



Louisiana Department of Public Safety
Office of Motor Vehicles
Policy 10.00 Knowledge Examinations for All Classes

Section: 1. Issuance of Driver's License

Effective Date: 05/01/1986

Revised Date: 06/03/2025

Authority:

[R.S. 32:408](#)

[49 CFR 383.73](#)

[49 CFR 383.117](#)

[49 CFR 383.123](#)

Administrative

To view Louisiana Statutes: <http://www.legis.state.la.us/>

General:

Examination Requirements		
Class	Examination Requirements	Notes
Personal Driver's License (Class E)	<p>Knowledge Exam - Must earn an 80% or higher</p> <p>Skills Exam - Must successfully pass the skills exam</p>	<p>Scores for the knowledge exam administered by OMV are valid for as long as they are available on the examination database.</p> <p>Foreign driver's license holders and out-of-state transfers may be exempt from the knowledge exam.</p>
Chauffer's License (Class D)	<p>Applicants must meet all examination requirements of a personal driver's license (Class E) prior to issuance of a chauffer's license.</p> <p>Knowledge Exam - Must earn an 80% or higher on the chauffer's exam</p>	<p>Knowledge exam required for an upgrade, in which you have never held a chauffer's license or commercial driver's license.</p> <p>Testing is not required to obtain a chauffer's license:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have an expired chauffeur or CDL (Louisiana or out-of-state) • When you downgrade to Class E, then apply to upgrade back to Class D. • If OMV can verify through internal systems or you produce supporting documentation that you had a chauffer's license previously (i.e. old driver's license, official driving record, etc.)
Commercial Driver's License (CDL) (Class A, B, or C)	<p>Knowledge Exam - All applicants must pass the applicable knowledge exams with an 80% or higher.</p>	<p>Any applicable CDL knowledge exam (including exams required for endorsements) must be retaken if the CDL has been expired, downgraded, or disqualified for more than one (1) year. If over two (2) years, the road skills exam is also required.</p> <p>Exemption: If you downgrade to a personal driver's license or chauffer's license for less than one (1) year, you may upgrade back to a commercial driver's license without being reexamined.</p> <p>If you downgrade to a Class E from CDL, you may upgrade back to a class D only, at any time, without being reexamined.</p> <p>Any CDL knowledge exam (i.e. general knowledge, endorsement, etc.) may be taken in any order.</p> <p>If upgrading from one class of CDL to another, the general knowledge exam and air brakes exam do not need to be retaken if a previous passing score has been achieved.</p> <p>Interpreters are not allowed for CDL examination. Translator services are available in Spanish or French using the automated system.</p> <p>Scores from a Third Party Examiner are good for five (5) years. Third Party Examiners are required to retain records for five (5) years.</p>

- **CDL Application Expiration** – The CDL examinations (knowledge and skills) and issuance process must be completed within 360 days of the initial application and payment of a \$15.00 application fee must be made. After the 360 days, all exam scores will be considered expired, the \$15.00 application fee is forfeited, and the applicant must restart the process.
- Oral examinations may be available upon request using the automated testing system.
- **Limited English Proficiency** – If the applicant does not have a good understanding of the written English language and speaks another language other than Spanish or French, an interpreter may be used to translate personal or chauffer's license test **only**. When possible, a tape recorder shall be placed with the applicant and the translator to ensure the integrity of the exam.
- Any attempt at cheating will result in the exam being discontinued.
 - For an operator's license (class E) or chauffer's license (class D), the applicant may return after a minimum of thirty (30) days for subsequent examination.
 - For CDL, previous scores invalidated and the applicant must wait one business day after the suspected cheating to re-schedule the tests. If the applicant does not complete all written tests within 30 days, the cdl status will be disqualified.
- If you fail the knowledge exam, you may retake the exam once on the same day, if time allows.

CDL Endorsement Examination Requirements		
Endorsement	Examination Requirements	Notes
Tank Vehicle	The tank vehicle knowledge exam will be required when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adding the tank vehicle endorsement to any class CDL, unless you have previously had the endorsement 	A skills test is not required to add this endorsement to a CDL.
Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT)	The hazardous materials (HAZMAT) knowledge exam will be required when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adding a HAZMAT endorsement for the first time • Upgrading the class of license when maintaining or adding a HAZMAT endorsement • Renewing a CDL and the applicant, keeping the HAZMAT endorsement • Transferring from out-of-state to Louisiana, even if HAZMAT training was taken within the last two (2) years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The issue date of license will not serve as verification of HAZMAT exam <p>Must have proof of HAZMAT training in the training provider registry (TPR)¹ or proof of the endorsement on a previously issued CDL (including an out-of-state CDL) must be shown prior to administration of the knowledge exam.</p>	A skills test is not required to add this endorsement to a CDL. For HAZMAT to be added to a license, the applicant must have an active TSA assessment on file. The license will expire on the same expiration date of the TSA assessment on file.
Double/Triple Trailers	The double/triple trailer knowledge exam will be required when adding the double/triple trailer endorsement to a Class A CDL.	A skills test is not required to add this endorsement to a CDL.
Passenger	Must pass the knowledge exam for passenger vehicle and skills test in a passenger vehicle (coach/transit vehicle).	A skills test is required to add this endorsement. Must have proof of Passenger training in the training provider registry (TPR) or have proof of the endorsement on a previously issued CDL before the skills test is administered. ¹
School Bus (with existing passenger endorsement)	Must have the passenger endorsement on the CDL license. Must pass the knowledge exam for school bus endorsement. The skills test must be taken in a school bus, specifically in the same vehicle group that you will drive (§383.91(a)).	A skills test is required to add this endorsement. Must have proof of school bus training in the training provider registry (TPR) or have proof of the endorsement on a previously issued CDL before the skills test is administered. ¹
School Bus (without existing Passenger endorsement)	Must pass the knowledge exam for obtaining a passenger vehicle and a school bus endorsement. The skills test must be taken in a school bus, specifically in the same vehicle group that you will drive (§383.91(a)).	A skills test is required to add this endorsement. A skills test in a school bus will satisfy the requirements for a passenger vehicle when obtaining both endorsements at the same time Must have proof of school bus training in the training provider registry (TPR) or have proof of the endorsement on a previously issued CDL before the skills test is administered. ¹

CDL Restriction Examination Requirements	
Restriction	Examination Requirements
Air Brakes	To remove air brake restriction, you must pass the knowledge exam for air brakes. The skills test must be taken in a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) equipped with air brakes.
Automatic Transmission	Must receive a permit and take a skills test in a manual CMV.
Fifth-Wheel Restriction	Must receive a permit and take a skills test in a CMV equipped with a fifth-wheel.

Fees:

- **CDL Application Fee** - Prior to examination, a \$15.00 application fee is required.
 - The application fee is forfeited if there is any attempt at cheating and the applicant must wait a minimum of thirty (30) days before being allowed to take the exam again.
 - The CDL examination (knowledge and skills) and issuance process must be completed within 360 days of the initial application and payment of a \$15.00 application fee. After the 360 days, all exam scores will be considered expired, the \$15.00 application fee is forfeited, and the applicant must restart the process.

Related Policies:

Section 1, Policy 1.00, [Classes of License and Age Requirements](#)

Section 1, Policy 6.00, [Identification Requirements](#)

Section 1, Policy 6.02, [Driver's License Issuance for Aliens Living in Louisiana](#)

Section 1, Policy 12.00, [Road Skills Exam](#)

Section 1, Policy 18.01, [Reciprocity With Other Countries](#)

Section 1, Policy 21.00, [Motorcycle Endorsements](#)

References:

- ¹ – Electronic Code of Federal Regulations. *State Procedures* (383.73), retrieved from <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-49/subtitle-B/chapter-III/subchapter-B/part-383/subpart-E/section-383.73>.