


Inventory of Licensing Requirements

Jurisdictional Matrix
September 2008



**Canadian Trucking
Human Resources Council**

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Overview

In 2004, the Canadian Trucking Human Resources Council (CTHRC) completed an inventory of provincial and territorial requirements for obtaining a Class 1/A licence in Canada. This report provided detailed information on current government practices in commercial driver qualification and testing.

TESTING

Licensing practices in Canada have evolved since then, thereby providing the basis to update and create a new Matrix of Jurisdictional Standards for Class 1/A commercial drivers.

VEHICLE CLASS 1/A COMMERCIAL DRIVERS

Although there are slight variations in vehicle classifications across the jurisdictions, all specify that a Class 1/A licence (commercial driver) can operate tractors and semi-trailers. Air brake endorsements are required when driving vehicles with air brakes.

MINIMUM AGE OF LICENCEE

The minimum 18 years of age requirement for Class 1/A commercial driver licence is standard across the jurisdictions, with the exception of British Columbia, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador which require the applicant to be 19 years or older; while in Quebec the applicant must be 20 years or older or 19 if certain preparatory training is undertaken.

EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING

There is no mandatory training requirement in any jurisdictions, merely a demonstration of competency. However, in some cases driving experience is mandatory.

KNOWLEDGE TEST

The theoretical knowledge testing of commercial drivers varies considerably among jurisdictions with the number of testing questions being anywhere from 15 to 70 depending on the jurisdictions. Questions range in content from basic rules of the road and signal identification to specific problems and safety procedures with commercial vehicles. Air brake testing is required in order to receive the appropriate air brake endorsement.

PRACTICAL ROAD TEST

The content of the road test is similar in all jurisdictions. Provinces require pre-trip inspections, including a walk-around; and an air brake inspection and brake adjustment. Road tests on the other hand take between 30-60 minutes. Some road test manoeuvres include coupling and uncoupling trailer; highway driving; intersection manoeuvres; merging, passing and lane driving; left and right turns; backing up; speed control; proper space margins; shifting, starting and stopping; three point turns; driver check; driver communication; lane position and reverse angle parking.

THE TOTAL TEST DURATION VARIES BETWEEN 60 – 120 MINUTES.

All jurisdictions require a tractor coupled to a trailer when testing for a Class 1/A licence. Not all jurisdictions seem to have a weight requirement for testing.

MEDICAL STANDARDS

All jurisdictions require a medical report, completed and signed by a physician at the time of driver application. Jurisdictions must comply with the minimum medical qualifications set out in the National Safety Code for Motor Carriers as published by the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators (CCMTA). The frequency of Medical re-examination varies slightly among the jurisdictions.

DRIVER EXAMINER TRAINING

A few jurisdictions reported having an in-house training process for driver examiners requiring them to hold the class of licence for which they evaluate applicants.

MATRIX OF JURISDICTIONAL STANDARDS –Class 1/A Commercial Drivers

Items	British Columbia	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Manitoba
VEHICLE CLASS 1/A COMMERCIAL DRIVERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class 1 operator may drive semi-trailer trucks and all other motor vehicles or combination of vehicles except motorcycles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class 1 operator may drive any motor vehicle or a combination of vehicles equipped with air brakes other than motorcycles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class 1 operator may drive power units and semi-trailers and trucks that have a trailer or trailers or vehicles in tow where the gross weight of the towed unit or units exceeds 4,600 kg. Operating vehicles with air brakes requires appropriate endorsement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class 1 operator may drive any motor vehicles or combination of vehicles, semi-trailer of vehicles, semi-trailer with the exception of a school bus and motorcycle.
AGE REQUIREMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19 years of age 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 years of age 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 years of age 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 years of age
MEDICAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At time of licensing Every 5 years (19-45) Every 3 years (46-65) Annually (66 and older) Visual acuity (best eye 6/9 20/30; worst eye 6/15 20/50) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At time of licence application Every 5 years to age 45 Every 2 years (45-65) Annually (66 and older) Visual acuity (best eye 6/9 20/30; weaker eye 6/30 20/100 aided or unaided. Both eyes opened and examined together) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before testing Every 5 years (18-45) Every 3 years (46-64) Annually (65 and older) Visual acuity (best eye 6/9 20/30; worst eye 6/15 20/50) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At time of licence application Every 5 years to age 45 Every 3 years (46-64) Annually (65 and older) Visual acuity (best eye 6/9 20/30; worst eye 6/30 20/100) Field of vision 150 both eyes
KNOWLEDGE TEST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 35 randomly selected questions on Class 1 vehicle operation, rules of the road including 10 traffic signs and signals questions Separate air brake endorsement test of 25 multiple-choice questions Both tests are based on the ICBC's Driving Commercial Vehicles Guide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 randomly selected questions dealing with knowledge and rules of the road along with 5 traffic sign recognition questions Test questions are derived from the Basic and Commercial Driver Handbooks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seven test papers (10-30 questions each) If applicant fails a test he/she only required to re-write the failed exam Air brake endorsement requires a pre-trip circle check and practical test 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24 randomly selected questions on class 1, 2, 3 & 4 vehicle operation and practices Questions are derived from the Professional Driver's Manual Supplementary written test for air brakes required consisting of 20 questions. Questions are derived from the Air Brake Manual and are randomly selected
TIME LIMIT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No time limit All tests including knowledge and road tests must be completed in English without assistance. Passing grade 80% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No time limit May be written or oral. English assistance may be available (certain qualifying conditions apply). Knowledge test is automated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60 minutes Passing grade of 80% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No time limit Class 1 must answer 21 out of 24 questions correctly Air Brake must answer 16 out of 20 questions correctly
ROAD TEST	<p>VEHICLE REQUIRED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loaded tandem or tridem axle tractor towing tandem or tridem axle trailer Tractor and trailer must have air brakes and combination must weigh at least 28,000 kg <p>CONDITIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-trip inspection includes a written inspection report Class 1 licence restricted to automatic if automatic vehicle used for road test <p>DURATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 120 minutes (includes pre-trip test) 	<p>VEHICLE REQUIRED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class 1 tractor-trailer combination with three or more axles and the trailer must be equipped with a pure air brake system to its foundation brakes <p>CONDITIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skill test vehicle control, backing, coupling and uncoupling and parking Air brake and pre-trip inspection <p>DURATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90 minutes 30 minutes air brake inspection 	<p>VEHICLE REQUIRED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semi-trailer units or trucks towing a trailer where the gross weight of the towed unit exceeds 4,600 kg <p>CONDITIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-trip and air brake inspection Actual Road test Drivers who test in a vehicle with an automatic or electronic transmission will be restricted to this type of vehicle, however they may drive a standard as a learner. <p>DURATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 120 minutes (with 60 minutes for actual road test) 	<p>VEHICLE REQUIRED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class 1 tractor-trailer combination <p>CONDITIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road test in traffic evaluating vehicle control, backing and parking Pre-trip and Air brake inspection (if necessary) <p>DURATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90 minutes total test time Includes 20 minutes for pre-trip inspection Includes 30 minutes for air brake inspection
EXAMINERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICBC driver examiners must possess at least a Class 5 (full privilege) driver's licence; have and maintain a good driving record; qualify for a learner's licence for the classes of vehicle for which they will be conducting road tests; have taken an approved air brake course if conducting tests using air brake vehicles; and hands on training on the types of vehicles for which they will be conducting road tests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class 1 examiners must have a Class 1 licence and air brake qualifications. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examiners who conduct the tests have taken air brake and Class 1 training and must progress to a point in which they are able to pass the tests they are going to administer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MPI-employed driver examiners must hold a valid Class 1 licence with air brake endorsement authorized to adjust slack adjusters. Completed in-house training and certification also required prior to evaluating applicants for Class 1, 2 & 3 licences.

MATRIX OF JURISDICTIONAL STANDARDS –Class 1/A Commercial Drivers

Items	Ontario	Quebec	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia
VEHICLE CLASS 1/A COMMERCIAL DRIVERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class 1/A operator may drive any combination of motor vehicle and towed vehicles, excluding buses, where the towed vehicles exceed a total gross weight of 4,600kg 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class 1 operator may drive any truck towing a semi-trailer or straight trucks towing a trailer 2000kg (net) or more, and road trains. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class 1 operator may drive any truck towing a semi-trailer or straight trucks towing a trailer 2000kg (net) or more, and road trains. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class 1 operator may drive any truck towing a semi-trailer or straight trucks towing a trailer 2000kg (net) or more, and road trains.
AGE REQUIREMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 years of age (endorsement is required for vehicle equipped with air brakes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 years of age for licensing 19 years of age learner's permit Note: 3 years experience as the holder of a class 5 licence or 2 years if applicant has successfully completed training in a centre recognized by the SAAQ (300 hours) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 years of age 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 years of age
MEDICAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At time of licence application At licence renewal Every 5 years to age 46 Every 3 years (47 to 65) Annually (66 and older) Visual acuity measured by Snellen Rating that is not poorer than 20/30 with both eyes open and examined together and not poorer than 20/100 in the weaker eye; horizontal visual field of at least 150 continuous degrees along the horizontal meridian and at least 20 continuous degrees above and below fixation, with both eyes open and examined together, (best eye 6/9 20/30); worst eye 6/15 25/30) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At time of licence application At licence renewal At age of 45, 55, 60 and 65 After every 2 years Visual acuity (best eye 6/9 20/30; worst eye 6/15 20/50) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At time of application Every 4 years to age 45 Every 2 years (46 and older) Visual acuity (best eye 6/9 20/30; worst eye 6/15 20/50) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At time of application First renewal Every 5 years to age 64 Annually 65 and over Visual acuity (best eye 6/9 20/30; worst eye 6/15 20/50)
KNOWLEDGE TEST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 questions on rules of the road, signs, signals and commercial knowledge specific to Class 1/A 20 questions on air brakes for endorsement Retested every 5 years up to the age of 65, annually from age 66 and older 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 32 questions on heavy vehicle driving, Highway Safety Code and commercial driving techniques 20 questions on basic knowledge of air brakes to have an "F" endorsement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 questions on rules of the road 20 questions on road signs 10 questions on commercial vehicles 20 questions on air brakes (if applicable) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 questions on rules of the road Supplementary air brake written test required for operation of vehicles with air brakes
TIME LIMIT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 minutes (no time limit) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 minutes (no time limit) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 minutes for each test 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 minutes
ROAD TEST	<p>VEHICLE REQUIRED</p> <p>Class A/1 tractor-trailer combination</p> <p>CONDITIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skill test in vehicle control, backing, coupling and uncoupling, parking and pre-trip inspection (if necessary) <p>DURATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60 minutes 20 minutes air brake inspection (if necessary) Retesting annually age 65 and older, and any driver who is age 70 and has been involved in an accident 	<p>VEHICLE REQUIRED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class 1 tractor-trailer combination <p>CONDITIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skill test in vehicle control, backing, coupling and uncoupling and parking and pre-trip inspection Air brake and pre-trip inspection (if necessary) <p>DURATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80 minutes 20 minutes pre-departure inspection 	<p>VEHICLE REQUIRED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class 1 tractor-trailer combination <p>CONDITIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skill test in vehicle control, backing, parking, coupling and uncoupling Air brake and pre-trip inspection (if necessary) <p>DURATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60 minutes 30 minutes pre-trip inspection and air brake (if necessary) 	<p>VEHICLE REQUIRED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class 1 tractor-trailer combination <p>CONDITIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skill test in vehicle control, backing, parking, coupling and uncoupling Air brake and pre-trip inspection (if necessary) <p>DURATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60 minutes 30 minutes and (air brake and pre-trip inspection if necessary)
EXAMINERS			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Driver Examiners must have taken an approved Air Brake course and Class 1 training in order to administer Class 1 test. 	