

Frequently Asked Questions: Class 1 and Class 4 Driver's Licensing Program Changes

Class 1 Driver's Licensing Changes

<p>What changes is government making to Class 1 road tests?</p>		<p>The Government of Alberta is improving and streamlining Alberta's driver licensing system by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowing drivers to have the option to complete their Class 1 commercial road test in an automatic transmission truck beginning February 1, 2023. • This will result in a condition code stating the driver is restricted to operating commercial trucks with an automatic transmission. • The condition code can be removed by taking a second Class 1 condensed road test in a manual transmission commercial truck.
<p>Why are these Class 1 driver's licensing changes being made?</p>		<p>As part of government's efforts to reduce red tape for Albertans and businesses, opportunities to improve the driver licensing system were identified through feedback from Albertans, industry, and a review of best practice across Canada.</p> <p>This change recognizes the reality of our modern trucking industry where more than half of the trucks on our roads have automatic transmissions.</p> <p>Allowing drivers to test in a truck with an automatic transmission opens the door for more Albertans to obtain the licence appropriate for the truck they will be driving and removes roadblocks to getting jobs in the commercial carrier industry.</p>
<p>What will be the impact on road safety?</p>		<p>Traffic safety is a top priority for Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors.</p> <p>Allowing drivers to take the Class 1 road test in an automatic transmission commercial truck ensures drivers are tested in the type of truck they will be driving. Their driver's licence will be restricted to only driving commercial trucks with an automatic transmission. If the driver wants to remove the restriction, they must take a second road test in a truck with a manual transmission.</p> <p>This will continue to ensure safe, skilled drivers behind the wheel.</p>
<p>What is changing with the Class 1 road test?</p>		<p>Government is implementing the following change to the Class 1 road test:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drivers will have the option to complete their Class 1 road test in a truck with an automatic transmission. • Currently, drivers must take the Class 1 road test in a commercial truck with a manual transmission. • If a driver takes the road test in a truck with an automatic transmission, their Class 1 driver's licence will have a condition code restricting the driver to only operating automatic commercial trucks. • The condition code can be removed by passing a second Class 1 condensed road test in a manual transmission truck.

Is the Class 1 road test with automatic transmission truck different from road test with a manual transmission truck?		No. It is the same Class 1 road test.
How is the Class 1 condensed road test to remove the automatic transmission driver's licence restriction different from the regular class 1 road test?		The Class 1 condensed road test is 90 minutes instead of 120 minutes with time adjustments being in the pre-trip and the back-up maneuvers. The focus of the condensed road test is to assess the driver's ability to effectively operate the truck with a manual transmission. The Class 1 condensed road test fee is \$155 instead of the regular Class 1 road test which costs \$217.
Is the Class 1 knowledge test different for people taking their Class 1 road test with an automatic transmission truck?		No. It is the same Class 1 knowledge test.
When will the changes take effect?		Drivers can begin accessing the new option for a Class 1 road test using an automatic transmission truck beginning February 1, 2023 .
Will these changes impact driving in other provinces or the USA?		<p>No. Alberta and all other Canadian jurisdictions are members of the Canadian Driver's Licence Agreement (CDLA). The agreement that sets out guidelines for the way provinces administer driver licences and records.</p> <p>CDLA supports compatibility through the concept of "one driver, one driver's licence, and one driver record" regardless of which Canadian jurisdiction the driver is licenced in. Similar agreements exist between Canada and the United States.</p>
What if I take my road test in a truck with a manual transmission?		<p>If you pass the Class 1 road test in a truck with a manual transmission, you will continue to be licenced to drive commercial trucks with either a manual or automatic transmission.</p> <p>Your Class 1 driver's licence will not have any condition code related to the type of transmission on commercial trucks you are licenced to operate.</p>
What if I take my road test in a truck with an automatic transmission?		<p>If you pass the Class 1 road test using a commercial truck with an automatic transmission, your driver's licence will have a condition code that restricts you to driving commercial trucks with an automatic transmission.</p> <p>You will not be permitted to drive commercial trucks with a manual transmission.</p>

<p>What if I take my Class 1 road test in an automatic transmission truck, and later I want to be able to drive manual transmission trucks?</p>		<p>To remove the automatic transmission condition code from your driver's licence which restricts you to driving commercial trucks with an automatic transmission, you will be required to pass a second condensed Class 1 road test in a truck with a manual transmission.</p>
<p>What about other manual transmission trucks?</p>		<p>If you have the Class 1 automatic transmission condition code, it only applies to commercial Class 1 trucks, such as large trucks or tractor-trailers with three or more axles.</p> <p>It does not restrict the driver from driving other classes of truck that have a manual transmission, including passenger trucks (e.g., Class 2, 3, 4 or 5).</p>
<p>How will the changes to Class 1 driver's licensing affect Mandatory Entry Level Training?</p>		<p>The change to be able to use a Class 1 automatic transmission truck for a Class 1 road test will not impact Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT), because training can already be taken in a manual transmission or automatic transmission truck.</p> <p>The classroom and in-yard instruction components of MELT are unchanged.</p> <p>Drivers will continue to have the option of completing the required in-cab training hours in a commercial truck with an automatic or a manual transmission, depending on which type of trucks their driver training school has available.</p>
<p>What if a driver training school does not own an automatic transmission truck?</p>		<p>It is not mandatory for training schools to offer training in automatic transmission trucks.</p> <p>However, government announced the change well in advance to allow the driver training industry time to source automatic transmission trucks if they choose to offer them for students to use during training and testing.</p>
<p>Can I take a Class 2 or 3 road test in a truck with an automatic transmission?</p>		<p>Yes. Drivers already have the option of completing their road test in either an automatic or manual transmission truck to obtain a Class 2 or 3 driver's licence. This is unchanged.</p>
<p>Do I have to complete the knowledge test, driver's medical and vision test in any particular order?</p>		<p>No. The licensing requirements may be completed in any order. However, they all must be done before taking your Class 1 road test.</p>
<p>A medical condition restricts me to automatic trucks. Can I now obtain a Class 1 licence?</p>		<p>This will depend on your medical condition and whether or not you qualify for a commercial driver's licence. To determine your eligibility, please contact:</p> <p>Driver Fitness & Monitoring, Alberta Transportation</p> <p>https://www.alberta.ca/contact-driver-fitness-and-monitoring.aspx</p> <p>Phone: 780-427-8230</p> <p>Toll free: 310-0000 before the phone number (in Alberta)</p>

Will the price or service charge for a Class 1 road test change?		No. There are no plans at this time to change the price the public pays for a road test or the \$28 service charge the Registry receives for the check in/eligibility process for Class 1 road tests.
Can Class 1 road tests be conducted at a Registry?		Commercial truck road tests continue to be delivered by government. There are no plans at this time to change where Class 1 road tests are delivered. You can book or manage your commercial truck road test appointment online at Alberta Road Test Scheduler or in person at an Alberta registry agent office .
Where do I get a permit for the Class 1 road test?		You may either buy your road test permit (required to schedule your road test) online through the Alberta Road Test Scheduler , or at an Alberta registry agent office .
What do Class 1 changes mean for registry agents?		Registry agents will be authorized to schedule Class 1 road tests in both an automatic or manual transmission truck when the program changes are implemented starting February 1, 2023. Policies (e.g., Motor Vehicle Manual) to support the Class 1 driver's licensing changes will be made available in advance of February 1, 2023.
What do Class 1 changes mean for driver examiners?		Driver examiners will be authorized to conduct Class 1 road tests in both an automatic or manual transmission truck when the program changes are implemented starting February 1, 2023.

Class 4 Driver's Licensing Changes

What changes are being made to Class 4 driver's licence requirements?		Drivers will no longer be required to take a road test in order to obtain a Class 4 driver's licence. The Class 4 knowledge test will remain and will be enhanced to include elements on passenger management and safety, as well as working with vulnerable populations. Class 4 drivers will still be required to pass a vision screening and provide a driver medical report as part of the licensing process.
Why are these Class 4 driver's licensing changes being made?		As part of government's efforts to reduce red tape for Albertans and businesses, opportunities to improve the driver licensing system were identified through feedback from Albertans, industry, and a review of best practice across Canada.
When will the Class 4 driver's licensing changes start?		The Class 4 road test will no longer be required and the enhanced knowledge test will be available starting February 1, 2023.

<p>Will a Class 4 driver still be required to take a knowledge test?</p>		<p>Yes. Class 4 drivers will be required to take a Class 4 enhanced knowledge test to include passenger management and working with vulnerable populations. The Class 4 enhanced knowledge test will continue to have 30 questions.</p>
<p>Will a Class 4 driver still be required to complete a vision screening and submit a driver medical report?</p>		<p>Yes. Class 4 drivers will still be required to submit a vision screening and driver medical report.</p>
<p>Are drivers still required to upgrade/re-class to a Class 4 driver's licence?</p>		<p>Yes. Once a driver has successfully completed the Class 4 enhanced knowledge test, passed a vision screening and have a completed driver medical report, they must have their licence re-classed to a Class 4.</p>
<p>I already hold a valid Class 4 driver's licence. How do these changes affect me?</p>		<p>Drivers who already have an existing Class 4 driver's licence are unaffected and their driver's licence remains valid.</p>
<p>I passed the Class 4 knowledge test and road tests prior to February 1, 2023, but I haven't applied for a Class 4 driver's licence. What happens to me?</p>		<p>Drivers who have passed the Class 4 knowledge and road tests within 12 months of the updated program being implemented, but who have not applied to have the Class 4 driver's licence issued, will have their test results honoured. The results of a knowledge and road test are valid for 12 months, so you need to go to a registry office and obtain your Class 4 driver's licence before the test results are no longer valid.</p>
<p>I passed the Class 4 knowledge test but have not taken the road test prior to February 1, 2023. Can I apply for my Class 4 driver's licence?</p>		<p>Drivers who have passed the Class 4 knowledge test but did not pass the Class 4 road test prior to February 1, 2023 will be required to pass the new Class 4 enhanced knowledge test and pay associated fees.</p>
<p>Why isn't the knowledge test I took before February 1, 2023 acceptable?</p>		<p>The old Class 4 knowledge test was designed to be taken with the old Class 4 road test. Without having completed both old tests, you will have to take the new enhanced Class 4 knowledge test.</p>
<p>For a Class 4, do I have to complete the knowledge test, driver's medical, and vision test in any particular order?</p>		<p>No. These licensing requirements may be completed in any order. However, they all must be done before receiving your Class 4 driver's licence.</p>

<p>I booked an upcoming Class 4 road test. With the September 27 announcement of road test changes, can I get a refund?</p>		<p>Registry agents are responsible for establishing their own road test refund policies. It is up to each registry to make their road test refund policies known to clients when a road test is scheduled. Please check with the registry where you booked your road test to learn if a refund is possible.</p>
<p>I took a Class 4 road test (either passed or failed it). With the September 27 announcement of road test changes, can I get a refund?</p>		<p>No. Drivers who have already taken a Class 4 road test are not eligible for a refund. Class 4 road tests were still a requirement and an available service in Alberta until January 31, 2023. Obtaining a driver's licence is a personal choice and is at the cost of each individual.</p>
<p>What do Class 4 changes mean for registry agents?</p>		<p>Registry agents can schedule Class 4 road tests to occur up and including January 31, 2023.</p> <p>Policies (e.g., Motor Vehicle Manual) to support the Class 4 driver's licensing changes will be made available in advance of February 1, 2023.</p>
<p>What do Class 4 changes mean for driver examiners?</p>		<p>Driver examiners will no longer be authorized to conduct Class 4 road tests when the program changes are implemented starting February 1, 2023.</p>