



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
OFFICE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

**Section:** I Issuance of Driver's License  
**Number:** 10.00

**Effective:** 05/01/1986  
**Revised:** 10/11/2018

**KNOWLEDGE EXAMINATIONS FOR ALL CLASSES**

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**POLICY:**

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

**AUTHORITY**

R.S. 32:408  
49 CFR 383.117  
49 CFR 383.123  
Administrative

**DEFINITION**

An applicant must successfully pass a knowledge test prior to the issuance of a driver's license or learner's permit.

**Notes:**

- Any attempt at cheating will result in the test being discontinued. The applicant may return after a minimum of thirty (30) days for subsequent testing.
- An applicant may retest once on the same day. He must, however, be placed back in rotation to await a new test. He may return any day thereafter to retake the examination.

**REQUIREMENTS**

- An applicant must comply with all identification, medical and vision requirements before the written test is administered.

**CLASS "D" AND/OR "E" EXAMINATION**

All first time applicants:

- must successfully pass the knowledge (and road skills) tests for driving privileges (Class D and E)
- must obtain a score of at least **80%** correct on the knowledge tests
- for a motorcycle endorsement must pass the appropriate knowledge and skills tests

**Alien applicants**

- Required to successfully pass the knowledge (and road skills) tests.
- Only applicants from the countries with which Louisiana has a reciprocity agreement are exempt from testing (Germany, 12/1/1998, Switzerland, 7/1/2001 and Taiwan, 8/14/2018).

**Knowledge Tests**

- Scores for the knowledge test administered by OMV are valid for as long as they are available on the testing database.
- Scores from a Third Party Tester are good for five (5) years. TPTs are required to retain records for five (5) years.

## **CLASS "A," "B," OR "C" (CDL) EXAMINATION**

- All applicants must pass the general knowledge test (written or oral).
- Depending on the applicant's desired class of license and endorsements, all other knowledge tests can be given sequentially.
- All applicants must achieve a score of at least 80% on each test administered.
- Interpreters and/or translators are not allowed for CDL testing as the applicant must be able to understand the English language.

NOTE: Prior to testing, all applicants are required to pay a \$15.00 application fee and to complete the necessary CDL application forms.

## **HAZMAT NOTES**

- Hazardous Materials knowledge test will be given at every renewal, every Change State of Record and every upgrade.
- Written HazMat testing may be waived at the discretion of the Office Manager/Supervisor if test scores can be verified in the OMV testing database.
- The issue date of license will not serve as verification of HazMat testing.
- Oral tests cannot be administered for the HazMat endorsement.

## **PASSENGER ENDORSEMENT**

An applicant for the passenger endorsement must satisfy both of the following knowledge and skills test requirements.

- *Knowledge test.* All applicants for the passenger endorsement must have knowledge covering the following topics:
  - Proper procedures for loading/unloading passengers;
  - Proper use of emergency exits, including push-out windows;
  - Proper responses to such emergency situations as fires and unruly passengers;
  - Proper procedures at railroad/highway grade crossings and drawbridges;
  - Proper braking procedures; and
  - Operating practices and procedures not otherwise specified.
- *Skills test.* To obtain a passenger endorsement applicable to a specific vehicle class, an applicant must take his/her skills test in a passenger vehicle satisfying the requirements of that vehicle group as defined in §383.91.

NOTE: Adding a passenger endorsement requires a separate skills test in a bus. (i.e., an applicant cannot test in a van to obtain a passenger endorsement)

## **SCHOOL BUS ENDORSEMENT**

An applicant for the school bus endorsement must satisfy the following three requirements:

- *Qualify for passenger vehicle endorsement.* Pass the knowledge and skills test for obtaining a passenger vehicle endorsement.
- *Knowledge test.* Must have knowledge covering the following topics:
  - Loading and unloading children, including the safe operation of stop signal devices, external mirror systems, flashing lights, and other warning and passenger safety devices required for school buses by State or Federal law or regulation.
  - Emergency exits and procedures for safely evacuating passengers in an emergency.
  - State and Federal laws and regulations related to safely traversing railroad/highway grade crossings; and
  - Operating practices and procedures not otherwise specified.
- *Skills test.* Must take a driving skills test in a school bus of the same vehicle group (see

§383.91(a) as the school bus applicant will drive.

**EXCEPTION:** Knowledge and skills tests administered before September 30, 2002 and approved by FMCSA as meeting the requirements of this section, meet the requirements of paragraphs (a)(2) and (3) of this section

NOTE: A school bus driver is required to have both a passenger (P) endorsement and a school bus (S) endorsement.

**The Hazardous Materials Test will be administered when:**

- Adding a HazMat endorsement for the first time.
- Renewing a CDL and the applicant wishes to maintain the HazMat endorsement.
- An applicant is a "Change-State-of-Record" (regardless of the fact that he may have had some HazMat training within the last 2 years).

**CDL NOTES**

- The application fee is forfeited if there is any attempt at cheating.
- All CDL testing (written and skills) and issuance must be completed within 360 days of the initial application and payment of a \$15 application fee. After the 360 days, all test scores will be considered expired, the \$15 application fee is forfeited, and the applicant must restart the process.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

- If an applicant downgrades from the class D to a class E, he may upgrade back to a class D only, without being retested.
- If the applicant has a reading comprehension disability, the tests may be administered orally. EXCEPTION: Hazardous Material written test cannot be administered orally.
- If the applicant does not have a good understanding of the written English language, he may request an interpreter to assist with any class knowledge tests except CDL.
- Testing is not required if a Louisiana or an out-of-state license is expired.
- CDL Class A, B, and C drivers - if the CDL license is expired or has been downgraded for more than one year, and the driver wants to renew his CDL license, or upgrade back to a CDL class A, B, or C, then he must retake all required written test for that class.

**RELATED POLICIES**

Section I 1.00 [Classes of License and Age Requirements](#)

6.00 [Identification Requirements](#)

6.02 [Driver's License Issuance for Aliens Living in Louisiana](#)

12.00 [Road Skills Test](#)

18.01 [Reciprocity With Other Countries](#)