
FISCAL TOPICS

Fiscal Services Division

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Driver's Licenses and Endorsements

Background

Driver's licenses, nonoperator's identification cards, and persons with disabilities identification devices are issued by the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) and may be obtained at one of the 18 driver's license centers across the State or at one of the 82 county driver's license issuance programs, which operate under the DOT's supervisory authority. The location of DOT sites and county treasurer sites that transact vehicle titles, registrations, and driver's licenses can be found [here](#).

Driver's License Classifications

- **Class C — Operator.** Intended only for the operation of cars, pickups, and trucks with a gross weight of 26,000 pounds or less. Vehicles with a gross weight that exceeds 26,000 pounds will need a license appropriate for the total gross weight.
- **Class D — Chauffeur.** An operator may transport 15 or fewer passengers in a vehicle.
- **Class C — Instruction Permit.** Operators age 14 and older may obtain an instruction permit to practice driving with experienced licensed drivers.
- **Class D — Chauffeur Instruction Permit.** Operators are allowed to practice driving vehicles that require a Class D driver's license with a person who holds a Class D driver's license in the vehicle.
- **Class C — Minor's School License.** Students who live one mile or more from school or who live or work on a farm may apply for a minor's school license upon the successful completion of an Iowa-approved driver education course.
- **Class C — Minor's Restricted License.** An option for drivers age 16 to 18 who are no longer enrolled in school in order to allow them to commute to work or transport dependents to temporary care facilities.

Driver's Licenses Issued

Class C — Operator	1,847,377
Class D — Chauffeur	66,168
Class C — Instruction Permit	55,543
Class D — Chauffeur Instruction Permit	337
Class C — Minor's School License	13,913
Class C — Minor's Restricted License	0
Motorcycle Endorsement	254,077
Class M — Motorcycle License Only	11
Motorcycle Instruction Permit	7,158
Moped License Only	27

Motorcycle/Moped Licenses

- **Motorcycle Endorsement.** Allows a currently licensed driver to operate a motorcycle upon successful completion of the motorcycle knowledge test and a motorcycle skills test.
- **Class M — Motorcycle License Only.** Permits a driver to operate a vehicle classified as a motorcycle upon successful completion of the motorcycle knowledge test and a motorcycle skills test.
- **Motorcycle Instruction Permit.** Allows drivers to practice driving a motorcycle with the supervision of a currently licensed operator, who may accompany the instruction permit user or maintain a sight and hearing distance from the instruction permit user.
- **Moped License Only.** A driver is permitted to exclusively operate a moped (motorized bicycle) upon successful completion of the operator knowledge test.

More Information

Iowa Department of Transportation: iowadot.gov/mvd/driverslicense/fees-and-license-type
LSA Staff Contact: Adam Broich (515.281.8223) adam.broich@legis.iowa.gov

Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDL). An operator must be at least 18 years of age and hold a commercial learner's permit for at least 14 days to apply for a CDL. An operator must also pass a check for eligibility to drive under a commercial driver's license in every other state and must complete [Entry-Level Driver Training \(ELDT\)](#). An operator will then need to complete CDL skills testing to obtain a CDL, which includes the following types:

- **Class A Commercial.** Intended for the operation of commercial vehicles with a gross combination weight rating (GCWR) of 26,001 pounds or greater, or a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 10,001 or more pounds. Vehicles with lower GCWRs are also permitted to operate under the Class A CDL, excluding motorcycles.
- **Class B Commercial.** Intended for the operation of commercial vehicles with a GVWR of 26,001 pounds or greater. A vehicle with a GCWR of 26,001 or more pounds is permitted to operate under a Class B commercial license if the GVWR of the towing vehicle is 26,001 or more pounds and the vehicle(s) being towed does not exceed 10,001 pounds. Vehicles with a lower GCWR or GVWR are permitted to operate under the Class B CDL, with the exception of motorcycles.
- **Class C Commercial.** Intended only for the operation of vehicles that are placarded for hazardous materials, for vehicles that can transport 16 or more persons, or for vehicles that have been modified to transport 16 or fewer persons with disabilities, with a GVWR of 10,001 pounds or greater. The vehicle is permitted to operate under the Class C CDL with a GVWR of less than or equal to 26,001 pounds, or tow a vehicle that does not exceed a GVWR of 10,000 pounds.
- **Commercial Learner's Permit (CLP).** Allows operators to practice driving commercial vehicles. Operators must hold the CLP for at least 14 days before taking the CDL skills test.

Commercial Driver's Licenses and Endorsements

Class A Commercial	132,108
Class B Commercial	38,055
Class C Commercial	3,175

Endorsements

Hazardous Material	14,922
Passenger Endorsement	27,510
School Bus Endorsement	12,998
Tank Endorsement	69,557
Double/Triple Endorsement	21,849
Remove Air Brake Restriction	10,374
Remove Full Air Brake Restriction	10
Remove Manual Transmission Restriction	10,418
Remove Tractor-Trailer Restriction	2,365

Commercial Driver's License Endorsements

- **Hazardous Material Endorsement.** Required for any driver who transports hazardous waste in a commercial vehicle that must be placarded for the amount of hazardous waste product.
- **Passenger Endorsement.** Required to drive any vehicles that are designed to carry 16 or more passengers, including the driver.
- **School Bus Endorsement.** Required to drive a school bus that is designed to carry 16 or more passengers, including the driver.
- **Tank Endorsement.** Required to drive a commercial vehicle with a tank for transporting any liquid or gaseous material that has an individual rated capacity of more than 119 gallons and an aggregate rated capacity of 1,000 gallons or more.
- **Double/Triple Endorsement.** Required to drive a vehicle pulling double or triple trailers.
- **Remove Air Brake Restriction.** Required for drivers who have not passed the CDL air brake knowledge examination and are not authorized to operate commercial motor vehicles equipped with air brakes.
- **Remove Full Air Brake Restriction.** Required for drivers who are not authorized to operate commercial motor vehicles that are equipped with a full air brake system.
- **Remove Manual Transmission Restriction.** Required for drivers who are not authorized to operate commercial motor vehicles that are equipped with a manual transmission.
- **Remove Tractor-Trailer Restriction.** Required for drivers who are not authorized to operate Class A combination commercial motor vehicles that are connected by a fifth wheel and require a Class A CDL.