Louisiana Department of Public Safety
Office of Motor Vehicles
Policy 1.00 Class of Licenses and Age Requirements

Section: 1. Issuance of Driver's License

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Authority:
R.S. 32:402
R.S. 32:402.1
R. S. 32:405.1
R. S. 32:407
R. S. 32:408
R. S. 32:422
R.S. 32:410 (A)(5)
To view Louisiana Statutes: http://www.legis.state.la.us/

Requirements:

- Every person operating a motor vehicle must secure an appropriately classified driver's license (i.e. Class A, B, C, D, or E) from the Office of Motor Vehicles before driving or operating any such motor vehicle on any public street, road, or highway.
    - **Types of Driver's Licenses**
        - Class E - Personal Vehicle License
        - Class D - Chauffeur License
        - Classes A, B, and C - Commercial Vehicle License
    - **Applicable Class A, B, and C Endorsements**
        - T - Double/Triple Trailers
        - P - Passenger
        - N - Tank Vehicles
        - H - Hazardous Materials (Age Requirements: 21 years or above)
        - X - Combination Tank Vehicles and Hazardous Materials
        - S- School Bus
    - **Applicable Endorsement for All Classes**
        - M - Motorcycle

Class	Age Requirement	Permitted Driving Actions	Additional Information
A – Commercial Driver's License, Combination Vehicles	**Intrastate –** 18 years of age or older **Interstate –** 21 years of age or older	Permits the operation of all vehicles within Classes B, C, D, and E, with any appropriate endorsements and any combination of vehicles with a gross combination weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more, provided that the gross vehicle weight rating of the vehicle or vehicles being towed is in excess of 10,000 pounds.	If the pulling unit and towed unit are connected with a pintle hook or other no-fifth wheel connection, a restriction (67 – No tractor-trailer CMV) must be added to the license. Can be removed by taking a skills test in a class A vehicle connected with a fifth wheel.
B – Commercial Driver's License, Heavy Straight Vehicle	**Intrastate –** 18 years of age or older **Interstate –** 21 years of age or older	Permits the operation of any vehicle within Classes C, D, and E, with any appropriate endorsement(s) plus any single vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 or more pounds.	
C – Commercial Driver's License, Light Vehicle	**Intrastate –** 18 years of age or older **Interstate –** 21 years of age or older	Permits the operation of any vehicle within Classes D and E, with any appropriate endorsement(s), plus any single vehicle less than 26,001 pounds GVWR.	This group includes vehicles designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver, and which are not within the definition of a Group A or B vehicle, and vehicles used in the transportation of materials found to be hazardous for purposes of the Federal Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, 19 United States Code 1801 et seq. or under state law or regulation and which require the motor vehicle to be placarded.
D – Chauffeurs Driver's License	17 years of age or older	Permits the operation of all vehicles included in Class E, plus any single motor vehicle used in commerce to transport passengers or property, if the motor vehicle: • Has a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,001 or more pounds, but less than 26,001 pounds • Any combination of vehicles used in commerce to transport passengers or property, if the vehicle has a combined vehicle weight rating of 10,001 or more pounds, but less than 26,001 pounds inclusive of a towed unit with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 10,000 pounds • Any vehicle designed or utilized for the transportation of passengers for hire or fee with the exception of taxi cabs.	This license is not utilized in the transportation of materials found to be hazardous under the provisions of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act which requires the vehicle to bear a placard under the provision of Hazardous Materials Regulations (49 CFR Part 172, Subpart F). **Note**: As long as the combined gross vehicle weight rating (truck and trailer) is less than 26,001 pounds, a driver can operate with Class D.

E – Driver's License for Personal Vehicle	17 years of age or older	Permits the operation of: • Any single motor vehicle under 10,001 pounds' gross vehicle weight or any such vehicle towing a vehicle not in excess of 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating • Any personal use of recreational vehicle or combination of vehicles • Any vehicle which is not within the definition of Class A, B, C, or D	This license is not utilized in the transportation of materials found to be hazardous under the provisions of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act which requires the vehicle to bear a placard under the provision of Hazardous Materials Regulations (49 CFR Part 172, Subpart F).
E – Temporary Instructional Permit (TIP)	14 years of age or older	The TIP allows a driver's education student 15 years of age or older to operate a motor vehicle when accompanied by a driver education instructor and when completing behind the wheel instruction or during the administration of a skills test.	Required for all first time driver education applicants of all ages. Must be obtained from the Office of Motor Vehicles prior to the administration of the knowledge test and/or behind-the-wheel driver training. **Exemption**: This requirement does not apply to applicants enrolled in a National Guard Youth Challenge Program. Any student enrolled in a driver education, driver training program or a pre-licensing training course prior to 09/04/2018 is exempt from this requirement.
E – Learner's Permit	15 years of age or older	This permit will enable the person to drive while being accompanied by a licensed adult at least 21 or older or a licensed sibling at least 18 years or older	**15 Years Old** – Qualifies for only a Learner's Permit **17 Years Old or Older** – The restriction may be removed upon providing proof that the applicant successfully passed the skills driving examination.

E – Intermediate License	16 years of age	Must adhere to the following:
		
		• **5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.** — May drive unaccompanied and may transport passengers
		
		• **6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.** — May not transport more than one passenger under 21 years of age and who is not a member of his/her immediate family, unless accompanied by a licensed parent, guardian, or adult at least 21 years of age. In addition to the licensed parent, sibling, guardian or adult, there may be other members of the permit holder's immediate family in the vehicle.
		
		• **11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.** – Driving will be allowed only if accompanied by a licensed parent or guardian, by a licensed adult at least 21 years of age, or by a licensed sibling at least 18 years of age. In addition to the licensed parent, sibling, guardian or adult, there may be other members of the permit holder's immediate family in the vehicle.
		
		17 Years Old or Older – Once the intermediate license holder reaches age 17, the above restrictions no longer apply.
			Minimum requirements:
			
			• Must be at least 16 years of age, pass the skills driving test, and must have held the learners permit for at least 180 days. Upon the age 17, the intermediate license restrictions no longer applies.
			• Must have a signed statement by the parent or legal guardian attesting that the applicant has held the Class E learner's license for at least 180 days, while remaining accident free (except where the licensee was not at fault) and receiving no convictions for moving violations of the seatbelt or curfew laws of this state or any law pertaining to drug or alcohol use.
			
			Exceptions:
			• Applicants who are 16 years of age and are moving to Louisiana from another state are eligible for a Class E intermediate driver's license.
			• Applicants must:
			  ○ Meet all other requirements for licensure in Louisiana.
			  ○ Provide the Office of Motor Vehicles with proof of successful completion of an equivalent driver's education course and proof of issuance of a learner's license for a minimum of 180 days from the state of previous residence, unless the driver reaches 17 years of age before the 180-day requirement is complete

Exceptions:

- Only a Class E driver's license shall be required for the following:

Driver Type	Driver Requirements	Vehicle Requirements
Operator of an Emergency Medical Vehicle or Firefighting Equipment (Full-time, regularly paid)	Must meet one of the following criteria: • Employed by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, or a municipality, parish, fire protection district, or other political subdivision of the state • Civilian employees of the United States military who are required to operate emergency vehicles, when operating such vehicle or equipment in the course and scope of his/her employment. **Exemption** - If a driver is employed by a private EMS service, he/she **will** have to secure a Class D license.	The emergency vehicle or firefighting equipment shall be equipped with audible and visual signals and the operation of the commercial motor vehicle is necessary for the preservation of life or property or in the execution of emergency governmental functions.
Operator of a Taxi Cab	Must meet the requirements of a Class E Driver's License.	A **taxi** is a motor vehicle that is designed, constructed and operated in a bona fide manner as such for hire, carrying six persons or less, including the driver, which is subject to call from a garage, office, taxi stand, or other location of central dispatch. • Exempt from regulation by the Louisiana Public Service Commission • Owners must register with the Public Service Commission as an Exempt Commodities Carrier • Must hold an Exempt General License Certificate in order to be issued a hire passenger license plate
Operator of an Emergency Command Post Vehicle (which would otherwise meet the definition of a commercial motor vehicle)	Must meet one of the following criteria: • Employed by the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, when operating such vehicle in the course and scope of his/her employment. • Employed by a parish office of emergency preparedness, when operating such vehicle in the course and scope of his/her employment.	The emergency vehicle or firefighting equipment shall be equipped with audible and visual signals and the operation of the commercial motor vehicle is necessary for the preservation of life or property or in the execution of emergency governmental functions.
Operator of Emergency Command Post Vehicle or Other Law Enforcement Equipment (which would otherwise meet the definition of a commercial motor vehicle)	Must be employed as a law enforcement officer, when operating such vehicle or equipment is in the course and scope of his/her employment	The emergency vehicle or firefighting equipment shall be equipped with audible and visual signals and the operation of the commercial motor vehicle is necessary for the preservation of life or property or in the execution of emergency governmental functions.

Active or Reserve Members of the United States Military and Active or Reserve Members of the National Guard	Must be within the course and scope of military duties during a gubernatorial declared state of emergency when operating such motor vehicle or bus.	
Farmers, Co-Ops, and Their Employees	Must be operating within 150 air miles of the owner or operator's farm. A farmer, or a cooperative (Co-Op) of farmers, may transport agricultural products, farm machinery, farm supplies, agricultural crop production fertilizer, agricultural chemicals, or agricultural related fuels found to be hazardous under the provisions of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, which required the motor vehicle to bear a placard.	The vehicle must bear a placard for hazardous materials.
Operator of Recreational Vehicle	Must be used for personal use.	

- An industrial mutual aid response team or a volunteer operator of an emergency medical vehicle or firefighting equipment, when operating such vehicle or equipment. The emergency vehicle or firefighting equipment shall be equipped with audible and visual signals and the operation of the commercial motor vehicle is necessary for the preservation of life or property or in the execution of emergency governmental functions.
- **Note:** The operator of any motorcycle, motor driven cycle or motorized bicycle/moped (a pedal bicycle which may be propelled by human power or helper motor or both), in excess of 5 horsepower, regardless of maximum speed, or size of motor, must have an "M" endorsement on one of the classes of driver's license.

Notes:

- No application for a license for the operation of a motor vehicle shall be received from any person making application for the first time unless there is also submitted with the application, on a form approved by the secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, public safety services, written evidence of the successful completion by the applicant of one of the following:
  - A "driver education course" for any person under the age of eighteen, which shall consist of not less than eight hours of actual driving instruction and thirty hours of classroom instruction. Upon completion of the required supervised driving practice, a properly licensed and contracted third-party test may administer the on-road driving skills test to the student. Upon successful completion, such third-party tester must provide the student with a department approved certificate of completion in a sealed envelope to be delivered to the Department.
  - A "pre-licensing training course" from any person eighteen years or older if a driver education course is not completed. The pre-licensing training course shall consist of a minimum of six hours of classroom instruction and a minimum of eight hours of actual driving instruction.
- An eighteen (18) year old or older first time applicant or the parent or guardian of a seventeen (17) year old first time applicant for a Class "E" license shall provide a signed statement to the department attesting he has completed a minimum of fifty hours of supervised driving practice with a licensed parent, guardian, or adult at least twenty-one (21) or older. At least fifteen (15) of these hours must be night time driving. If the applicant for a Class "E" license is seventeen (17) years of age and is emancipated, the applicant shall provide the attestation for himself, provided that the applicant has the necessary identifying information and documentation.

- **In Case of Emergency Information (ICE):**
    - An applicant has the option to provide emergency contact information. This information will be contained in the motor vehicle record.
    - The ICE information will assist law enforcement and emergency personnel in notifying the contact in cases of emergency.