Section: 1. Issuance of Driver’s License

Effective Date: 05/01/1986

Revised Date: 01/05/2022

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/

Objective: An applicant must successfully pass a knowledge exam prior to the issuance of a driver's license or learner’s permit. This policy outlines the examination requirements for classes of licenses and/or endorsements.

Definitions:
- **Application Fee** – A fee assessed on a commercial driver's license (CDL) for processing the application for issuance. This fee is charged for each application.
- **Commercial Driver’s License (CDL)** – A driver’s license issued by the state driver’s license agency, that specifically allows drivers to operate a commercial motor vehicle

Eligibility:
- An applicant must comply with all identification, medical requirements, and vision requirements before the knowledge exam is administered.

General:
- **CDL Application Expiration** – All CDL examinations (knowledge and skills) issuance 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.
- If the applicant has a reading comprehension disability, the exams may be administered orally, except for Hazmat.
- **Limited English Proficiency** - If the applicant does not have a good understanding of the written English language, he/she may request an interpreter to assist with any class knowledge exams, except CDL exams.
- Any attempt at cheating will result in the exam being discontinued. The applicant may return after a minimum of thirty (30) days for subsequent examination.
- An applicant who fails the exam may retake the exam once on the same day. He/she must, however, be placed back in rotation to await a new exam. He/she may return any day
thereafter to retake the examination. If appointments are necessary for the desired office, He/she must make an appointment to retake the examination.

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<th>Class</th>
<th>Examination Requirements</th>
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| E     | Knowledge Exam - Must successfully pass the knowledge exam, with an 80% or higher, for driving privileges for class “E” and “D”. (written or oral)  
Skills Exam - Must successfully pass the skills exam for driving privileges in addition to the knowledge exam for class “E” issuance. | Scores for the knowledge exam administered by OMV are valid for as long as they are available on the examination database. Scores from a Commercial Driving School are good for five (5) years. Commercial Driving Schools are required to retain records for five (5) years.  
The only exemption from examination can be found in Section 1, Policy 18.01, Reciprocity With Other Countries. |
| D     | Applicants must meet all examination requirements of Class “E” prior to issuance of a Class “D”.  
Knowledge Exam - All applicants must pass the class “D” exam (written or oral). | Examination is not required if a Louisiana or an out-of-state license is expired, unless the applicant is upgrading to a class “D” and they have never had a class “A”, “B”, “C”, or “D”.  
If an applicant downgrades to a class “E”, from any other class, he/she may upgrade back to a class “D” at any time, without being reexamined. |

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| A, B, or C | All applicants must pass the knowledge exams with an 80% or higher (written or oral). Hazmat knowledge exam cannot be given orally. | A driver whose CDL class “A”, “B”, or “C” license has expired or has been downgraded for more than one year, and the driver wants to renew his/her CDL license or upgrade back to a CDL class “A”, “B”, or “C”, must retake all required knowledge exams for that class and endorsements. If over two (2) years, the applicant must also successfully pass the road skills exam for that class and applicable endorsements.  
If an applicant downgrades to a class “E” from a class “A”, “B”, or “C”, he/she may upgrade back to a class “D” only, at any time, without being reexamined. If downgraded to class “E” or “D” for less than one year, the applicant may upgrade back to class “A”, “B”, or “C” without being reexamined.  
Depending on the applicant's desired class of license and endorsements, all other knowledge exams can be given sequentially.  
If an applicant upgrades from one class of CDL to a higher class, General Knowledge, and Air Brakes do not need to be retaken if the customer has a previous passing score.  
Interpreters and/or translators are not allowed for CDL examination.  
**CDL Application Fee** - Prior to examination, all applicants are required to pay a $15.00 application fee and to complete the necessary CDL application forms. The application fee is forfeited if there is any attempt at cheating. |
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<th>Endorsement</th>
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| Tank Vehicle          | The tank vehicle knowledge exam will be required when:  
- Adding the tank vehicle endorsement to any class CDL                                                                                                        | A skills test is not required to add this endorsement to a CDL                          |
| Hazardous Materials   | The hazardous material knowledge exam will be required when:  
- Adding a hazardous materials endorsement for the first time  
- Upgrading the class of license when maintaining or adding a hazardous materials endorsement  
- Renewing a CDL and the applicant wishes to maintain the hazardous materials endorsement  
- An applicant is transferring from out of state to Louisiana, also known as a “change-state-of-record,” even if he/she may have had some hazardous materials training within the last two (2) years  
- The issue date of license will not serve as verification of hazardous materials examination  
- For hazardous materials to be added to a license, the applicant must have a current TSA assessment on file. The expiration date of a CDL with a hazardous materials endorsement cannot exceed five (5) years from the TSA reply date. The license will expire on the same expiration date of the TSA assessment on file  
- On or after 2/7/22, the applicant must have proof of Hazmat training in the training provider registry (TPR)¹                                                                 | A skills test is not required to add this endorsement to a CDL  
This exam cannot be given orally. |
| 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             | An applicant for the passenger endorsement must satisfy both of the following knowledge exam and skills test requirements. Knowledge exam for passenger vehicle. Skills test in a passenger vehicle (coach/transit vehicle)                                                                 | A skills test is required to add this endorsement.  
For permits issued on or after 2/7/22, the applicant must have proof of Passenger training in the training provider registry (TPR) before the skills test is administered.¹ |
| School Bus (with existing passenger endorsement) | Must have the passenger endorsement on the CDL license.  
**Knowledge Exam** – Must successfully pass the knowledge exam for school bus.  
**Skills Test** – Must successfully pass the driving skills test in a school bus of the same vehicle group that the school bus applicant will drive (§383.91(a)) . | A skills test is required to add this endorsement.  
For permits issued on or after 2/7/22, the applicant must have proof of school bus training in the training provider registry (TPR) before the skills test is administered.¹ |
School Bus (without existing passenger endorsement)

Knowledge Exam – Pass the knowledge exam for obtaining a passenger vehicle and school bus endorsement.

Skills Test – Must successfully pass the driving skills test in a school bus of the same vehicle group that the school bus applicant 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.
- For permits issued on or after 2/7/22, the applicant must have proof of school bus training in the training provider registry (TPR) before the skills test is administered.¹

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<td>Air Brakes</td>
<td>Knowledge Exam – pass the air brakes knowledge exam</td>
<td>A skills test in an air brake vehicle is required to remove this restriction.</td>
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<td>Skills Test – Must successfully pass the driving skills test in a vehicle equipped with air brakes.</td>
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Fees:
- **CDL Application Fee** - Prior to examination, all applicants are required to pay a $15.00 application fee and to complete the necessary CDL application forms.
  - The application fee is forfeited if there is any attempt at cheating and the applicant must wait thirty (30) days before being allowed to take the exam again.

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:
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Section 1, Policy 1.00, Classes of License and Age Requirements
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Section 1, Policy 12.00, Road Skills Exam
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Section 1, Policy 21.00, Motorcycle Endorsements