

Commercial Driver License Guide for Study

You must possess a **Commercial License Permit (CLP)** issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles (**DMV**) *before* you can start school bus driver training with our instructors at First Student.

- You must first pass a DOT medical exam
- Study to take the DMV written exams
- Gather your identification documentation required by the DMV
- Receive from First Student a check for the DMV licensing fee
- Visit your local Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to complete the CDL application and take written exams the same day.

DMV Exams Written Only

1. The commercial **Class B General Knowledge test**, taken by all applicants.
2. The **passenger transport test**, taken by all bus driver applicants.
3. The **air brakes test**
4. **Class C Driver exam**. Be prepared to have to take it.

Study Materials

- California Driver Handbook
- California Commercial Driver Handbook
- [First Student Commercial License Permit \(CLP\) Online Training Series First Student Inc.](#)

Free handbooks at a local DMV and/or download or view them on the CA DMV Portal at: <https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/pubs/pubs>

Refer to figure below from the **California Commercial Driver Handbook Section 1.1.2**

Figure 1.2 details which sections of the Commercial Driver handbook you should study for each particular class of license and each endorsement.

WHAT SECTIONS SHOULD YOU STUDY?								
Sections to Study	License Type			Endorsement				
	Class A	Class B	Class C	Hazardous Materials	Double / Triple	Tank Vehicles	Passenger	School Bus
1	X	X	X					
2	X	X	X		X	X	X	
3	X	X	X					
4							X	
5*	X	X	X		X			
6	X				X	X		
7					X			
8						X		
9				X		X		
10								X
11	X	X	X				X	X
12	X	X	X				X	X
13	X	X	X				X	X
*Study Section 5 if you plan to operate vehicles equipped with air brakes. Commercial Class B: Any single vehicle with a GVWR of more than 26,000 pounds, any such vehicle towing a vehicle not in excess of 10,000 pounds GVWR, or a 3-axle vehicle weighing over 6,000 pounds.								

Practice Questions

Read each section of the DMV Commercial Handbook. , Answer "**Check Your Knowledge Questions**". Use the book to look up the answers to those questions. The more practice test questions you see, the better. Search the internet for practice tests. Make sure they are the right tests. **California Class B General Knowledge test, Passenger Endorsement test, School Bus test, Air Brake test.**

- **DMV website:** [DMV Sample Tests](#)
- **Google Searches:**
- [Free California DMV Practice Tests](#)
[DMV CDL Practice Test California - Free DMV Written Test](#)
- **Smartphone or tablet apps** [IOS](#) App Store [Android](#) Google Play

DMV Required Documentation

- **Valid California Driver License**
- **DMV Exam Fee** - Current CDL holders are responsible for updates to their license. Note for original CDL applicants only. A live check is ***provided by First Student.***
- **DOT Medical Certification** - First Student will pay to send you for your Department of Transportation medical exam. At that time you will receive a copy of your **DOT Medical Certification required by DMV. Keep a copy for yourself.**
- **Social Security Card - non-laminated (paper card) only**
- **True Full Name *** (if you have changed your name)
- **Birth Date Verification / Legal Presence*** (example; birth certificate or valid, current passport)
- **California Residency documents*** Existing California driver license card holders applying for, upgrading, or renewing a CDL, are required to present as proof of residency. *Read about that here:

[What Do I Need to Apply?](#) See this section, "What Do I Need to Apply" in the link entitled REQUIREMENTS FOR A CALIFORNIA DRIVER LICENSE.

Refer to the California DMV Portal for additional information.

<https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/>