



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
OFFICE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

**Section:** I Issuance of Driver's License  
**Number:** 1.00

**Effective:** 05/01/1986  
**Revised:** 01/27/2020

**CLASSES OF LICENSES AND AGE REQUIREMENTS**

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**POLICY:**

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To view Louisiana Statutes: <http://www.legis.state.la.us/>

**AUTHORITY**

R.S. 32:402  
R.S. 32:402.1  
R. S. 32:405.1  
R. S. 32:407  
R. S. 32:408  
R. S. 32:422  
R.S. 32:410 (A)(5)

**GENERAL**

Every person who operates a motor vehicle which is designed as being in either Class A, B, C, D, or E , before driving or operating any such motor vehicle on any public street, road, or highway of this State, shall secure from the Department an appropriately classified driver's license with all necessary endorsements.

**Types of driver's licenses:**

- Class E - personal vehicle license
- Class D - chauffeur license
- Classes A, B, and C - commercial vehicle license

**Applicable Class A, B, and C Endorsements**

- "T" Double/Triple Trailers
- "P" Passenger
- "N" Tank Vehicles
- "H" Hazardous Materials (Age Requirements: 21 years or above)
- "X" Combination Tank Vehicles and Hazardous Materials
- "S" School Bus

**Applicable Endorsement for ALL Classes**

- "M" Motorcycle

**CLASS DEFINITIONS & AGE REQUIREMENTS**

The class of driver's license needed depends on the type of vehicle being driven. Drivers may also be required to have appropriate endorsement(s) on their Commercial Driver's License.

### **Class A Commercial Driver's License - Combination Vehicles**

- Age Requirements: 18 years or above for intrastate and 21 years or above for interstate.
- Permits the operation of all vehicles within Classes B, C, D, and E, with any appropriate endorsements and any combination of vehicles with a gross combination weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more, provided that the gross vehicle weight rating of the vehicle or vehicles being towed is in excess of 10,000 pounds.
  - If the pulling unit of the combination vehicle is 26,000 pounds or less, a restriction (55 - No 18-wheelers) must be added to the license.
  - If the pulling unit and towed unit are connected with a pintel hook or other no-fifth wheel connection, a restriction (67 - No tractor-trailer CMV) must be added to the license.

### **Class B Commercial Driver's License - Heavy Straight Vehicle**

- Age Requirements: 18 years or above for intrastate and 21 years or above for interstate.
- Permits the operation of any vehicle within Classes C, D, and E, with any appropriate endorsement(s) plus any single vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating of twenty-six thousand and one or more pounds. A "straight vehicle" is defined for the purpose of this class as being one that does not bend or have a moveable joint in its frame between the driver seat and the cargo or passenger compartment.

### **Class C Commercial Driver's License - Light Vehicle**

- Age Requirements: 18 years or above for intrastate and 21 years or above for interstate.
- Permits the operation of any vehicle within Classes D and E, with any appropriate endorsement(s), plus any single vehicle less than 26,001 pounds GVWR.
  - This group includes vehicles designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver, and which are not within the definition of a Group A or B vehicle, and vehicles used in the transportation of materials found to be hazardous for purposes of the Federal Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, 19 United States Code 1801 et seq. or under state law or regulation and which require the motor vehicle to be placarded.

### **EXCEPTIONS**

Only a Class E driver's license shall be required for:

- A full-time, regularly paid operator of an emergency medical vehicle or firefighting equipment employed by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, or a municipality, parish, fire protection district, or other political subdivision of the state, or civilian employees of the United States military who are required to operate emergency vehicles, when operating such vehicle or equipment in the course and scope of his employment. The emergency vehicle or firefighting equipment shall be equipped with audible and visual signals and the operation of the commercial motor vehicle is necessary for the preservation of life or property or in the execution of emergency governmental functions. However, if a driver is employed by a private EMS service, he will have to secure a Class D license.
- An industrial mutual aid response team or a volunteer operator of an emergency medical vehicle or firefighting equipment, when operating such vehicle or equipment. The emergency vehicle or firefighting equipment shall be equipped with audible and visual signals and the operation of the commercial motor vehicle is necessary for the preservation of life or property or in the execution of emergency governmental functions.
- An operator of an emergency command post vehicle which would otherwise meet the definition of a commercial motor vehicle, and who is employed by the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness or a parish office of emergency preparedness, when operating such vehicle in the course and scope of his employment. The emergency vehicle or firefighting equipment shall be equipped with audible and visual signals and the operation of the commercial motor vehicle is necessary for the preservation of life or property or in the execution of emergency governmental functions.

- An emergency command post vehicle or other law enforcement equipment which would otherwise meet the definition of a commercial motor vehicle, and who is employed as a law enforcement officer, when operating such vehicle or equipment in the course and scope of his employment. The emergency vehicle or firefighting equipment shall be equipped with audible and visual signals and the operation of the commercial motor vehicle is necessary for the preservation of life or property or in the execution of emergency governmental functions.
- Active or reserve members of the United States military and active or reserve members of the National Guard to operate commercial motor vehicles or buses, when operating such vehicles or buses in the course and scope of military duties during a gubernatorial declared state of emergency.
- For farmers and their employees as long as they are operating within 150 air miles of the owner or operator's farm. A farmer may transport agricultural products, farm machinery, farm supplies, agricultural crop production fertilizers, agricultural chemicals, or agricultural related fuels found to be hazardous under the provisions of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act which requires the motor vehicle to bear a placard.
- For someone operating a recreational vehicle for personal use.

**NOTE:** The operator of any motorcycle, motor driven cycle or motorized bicycle/moped (a pedal bicycle which may be propelled by human power or helper motor or both), in excess of 5 horsepower, regardless of maximum speed, or size of motor, must have an "M" endorsement on one of the classes of driver's license.

#### **Class "D" Chauffeurs Driver's License**

- Age Requirements: 17 years or above.
- Permits the operation of all vehicles included in Class E plus any single motor vehicle used in commerce to transport passengers or property if the motor vehicle has a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,001 or more pounds but less than 26,001 pounds, or any combination of vehicles used in commerce to transport passengers or property if the vehicle has a combined vehicle weight rating of 10,001 or more pounds but less than 26,001 pounds inclusive of a towed unit with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 10,000 pounds; or any vehicle designed or utilized for the transportation of passengers for hire or fee; and not utilized in the transportation of materials found to be hazardous under the provisions of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act which requires the vehicle to bear a placard under the provision of Hazardous Materials Regulations (49 CFR Part 172, Subpart F). NOTE: As long as the combined gross vehicle weight rating (truck and trailer) is less than 26,001 pounds you can operate with Class D.

#### **Class E Driver's License - Personal Vehicle**

- Age Requirements: 17 years or above.
- Permits the operation of any single motor vehicle under 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight or any such vehicle towing a vehicle not in excess of 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating; any personal use of recreational vehicle or combination of vehicles; or any vehicle which is not within the definition of Class A, B, C, or D and not utilized in the transportation of materials found to be hazardous under the provisions of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act which requires the vehicle to bear a placard under the provision of Hazardous Materials Regulations (49 CFR Part 172, Subpart F).

### **Class E Temporary Instructional Permit (TIP) Effective 09/04/2018**

- Age Requirements: 14 years or above.
- Required for all first time driver education applicants – all ages
- All applicants must apply to the Office of Motor Vehicles for a Class "E" Temporary Instructional Permit (TIP) prior to the administration of the knowledge test. The TIP allows a driver education student to operate a motor vehicle when accompanied by a driver education instructor and when completing behind the wheel instruction or during the administration of a skills test.
- Applicants shall meet all other Office of Motor Vehicles identification requirements.
- This requirement does not apply to applicants enrolled in a National Guard Youth Challenge Program
- Any student enrolled in a driver education, driver training program or a pre-licensing training course prior to 09/04/2018 is exempt from this requirement.

### **Class E Learner's Permit**

- Age Requirements: 15 years or above.
- A minor who is fifteen or sixteen years of age may only be issued a Class E Learner's Permit or TIP.
- This permit will enable the person to drive while being accompanied by a licensed parent, guardian or adult at least age twenty-one or older or a licensed sibling at least eighteen years or older.
- In no event may it be upgraded to a higher class license prior to the minor reaching sixteen years of age.
- The learner's permit must be held for 180 days, unless the applicant is 17 years of age or older.
- Once an applicant with a learner's permit reaches his 17th birth date, the restriction may be removed upon providing proof the applicant successfully passed the on-the-road driving examination.
- At the age of 18 year or older the restriction may be removed immediately upon providing proof the applicant successfully passed the on-the-road driving examination.

### **Class E Intermediate License**

- Age Requirement: 16 years of age.
- The Class E learner's license may be converted to a Class E intermediate license upon the applicant being at least sixteen years of age and passing the on-road driving test, provided that the applicant has held the license for at least 180 days if he is not yet 17 years of age.
- Effective August 1, 2019, no applicant shall be issued a Class "E" intermediate license unless a signed statement by the parent or legal guardian is provided to the department attesting that the applicant has held the Class "E" learner's license for at least 180 days if he is not 17 years of age while remaining accident free, except where the licensee was not at fault, and receiving no convictions for moving violations of the seatbelt or curfew laws of this state or any law pertaining to drug or alcohol use.
- The intermediate license shall restrict those under the age of seventeen from driving between 11:00 PM. and 5:00 AM unless otherwise accompanied by a licensed parent or guardian, by a licensed adult at least twenty-one years of age, or by a licensed sibling at least eighteen years of age. An intermediate licensee may not transport more than one passenger under 21 years of age and who is not a member of his immediate family (between 6pm and 5am) unless he is accompanied by a licensed parent or guardian, or adult at least 21 years of age. In addition to the licensed parent, sibling, guardian or adult, there may be other members of the permit holder's immediate family in the vehicle and when accompanied by a driver's education teacher there may be one or more fellow driver's education students in the vehicle.

**Exceptions:** Any applicant at least sixteen years of age, but less than seventeen years of age, moving to Louisiana from another state shall be eligible for the issuance of a Class E intermediate driver's license provided such applicant meets all other requirements for licensure in Louisiana if proof of issuance of a driver's license or learner's license for a minimum of 180 days from the state of previous residence is provided. The proof of driver's education will not be required as this applicant will not be considered a "first time" applicant.

## NOTES

- No application for a license for the operation of a motor vehicle shall be received from any person making application for the first time unless there is also submitted with the application, on a form approved by the secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, public safety services, written evidence of the successful completion by the applicant of one of the following:
  - A "driver education course" for any person under the age of eighteen, which shall consist of not less than eight hours of actual driving instruction and thirty hours of classroom instruction. Upon completion of the required supervised driving practice, a properly licensed and contracted third-party test may administer the on-road driving skills test to the student. Upon successful completion, such third-party tester must provide the student with a department approved certificate of completion in a sealed envelope to be delivered to the Department.
  - A "pre-licensing training course" from any person eighteen years or older if a driver education course is not completed. The pre-licensing training course shall consist of a minimum of six hours of classroom instruction and a minimum of eight hours of actual driving instruction.
- An eighteen (18) year old or older first time applicant or the parent or guardian of a seventeen (17) year old first time applicant for a Class "E" license shall provide a signed statement to the department attesting he has completed a minimum of fifty hours of supervised driving practice with a licensed parent, guardian, or adult at least twenty-one (21) or older. At least fifteen (15) of these hours must be night time driving. If the applicant for a Class "E" license is seventeen (17) years of age and is emancipated, the applicant shall provide the attestation for himself, provided that the applicant has the necessary identifying information and documentation.
- Effective September 16, 2013, the minor applicant seventeen (17 years of age) must also present a completed Certification of Required Attendance form indicating his enrollment/attendance status. A current Certification of Required School Attendance must be submitted or verified each time a minor makes application with the Office of Motor Vehicles (to lift the 02 restriction, be issued a duplicate, be issued a Class E (at age 17), request a change of address...). Effective 08/01/2014, the current school attendance form is valid for 90 days from the date of issuance. For home study or registered nonpublic school students, the parent/guardian must submit one of the following documents each time a minor makes application with the OMV (as stated above) :
  - SBESE home study - signed and approved Home Study Approval Notification Letter. This letter is valid for one year from the date on the letter and must be renewed annually.
  - Private option - signed Registered Nonpublic School: Registration Confirmation Letter verifying registration of the nonpublic school. This letter is valid for one year from the date of the letter and must be renewed annually.

If the applicant has graduated or attained the high school equivalency diploma, he may present the diploma upon application in lieu of the Certification of Required School Attendance.

- A custodial parent's signature will always be required each time a minor makes application with the Office of Motor Vehicles to lift the 02 restriction, be issued a duplicate, be issued a Class E (at age 17) or request a change of address, upgrade to a higher class. In the case where joint custody has been awarded, only the domiciliary parent may sign. Exceptions to this rule are those minors who are married or who have been emancipated.

## IN CASE OF EMERGENCY (ICE) INFORMATION

- An applicant has the option to provide emergency contact information. This information will be contained in the motor vehicle record.
- The ICE information will assist law enforcement and emergency personnel in notifying the contact in cases of emergency.

**RELATED POLICIES**

Section I- 6.01 [Driver Education Requirements](#)

8.00 [Authorization\Licensing Of A Minor's Application For A Driver's License](#)

8.02 [Provisional Custody By Mandate](#)

Section II 16.00 [Privileges Cancelled At Parent's Request](#)