



CDL Skills Test Information Sheet

Registry of Motor Vehicles

P.O. Box 55889 • Boston, MA • 02205-5889

Save time, go to mass.gov/RMV to apply online!

Please read the following information before scheduling your Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Skills Test.

To request a CDL Skills Test, visit us online at www.mass.gov/rmv, or call 857-368-7381 to schedule.

The CDL Skills Test administered in Massachusetts follows the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) 2022 Modernized CDL Skills Test, Version March 2025, testing standard.

A. Applicant Requirements

Applicants must meet all of the following requirements in order to test for Class A, B, or C CDL:

- Have a valid passenger or commercial driver's license
- Have a valid Commercial Learner's Permit (CLP) with the applicable endorsements
- Have an active Department of Transportation (DOT) medical certification or medical waiver
 - For drivers medically qualified for interstate operation, the RMV electronically verifies the medical certification information on the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners.
 - For drivers medically qualified for intrastate operation only, the submission of the medical certification information by a medical examiner is optional. If the medical certification cannot be verified online, the driver must present a physical copy.
- Have a completed CDL Road Test Application- <https://www.mass.gov/doc/cdl-road-test-application>
- Have a completed CDL Skills Test Important Reminders form
- Be on time for the CDL Skills Test. Applicants that are late will not be tested. Applicants that cancel or reschedule with less than 72 hours notice are responsible for the skills test fee.
- Be accompanied by a sponsor who:
 - Is at least 21 years old
 - Has a valid U.S. CDL held for at least a year with the proper endorsements for the class of vehicle being used for the test
 - Has an active medical certification
- Drivers applying for a Class A or Class B CDL, or adding a Passenger (P), School Bus (S) or Hazardous Materials (H) endorsement, for the first time are subject to the Entry Level Driver Training (ELDT) regulations 49 CFR Parts 380. Drivers must receive training from a registered training provider listed on FMCSA's Training Provider Registry. The RMV will verify training completion prior to scheduling an applicant for a CDL Skills Test, or the knowledge test for the Hazardous Materials (H) endorsement. Visit the RMV website for additional information at www.mass.gov/rmv

Note: A person is not eligible to operate a Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) unless he/she can read and speak the English language sufficiently to converse with the general public, to understand highway traffic signs and signals in the English language, to respond to official inquiries, and to make entries on reports and records per 49 CFR § 391.11.

*A DOT medical card is not required for a state or municipal employee using a state or municipal vehicle.

B. Vehicle Requirements

Vehicles used for a Class A, B, or C Skills Test must meet the following requirements. Vehicles not meeting the following requirements will be refused/rejected.

- Represent the type and class of vehicle you will be driving when you receive your CDL. For a Passenger Endorsement, the applicant must have the appropriate class vehicle designed to carry 16 or more passengers, including the driver.
- Be able to pass a safety check. Vehicles with unstable, dangerous, or HAZMAT loads will be rejected. **The vehicle must be completely free of hazardous material.**

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- Have a valid registration and current inspection sticker.
 - Vehicle must be appropriately registered with accurate weight listed on the registration.
 - Have adequate seating next to the operator for the use of the examiner.
 - Have a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) on the vehicle, appropriate for the class of license for which you are applying. If there is no GVWR on the vehicle, you must have a document from the manufacturer or a motor vehicle dealer proving the GVWR.

Note: The illumination of any brake/ABS warning light will disqualify the vehicle from being used for a test. Any external camera that would assist the operator in backing the vehicle must be covered or deactivated prior to the skills test.

C. Out-of-state Registered Vehicles, Trailers, and Semi Trailers

- Carry proof of insurance coverage in the form of a policy or letter from the insurance company specifying the limits of coverage. The insurance coverage **MUST** be equal to Massachusetts minimum requirements of \$20,000/\$40,000 bodily injury and \$5,000 property damage coverage for the vehicle's use in Massachusetts. (No faxes or photo copies)

D. Rental Vehicles

- Have the rental agreement and written permission on the rental company's letterhead authorizing use of the vehicle for the road test. The letter must include the applicants name and driver's license number.

E. CDL Skills Test

Use the CDL Manual to prepare for your CDL Skills Test. The CDL Manual can be found on the RMV website at www.mass.gov/rmv in the Forms and Manuals section.

The **CDL Skills Test** has three parts:

1. The **Vehicle Inspection** portion of the exam is described in Section 11 of the *CDL Manual – Modernized March 2025 Version*. During the inspection, you must show you have the knowledge to determine the vehicle is safe to drive. You **MUST** name, point to and/or touch and fully explain to the examiner **WHAT** you are inspecting each safety critical item for. You are only required to inspect the items on the CDL Vehicle Inspection checklist. You may use the checklist provided in this section for your test, and check off items as you have completed them. You must pass the Vehicle Inspection in order to move onto the Basic Control Skills Test.

Note: If the vehicle has air brakes, you are also required to demonstrate the air brake test described on Page 11-3 in Section 11 of the CDL Manual. If you are testing in a combination vehicle, you must be familiar with Section 6 of the *CDL Manual*.

2. The **Basic Control Skills Test** is described in Section 12 of the *CDL Manual – Modernized March 2025 Version*. For the Basic Control Skills test, you will demonstrate basic skills in controlling a commercial vehicle and judging its position in relation to other objects, and must complete the following maneuvers.
 - a. Exercise 1 – Forward Stop
 - b. Exercise 2 – Straight Line Backing
 - c. Exercise 3 – Forward Offset Tracking
 - d. Exercise 4 – Reverse Offset Backing

You must pass the Vehicle Inspection and Basic Control Skills Test to move onto the Road Test.

3. The **Road Test** portion of the test is described in Section 13 of the *CDL Manual – Modernized March 2025 Version*. This portion involves driving through various traffic and road conditions to evaluate your judgment, control, and safe operation on the public road, as well as your ability to start, stop, shift, turn competently, and obey all relevant rules of the road.

All three parts of the CDL Skills Test must be successfully completed to pass the overall CDL Skills Test and obtain a CDL. A combined 60 minutes is allotted for the Vehicle Inspection and Basic Control Skills Test, and the Road Test must be completed in 30 minutes, for a total of 90 minutes.

Note: Adding a passenger endorsement or changing a CDL license class requires a full CDL Skills Test, in addition to the appropriate knowledge tests.

Anyone who cheats or attempts to cheat on a driver's license test is subject to a 60 day suspension of their base driver's license per 540 CMR 2.06(5)(a), and potentially a one year CDL disqualification per 49 CFR 383.73.

F. CDL Skills Test Cancellations

Road tests may be canceled due to weather, road, or other emergency conditions, such as:

- Public school cancellations or delays in the city/town where your test is scheduled (at the discretion of the RMV).
- A state of emergency has been declared by the Governor for the state, or in the region where the CDL Skills Test is scheduled.
- The CDL Skills Test Examiner cancels road tests due to scheduling conflicts or for safety reasons.

If you think that your CDL Skills Test may be canceled, please call the RMV Phone Center at 857-368-8000, or CDL Scheduling at 857-368-7381 to confirm.

You are responsible for the CDL Skills Test fee for each failure, rejection, late arrival, or no show.

The Registrar reserves the right to cancel and recall any license if it is later determined that the licensee did not meet the minimum legal requirements for the CDL Skills Test or is found to be ineligible to hold a CDL in Massachusetts.

G. After Passing the CDL Skills Test

Passing the CDL Skills Test does not mean the license is automatically updated and issued. There may be some additional items to be addressed for a successful license issuance.

- Check your MyRMV profile at www.mass.gov/rmv using the Access My Profile link. All road exam/licensing fees must be paid, and the account cannot be in a non-renew status. If you took multiple road exams before passing, passed the exam in a different class of vehicle, or with different endorsements then what is reflected on the permit, a Service Center visit will be needed.
- As printed on the backside of the permit, road exams are only honored for 60 days from the passed exam date. It is advised to clear any statuses and prepay any pending fees before the road exam as to not delay issuance or risk the exam expiring.

If the physical CDL is not received in the mail within 10 business days, contact the RMV Phone Center at 857-368-8000 to verify the license has been issued.