

Appendix H: Driver Licence Class System

In Manitoba, there are six classes of licence, as well as a separate endorsement for operating air-brake-equipped vehicles.

- **Class 1**
- **Class 2**
- **Class 3**
- **Class 4**
- **Class 5**
- **Class 6**
- **Air Brake Endorsement**

Effective January 01, 2003, Manitoba introduced Full Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) program. Graduated Driver Licensing applies to all applicants who are applying for a Class 5 or Class 6 licence and have never held that class of licence before.

For Classes 5 and 6

The letter L following the licence class denotes a driver in the Learner Stage. A driver must hold an L licence for at least nine months before he/she can take the road test and advance to the Intermediate Stage. A Class 5L driver must be accompanied by a supervising driver who has held a Class 5F (Full Stage) licence for at least three years.

The letter I following the licence class denotes a driver in the Intermediate Stage. A driver must hold an I licence for at least 15 months before graduating to the Full Stage. (No additional road testing is required to graduate to the Full Stage.)

The letter F following the licence class denotes a driver who is fully licensed to operate that class of vehicle. The driver must maintain zero blood alcohol content (BAC) for the first 36 months in the Full Stage. A driver must hold an F licence for at least three years before being allowed to supervise a learning driver.

The letter A (Authorized Instruction as a Learner Driver, outside the GDL System) following the licence class denotes a driver in the Authorized Instruction Stage. A driver who has an Authorized Instruction in Class 5 or 6 is a learner driver, but not part of the Graduated Driver Licensing program.

For Classes 1 through 4

The stages are A (Authorized Instruction) and F (Full stage). The L and I stages do not apply to these classes. If the driver is Zero BAC restricted for the Class 5, the Zero BAC will apply when operating Classes 1-4. Drivers taking Authorized Instruction in Classes 1-4 must be accompanied by a supervising driver who has held a Class 5F licence for at least three years, of which at least two years are of the same class of vehicle being driven.

Class 1

A **Class 1 Vehicle** is a semi-trailer truck alone or in combination with another vehicle.

A **Class 1F Licence** permits the holder to operate any motor vehicle or combination of vehicles in Classes 1 through 5.

The licence holder may not operate a Class 6 vehicle (motorcycle) without a Class 6 licence, but may operate a moped***.

The licence holder must hold an Air-Brake Endorsement in order to operate vehicles equipped with air brakes.

To apply for and obtain a Class 1A licence, permitting Authorized Instruction as a Learner Driver, the applicant must:

- hold a minimum Class 5I or 5A licence
- be at least 18 years of age
- submit a medical report on initial application
- meet prescribed vision standards
- successfully complete the Class 1 knowledge test (written or oral)
- successfully complete a written test on air brake operation, if applicable

To apply for and obtain a Class 1F licence, the applicant must:

- hold a minimum Class 5F with Authorized Instruction in Class 1
- successfully complete a road test in a Class 1 vehicle, including a pre-trip inspection of the vehicle
- if applicable, successfully complete an Air Brake Practical Inspection, manual slack adjustment and test

To retain a Class 1 licence, the licence holder must submit a medical report:

- every five years to age 45
- every three years to age 64
- annually age 65 and over

And must continue to meet prescribed vision standards.

Class 2

A **Class 2 Vehicle** is a bus* having a seating capacity of over 24 passengers while carrying passengers; or a school bus** having a seating capacity in excess of 36 passengers.

A **Class 2F Licence** permits the holder to operate Class 2 vehicles or combinations of vehicles in classes 3 through 5.

The licence holder may not operate a Class 6 vehicle (motorcycle) without a Class 6 licence, but may operate a moped***.

The licence holder must hold an Air Brake Endorsement in order to operate vehicles equipped with air brakes.

To apply for and obtain a Class 2A licence, the applicant must:

- hold a minimum Class 5I or 5A licence
- be at least 18 years of age
- submit a medical report on initial application
- meet prescribed vision standards
- successfully complete the Class 2 knowledge test (written or oral)
- successfully complete a written test on air brake operation if applicable

To apply for and obtain a Class 2F licence, the applicant must:

- hold a minimum Class 5F with a minimum Authorized Instruction in Class 2
- successfully complete a road test in a Class 2 vehicle, including a pre-trip inspection of the vehicle (and air brake system if applicable)

To retain a Class 2 licence, the licence holder must submit a medical report:

- every five years to age 45
- every three years to age 64
- annually age 65 and over

And must continue to meet prescribed vision standards.

Class 3

A **Class 3 Vehicle** is a truck with more than two axles, including any combination of vehicles; or a truck with two axles towing a vehicle or trailer with a registered gross vehicle weight of more than 4,540 kg, but does not include semi-trailer trucks or a Class 5 Vehicle, other than a truck and a towed vehicle with a GVW of more than 4,540 kgs.

A **Class 3F Licence** permits the holder to operate Class 3 vehicles or combinations of vehicles in Classes 4 and 5. The licence holder may not operate a Class 6 vehicle (motorcycle) without a Class 6 licence, but may operate a moped***.

The licence holder must hold an Air Brake Endorsement in order to operate vehicles equipped with Air Brakes.

To apply for and obtain a Class 3A licence, the applicant must:

- hold a minimum Class 5I or 5A licence
- be at least 18 years of age
- submit a medical report on initial application
- meet prescribed vision standards
- successfully complete the Class 3 knowledge test (written or oral)
- successfully complete an Air Brake Practical Inspection and test, if applicable

To apply for and obtain a Class 3F licence, the applicant must:

- hold a minimum Class 5F with a minimum Authorized Instruction in Class 3
- successfully complete a road test in a Class 3 vehicle, including a pre-trip inspection of the vehicle (and air brake system if applicable)

To retain a Class 3 licence, the licence holder must submit a medical report:

- every five years to age 45
- every three years to age 64
- annually age 65 and over

And must continue to meet prescribed vision standards.

Class 4

A Class 4 Vehicle is a/an:

- taxi
- ambulance or other emergency vehicle
- bus* with a seating capacity not exceeding 24 passengers
- school bus** with a seating capacity not exceeding 36 passengers

A Class 4F Licence permits the holder to operate all motor vehicles in classes 4 and 5.

The licence holder may not operate a Class 6 vehicle (motorcycle) without a Class 6 licence, but may operate a moped***.

The licence holder must hold an Air Brake Endorsement in order to operate vehicles equipped with air brakes.

To apply for and obtain a Class 4A licence, the applicant must:

- hold a minimum Class 5I or 5A licence
- be at least 18 years of age
- submit a medical report on initial application
- meet prescribed vision standards
- successfully complete the Class 4 knowledge test (written or oral)
- successfully complete an Air Brake Practical Inspection and test if applicable

To apply for and obtain a Class 4F licence, the applicant must:

- hold a minimum Class 5F with a minimum Authorized Instruction in Class 4
- successfully complete a road test in a Class 4 vehicle, including a pre-trip inspection of the vehicle (and air brake system, if applicable)

To retain a Class 4 licence, the licence holder must submit a medical report:

- every five years to age 45
- every three years to age 64
- annually age 65 and over

And must continue to meet prescribed vision standards.

Class 5

A Class 5 Vehicle is a:

- passenger vehicle other than a bus or taxicab
- truck with two axles
- any combination of vehicles consisting of a passenger vehicle or truck with two axles and a towed vehicle with a registered gross vehicle weight of not more than 4,540 kg

A Class 5F Licence permits the holder to operate motor vehicles in Class 5.

The holder of a Class 5I or 5F licence may:

- operate a Class 3 truck registered as a farm truck
- drive a bus with no passengers

A Class 5F licence holder:

- must continue to maintain zero blood alcohol content for the first 36 months
- may upgrade to Full Class 1-4 licence after passing the required tests
- may supervise novice drivers after three years in the Full Stage

The licence holder may not operate a Class 6 vehicle (motorcycle) without a Class 6 licence, but may operate a moped***

The licence holder must hold an Air Brake Endorsement in order to operate vehicles equipped with air brakes.

However, drivers of Class 3 trucks registered as farm trucks equipped with air brakes are exempt from this requirement.

To apply for and obtain a Class 5L licence, the applicant must:

- be at least 16 years of age (15 years and six months if enrolled in a high school driver education program)
- meet prescribed vision standards
- successfully complete the Class 5 knowledge test (written or

oral) A medical report must be submitted when requested.

A Class 5L licence holder must:

- serve a minimum nine months in the learner stage
- maintain zero blood alcohol content when driving
- be accompanied by a supervising driver as the only front seat passenger (supervising driver must have held 5F licence for at least three years, and be under .05 blood alcohol content)
- carry no more passengers than the number of functioning seat belts in the rear seat(s)
- not tow vehicles
- not operate a Class 3 vehicle registered as a farm truck
- not operate an off-road vehicle on or across a highway
- successfully complete a Class 5 road test in order to progress to the 5I stage

Note: A learning driver who is not in the Graduated Driver Licensing program will have a Class 5A licence instead of a Class 5L licence. The holder of a Class 5A licence must abide by all of the restrictions listed above, with the exception of the nine-month requirement. Upon successful completion of the Class 5 road test, the holder of a Class 5A licence progresses directly to the Class 5F stage. The 15-month Intermediate period is not required.

A Class 5I licence holder must:

- successfully complete a Class 5 road test in a Class 5 vehicle to enter this stage
- successfully complete an Air Brake Practical Inspection and test if applicable
- serve 15 months in the Intermediate Stage
- maintain zero blood alcohol content when driving
- from 5 a.m. to midnight, may carry one passenger in the front seat and up to the number of functioning seatbelts in the back seat(s)
- from midnight to 5a.m., either one passenger, or when accompanied by a qualified supervising driver in the front seat, may have additional passengers up to the number of functioning seatbelts in the back seat(s)

A Class 5I licence holder:

- may operate a Class 5 vehicle
- may operate a Class 3 vehicle registered as a farm truck
- may tow another vehicle
- may apply for Authorized Instruction in Classes 1-4, if 18 years old
- may operate a bus with no passengers
- may operate off-road vehicles along or across a highway

Class 6

A Class 6 Vehicle is a motorcycle.

A Class 6F Licence permits the holder to operate a motorcycle or a moped.*** No other class of vehicle may be operated unless that class of licence is held in combination with the Class 6 licence.

A Class 6 Licence has an additional stage, Class 6M, which permits the holder to operate a motorcycle while taking the mandatory motorcycle training course.

To apply for and obtain a Class 6M licence, the applicant must:

- hold a valid licence of any other class and stage
- be at least 16 years of age
- meet prescribed vision standards
- successfully complete the knowledge test (written or

oral) A medical report must be submitted when requested.

To apply for and obtain a Class 6L licence, the applicant must:

- successfully complete the motorcycle training course

A Class 6L licence holder must:

- not carry any passengers
- not drive at night (between one-half hour before sunset to one-half hour after sunrise)
- not tow any vehicle
- maintain zero blood alcohol content when driving

To apply for and obtain a Class 6I licence, the applicant:

- must have held a Class 6L licence for at least nine months
- must successfully complete a road test on a Class 6 vehicle
- must maintain zero blood alcohol content when driving
- may carry one passenger
- may tow a vehicle

The licence holder must hold the Class 6I licence for at least 15 months before progressing to the Class 6F stage. The licence holder must maintain zero blood alcohol content for 36 months.

Note: A driver is only required to serve the Intermediate Stage once. If the Intermediate requirement has been satisfied while obtaining a Class 5 licence, it need not be served again.

Note: A learning driver who is not in the Graduated Driver Licensing program will have a Class 6A licence instead of a Class 6L licence. The holder of a Class 6A licence must abide by all of the restrictions listed above for Class 6L, with the exception of the nine-month requirement. Upon successful completion of the Class 6 road test, the holder of a Class 6A licence progresses directly to the Class 6F stage

Air Brake Endorsement

A driver must have an Air Brake Endorsement in order to be allowed to drive any vehicle equipped with air brakes.

An Air Brake“A” Endorsement permits the holder to drive vehicles equipped with air brakes in the class of vehicle for which the driver is licensed. Drivers of Class 3 trucks registered as farm trucks equipped with air brakes, are exempt from this requirement.

An Air Brake“S” Endorsement permits the holder to manually adjust the brakes of the air brake-equipped vehicle being driven.

An Air Brake“I” Endorsement permits the holder to drive vehicles equipped with air brakes as a learner, only while accompanied by a qualified supervising driver.

Requirements

- must complete written or oral air brake test for “I” endorsement.
- must complete air brake practical test for “A” endorsement.
- must also complete adjustment of manual slack adjusters for “S” endorsement

Note: There is no additional fee for the air brake practical test if it is completed at the same time as the road test for a higher class of vehicle.

* A bus is any vehicle with a seating capacity of at least 11 persons (including the driver) used primarily to carry passengers. It excludes vehicles used for personal transportation by the owner or with the owner’s permission.

** A school bus certificate may be required to operate a school bus while carrying passengers. For further information please contact Pupil Transportation (204) 945-6900.

*** Mopeds are not allowed to be driven on highways with a speed limit exceeding 80 km/h. However, mopeds are allowed to cross these highways. A person wishing to operate a moped only, must have a minimum Class 5L licence.

For more information, contact [Driver Licensing Office](#).

Driver Testing and Vehicle Licensing

Scheduling your knowledge or road test

• All knowledge and road tests are by appointment only. Visit any Autopac agent* to pay for your test and to schedule your test appointment.

**For a list of Autopac agents, visit mpi.mb.ca.*

Test locations

Winnipeg

- 15 Barnes Street (at Bison Drive)
- 125 King Edward Street East
- 40 Lexington Park (at Gateway Road)
- 1284 Main Street
- 1103 Pacific Avenue
- 420 Pembina Highway
- 930 St. Mary's Road (French Language Services available)

Outside Winnipeg

- Arborg | 323 Sunset Boulevard
- Beausejour | 848 Park Avenue
- Brandon | 731 1st Street
- Dauphin | 217 Industrial Road
- Portage la Prairie | 2007 Saskatchewan Avenue West
- Selkirk | 1008 Manitoba Avenue
- Steinbach | 91 North Front Drive (French Language Services available)
- The Pas | 424 Fischer Avenue
- Thompson | 53 Commercial Place
- Winkler | 355 Boundary Trail

Driver Fitness Contacts

Driver Fitness

Medical Compliance and
Assessments Phone: 204-985-
1900
Toll Free: 1-866-617-6676

Alcohol and Drug
Phone: 204-985-7694
Toll Free: 1-866-323-0546

Driver Improvement and Control Program
Phone: 204-985-1989
Toll Free: 1-866-323-0545

Driver Records

Phone: 204-985-0980

Toll Free: 1-866-323-0543

Medical Reciprocity

Canada-United States Medical Reciprocity and Code W

Canadian drivers holding a valid Canadian commercial licence are not required to hold a United States (U.S.) DOT medical examiner's certificate. Medical fitness is addressed through the Canadian commercial licensing process.

The Canada-U.S. Medical Reciprocity agreement resulted from discussions between Transport Canada and the United States Federal Highway Administration. Its purpose is to achieve reciprocity between the two nations on medical fitness for operators of commercial motor vehicles.

Under the agreement, Canada-United States medical reciprocity is extended to all drivers, with the following four exceptions:

1. Class 1, 2, 3, drivers with insulin dependent diabetes
2. Class 1 and 3 drivers who do not meet Manitoba's minimum hearing requirements to transport dangerous goods
3. Class 1, 2, 3 drivers operating under a medical waiver or who are operating under medical grandfather rights
4. Class 1, 2, 3 drivers who have been diagnosed with epilepsy

The driver's licence restriction 'W - Commercial Class-Canada only' applies to Class 1, 2 and 3 commercial drivers, who are precluded from operating commercial vehicles in the United States under the Canada-United States Medical Reciprocity Agreement.

Commercial drivers with this restriction may continue to operate commercial vehicles in Canada.