal

If you are renewing your commercial license you will need to:

- Provide evidence of a current physical examination (long form) dated within the previous two years.
- Pass the Nevada general knowledge test and any other tests required if you have been convicted of two or more moving violations in a commercial motor vehicle, or three or more moving violations in a non-commercial motor carrier within the previous four years. Skills testing may also be required as a result of moving violations.
- If you have a hazardous materials endorsement you must also pass the hazardous materials knowledge test if you wish to keep the endorsement on your CDL.
- Pay the renewal fee of \$56.25 for the knowledge test and \$86.25 if the driving skills test is required.

CDL Instruction Permit

A Nevada commercial instruction permit is issued for a one-year period. It is issued for the purpose of behind-the-wheel training on public roads or highways. Applicants for an *interstate* commercial instruction permit must be at least 21 years of age, and pass the vision and written examinations. Applicants between 18 and 20 years of age may be granted a CDL instruction permit to operate a commercial motor vehicle in intrastate commerce. However, this age group will not be allowed to transport hazardous materials requiring placards or passengers for hire.

The holder of an instruction permit must have a medical examiner's certificate in possession dated within two years, and must be accompanied at all times by a driver who is:

- At least 25 years of age
- Seated next to the driver
- Licensed for the same commercial classification as the permit holder, and who has had the license for at least one year.

CDL Transfer

If you have a valid CDL from another state and want to transfer your license to Nevada, you need to do the following:

- Complete a Nevada CDL application within 30 days of becoming a resident.
- Provide a copy of your medical examination.
- Certify you have only one license and that your license is not currently revoked, suspended or canceled in any state, nor subject to any of these actions.
- Provide proof of Social Security number.

NOTE: Hazardous-materials endorsements may have to be recertified. Check with the CDL examiner.

CDL Upgrades

If you have to change the class or endorsements on your CDL, you need to do the following:

- Complete the new CDL application.
- Pass the knowledge and skills tests that apply.

CDL Fees

The following fees will be charged for CDL testing and licensing:

• Original or transfer that requires knowledge and skills tests	\$86.25
• Original or transfer that requires knowledge tests only	\$56.25
• Duplicate	\$21.25
• Change of information (other than address)	\$11.25
• Added endorsement	\$16.25
• Renewal that requires knowledge tests only	\$56.25
• Renewal that requires knowledge and skills test	\$86.25
• Re-instatement (depending on offense)	\$56.25 or \$86.25
• Instruction Permit	\$56.25
• Drive test (to add or remove a restriction or endorsement)	\$32.25
• Victim's Fee (if convicted of driving under the influence)	\$35.00

NOTE: An additional charge of \$3.00 for written tests and \$25.00 for drive tests will be added if repeated more than twice.

Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Laws

Drinking alcohol or using controlled substances when you are driving a commercial vehicle is against the law (See NRS 484.379). Penalties include:

- For any detectable blood alcohol concentration less than 0.04, you will be put out of service for 24 hours.
- For a BAC of 0.04 or more, you will lose your CDL for one year for a first offense; if hauling hazardous materials you will lose it for three years. You will lose your CDL for life for a second offense.

Office Locations

For CDL application and testing please contact the Field Services Division of the Department of Motor Vehicles at the following locations:

Applications and Knowledge (Written) and Skills Tests

4110 Donovan Way
North Las Vegas, Nevada
89030
(702) 486-5655

3505 Construction Way
Winnemucca, Nevada
89445
(775) 623-6515

P.O. Box 1912
400 Howerton Hill
Tonopah, Nevada 89049
(775) 482-6329

810 East Greg Street
Sparks, Nevada 89431
(775) 688-2535

3290 East Idaho Street
Elko, Nevada
89801
(775) 753-1166

555 Wright Way
Carson City, Nevada
89711
(775) 684-4861

178 North Avenue F
Ely, Nevada 89301
(775) 289-1605

Applications and Knowledge (Written) Tests

973 West Williams Street
Fallon, Nevada 89406
(775) 423-4316

215 West Bridge Street
Yerington, Nevada 89447
(775) 463-3146

1694 County Road
Minden, Nevada 89423
(775) 782-0200

DMV

Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles

Commercial Driver's License Tests

Knowledge (Written) Tests

You will have to take one or more knowledge tests depending on what class of license and what endorsements you need. The CDL knowledge tests include:

- The general knowledge test, taken by all applicants.
- The passenger transport test, taken by all bus driver applicants.
- The air brakes test, which you must take if your vehicle has air brakes.
- The combination-vehicles test, which is required if you want to drive combination vehicles.
- The hazardous-materials test, which is required if you want to haul hazardous materials or waste in amounts which require placarding.
- The tanker test, which is required if you want to haul liquids in bulk.
- The doubles/triples test, which is required if you want to pull double or triple trailers.

Skills Tests

If you pass the required knowledge test(s), you can take the CDL skills tests. There are three types of general skills that will be tested: pre-trip inspection, basic vehicle control, and on-road driving. You must take these tests in the type of vehicle for which you wish to be licensed.

Pre-trip Vehicle Inspection:

You will be tested to see if you know whether your vehicle is safe to drive. You may be asked to do a pre-trip inspection on your vehicle and explain to the examiner what you would inspect and why.

Basic Vehicle Control:

You will be tested on your skill to control the vehicle. You will be asked to move your vehicle forward, backward, and turn it within a defined area. These areas may be marked with traffic lanes, cones, barriers or something similar. The examiner will tell you how each control test is to be done.

On-road Test:

You will be tested on your skill to safely drive your vehicle in a variety of traffic situations. The situations may include left and right turns, intersections, railway crossings, curves, up and down grades, single or multi-lane roads, streets, or highways. The examiner will tell you where to drive.

Other CDL Rules

There are other federal and state rules that affect drivers operating commercial motor vehicles in all states.

- You cannot have more than one license. If you break this rule, a court may fine you up to \$5,000 or put you in jail. Keep your home state license and return any others.
- You must notify your employer within 30 days of conviction for any traffic violations (except parking). This is true no matter what type of vehicle you were driving.
- You must notify your employer if your license is suspended, revoked, or canceled, or if you are disqualified from driving.
- You must give your employer information on all driving jobs you have held for the past 10 years. You must do this when you apply for a commercial driving job.
- No one can drive a commercial vehicle without a CDL. A court may fine you up to \$5,000 or put you in jail for breaking this rule.

- Your employer may not let you drive a commercial motor vehicle if you have more than one license or if your CDL is suspended or revoked. A court may fine the employer up to \$5,000 or put him or her in jail for breaking this rule.
- All states are connected to one computerized system to share information about CDL drivers. The states will check on drivers' accident records and be sure that drivers don't get more than one CDL.
- You will lose your CDL for at least one year for a first offense:
 - If you leave the scene of an accident involving a commercial motor vehicle you were driving.
 - For operating a commercial motor vehicle under the influence of a controlled substance.
 - If you use a commercial motor vehicle to commit a felony.
- If the offense occurs while you are operating a commercial motor vehicle that is placarded for hazardous materials, you will lose your CDL for at least three years. You will lose your CDL for life for a second offense. You will also lose your CDL for life if you use a commercial motor vehicle to commit a felony involving controlled substances.
- As of October 2002, Nevada has instituted new regulations concerning railroad/highway crossings. Any violation of these new regulations will disqualify you as a Commercial Vehicle Operator. These violations include the following:
 - Failure to follow posted crossing restrictions.
 - Failure to obey a traffic-control device or enforcement official.
 - Not slowing to check that tracks are clear even if you are not required to stop at crossings.
 - Failure to stop before reaching a crossing if tracks are not clear.
 - For drivers required to stop at all crossings, not stopping as required.
 - Stopping where vehicle will obstruct railroad tracks.

- Failure to cross a railway intersection because of insufficient undercarriage clearance.

One violation will disqualify you as a Commercial Vehicle Operator for at least 60 days. A second violation in three years will disqualify you for 120 days, and a third violation in any three year period will disqualify you for a year.

Serious Traffic Violations

You will lose your CDL:

- For at least 60 days if you have committed two serious traffic violations within a three-year period involving a CMV.
- For at least 120 days for three serious traffic violations within a three-year period.

Serious traffic violations are excessive speeding (15 mph or more above the posted limit), reckless driving, improper or erratic lane changes, following a vehicle too closely, and traffic offenses committed in a commercial motor vehicle in connection with fatal traffic accidents.

Disqualifications

It is illegal to operate a commercial motor vehicle if your Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) is 0.04% or more. You will lose your CDL for one year for your first offense. You will lose it for life for your second offense. If your blood alcohol concentration is less than 0.04% but you have any detectable amount, you will be put out-of-service for 24 hours.

Implied Consent

If you operate a commercial motor vehicle you cannot refuse alcohol or drug testing for the above-mentioned violations.

Following these rules will ensure highway safety for you and for all highway users. More information is contained

in the Commercial Driver's License Handbook which is available at all DMV Field Services Division offices, and on the internet at: www.dmvnv.com/pdf/forms/dlbookcomm.pdf.

