



# CDL - Commercial Driver's License Exam (CDL Test Preparation)

By Editors of REA, Matt Mosher

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**CDL - Commercial Driver's License Exam (CDL Test Preparation)** By Editors of REA, Matt Mosher

**REA's *Commercial Driver's License (CDL)* Test Prep Puts You in the Driver's Seat!**  
**Updated 5th Edition**

Looking to get your CDL and start a new and profitable career? REA can get you headed in the right direction! Commercial drivers are needed across the country, and a high score on the CDL improves your chances for landing the job you want.

**This updated fifth edition of our popular test prep offers complete preparation for both the bus and truck driver licensing exams.**

Based on the current CDL exams, REA's *Commercial Driver's License* test prep **contains everything you need to know.** Easy-to-follow review chapters cover all the topics tested on the exams, including:

- General Knowledge and Skills
- Passenger Transport
- Air Brakes
- Combination Vehicles
- Hazardous Materials
- Tankers
- Metal Coil
- Doubles/Triples

Checklists, diagrams, and definitions of must-know terms help reinforce your knowledge and skills while you study.

**This complete CDL test prep package features the latest information on the testing and licensing requirements in all 50 states.** Learn the facts about the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act, Rules, and Licensing, so you'll be well informed on the rules of the road.

**The book features 8 practice tests that cover the entire scope of the CDL exams.** Each test comes complete with detailed answer explanations. Unlike other test preps, we don't just say which answers are right, we explain why the other choices are wrong, and that gives you an advantage on test day.

**REA's *CDL* test prep is a must for anyone preparing for this career-building exam!**

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## **Editorial Review**

From the Back Cover

### **EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THE CDL! COMPLETE PREP FOR THE TRUCK AND BUS DRIVER'S LICENSE EXAMS**

Federal law requires all drivers of commercial motor vehicles to possess a Commercial Driver's License. To get this special CDL license, you must take and pass the required knowledge and skills tests. By studying from this up-to-date and easy-to-follow book, you'll be prepared to pass the CDL exam on your first try!

#### **The Most Complete CDL Review**

Easy-to-read review chapters give you everything you need to know to pass the CDL exam and get your license. Covers all the basics and the latest requirements for the various sections of the test. Checklists, diagrams, and definitions reinforce your knowledge and skills while you study.

#### **The Best CDL Practice Exams Available**

The book includes 8 full-length CDL practice tests to help you pinpoint your strengths and weaknesses. Our practice tests are based on actual CDL questions and cover all the topics tested on the exam.

#### **Total Explanations of CDL Exam Questions & Answers**

Each CDL practice test comes with detailed feedback on every question. We don't just say which answers are right – but explain why the others are wrong. This helps you understand the material completely, so you'll be confident and ready for the CDL exam.

#### **Up-to-date Information for All 50 States**

This complete CDL test prep package features the latest information on the testing and licensing requirements in all 50 states. Learn the facts about the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act, rules, and licensing, so you'll be well informed on the rules of the road.

#### **About the Author**

Matt Mosher is a third-generation trucker with more than 450,000 safe-driving miles behind him. Currently, he teaches the rules of the road to students at the Sage Truck Driving School. He applies his many years of personal driving experience and thorough knowledge of the industry in this compact, must-have CDL test prep.

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## **FROM THE AUTHOR**

If you are preparing to take the Commercial Driver's License Exam, you've purchased the right book. Although there is an enormous amount of information that you must know, we've organized this book in order to make your studying as easy—and effective—as possible.

I've had more than 450,000 safe miles driving vans, tankers, flatbed, and a variety of other trucks and trailers. But even more than that, I grew up in the business. My father and his father before him were both truckers. It's in my blood. And now I teach others the "rules of the road" so to speak. In working on this book, I tried to keep in mind what my students over the years have needed to know in order to do well on the exam, and I've included all of the basics and the latest requirements for the various sections of the test.

You'll find that this book is divided into easy-to-use sections.

Part I is the Introduction, where you will be introduced to the basics of the CDL Exam, including the Exemptions, the various tests, and Safety Act rules.

Part II is the review section, where we cover all of the information that will be covered by the tests. This is the material that you have to know in order to do well on the exam. We've even included the new Metal Coil test that is currently in effect in a few states, and may likely be included in other state tests over time. You might as well be prepared.

Part III is the CDL Skills Test Review where you will cover those skills that are required for the actual Road Test.

Part IV features the Practice Knowledge Tests. I think this is an important part of your preparation for the exam. It's been proven that the more questions you answer before you take the actual exam, the better you will ultimately do on the final test. If you have enough time to prepare, take each test on separate days and take them in a quiet room, under simulated test conditions. When you're done, check your answers and then read the explanations. This is very important in order to assure that you really understand the material and aren't just guessing. If you still have more questions, or anything is unclear, go back to the review material and reread the appropriate sections.

At the end of the book is our CDL Directory with the up-to-date Commercial Driver's License contacts by state.

As you go through the book, you will find that there are some areas that may require additional review, based on your previous knowledge or the results of the practice tests. As we said earlier, go back to the basics, reread the review sections. By doing so, it will help build your confidence and enable to approach the test with a positive and relaxed attitude.

Good luck on the test, and see you on the open road!

*Matt Mosher*

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **About This Book**

Since April 1, 1992, all drivers of Commercial Motor Vehicles (CMVs) in the United States have been required to have a Commercial Driver License. In order to get this special license, you must first take and pass the required knowledge and skills tests. Using this book correctly will prepare you to take and pass these tests.

This book is made up of four parts. The first part introduces the Commercial Driver's License Exam and helps you figure out which tests you will have to take. The second part reviews the material that will be on the Commercial Driver Licensing Knowledge Tests. The third part reviews the material that will be on the Commercial Driver Licensing Skills Tests. Finally, the fourth part contains one General Knowledge practice test, one practice test for each of the five Endorsement Tests, and one Air Brakes Test. All of these tests are representative of the actual Commercial Driver Licensing Knowledge Tests in both content and format.

Each practice test is followed by an answer key, and each correct answer is explained in

detail. We provide detailed explanations so you can see not only why one answer is right, but also why the other answer choices are wrong. By reviewing the material for both the Knowledge Tests and the Skills Test, taking the General Knowledge practice test and any other practice Endorsement Tests that apply to your vehicle type, and studying the explanations of the correct answers for the practice tests, you can find out how well you are prepared for the actual Commercial Driver's License Exam and what material you need to review again.

## **THE COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY ACT OF 1986 AND THE COMMERCIAL DRIVER LICENSE**

On October 26, 1986, Congress passed the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986. The purpose of the Safety Act is to help reduce or prevent truck and bus accidents, deaths, and injuries. This will be done by requiring all truck and bus drivers to have a single Commercial Motor Vehicle Driver License and by disqualifying drivers who operate commercial motor vehicles in an unsafe manner.

By law, each state must now meet the same minimum standards for commercial driver licensing. The standards require every person who operates a Commercial Motor Vehicle in interstate, foreign, or intrastate commerce to get a Commercial Driver License. Once you get a Commercial Driver License you are obligated to return to the state any and all non-CDL driver licenses that you hold.

### **Classes of License:**

The federal standard requires states to issue a CDL to drivers according to the following license classifications:

**Class A** – Any combination of vehicles with a GVWR of 26,001 or more pounds provided the GVWR of the vehicle(s) being towed is in excess of 10,000 pounds.

**Class B** – Any single vehicle with a GVWR of 26,001 or more pounds, or any such vehicle towing a vehicle not in excess of 10,000 pounds GVWR.

**Class C** – Any single vehicle, or combination of vehicles that does not meet the definition of Class A or Class B, but is either designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver, or is placarded for hazardous materials.

(Your state may have additional definitions of CMVs.)

## **Commercial Driver License Requirements**

There is a federal requirement that each state has minimum standards for the licensing of commercial drivers.

### **Age Requirement**

**Class A** – You must be at least 21 years of age.

**Class B and C** – You must be at least 18 years of age, but if under 21, you can drive a CMV only for intrastate commerce (for example, within New York State), cannot transport students in a school bus, and cannot transport hazardous material.

### **Language Requirement**

You must be able to read and speak the English language well enough to converse with other

people, understand highway traffic signs and signals in the English language, answer questions from officials, and make entries on reports and records.

### **Medical Requirement**

The federal government requires most CMV drivers to have a medical examination in order to detect physical or mental conditions that may affect their ability to operate a motor vehicle safely.

### **Driving With Your Commercial Driver Learner Permit**

Your commercial driver learner permit allows you to drive a vehicle of the class and type that matches the class and any endorsements of your permit, as long as: a driver holding a CDL of the same or higher class with the proper endorsements accompanies you at all times.

### **CDL EXEMPTIONS**

Drivers of the following vehicles that otherwise meet the definition of a CMV are exempt from the CDL requirement:

- A vehicle with a GVWR of more than 26,000 pounds, owned and controlled by a farmer and used to transport agricultural products, farm machinery, or farm products within 150 miles of the farm.
- A vehicle primarily designed for purposes other than the transportation of persons or property, such as certain construction vehicles.
- Fire and police vehicles, operated by authorized personnel.
- Military vehicles when operated by members of the armed forces on active duty.
- Personal vehicles (including rental vehicles up to 26,000 pounds) when operated strictly and exclusively to transport personal possessions or family members for noncommercial purposes.
- A tow truck with a GVWR of 26,000 pounds or less which tows disabled Commercial Motor Vehicles with a GVWR of more than 10,000 pounds for a distance of less than 10 miles.

### **THE CDL TESTS**

To get a CDL you must take and pass two kinds of tests:

- (1) Knowledge Tests
- (2) Skills Test

The Knowledge Tests are written tests that must be taken in your home state. You should contact your nearest Motor Vehicle Department for information regarding location, cost, time allotment, and date of each Knowledge Test that you need to take, as these details differ from state to state.

Once you pass the required Knowledge Tests, you may take the Skills Test. This is an “on the road,” or driving, test that must be taken in your home state and in the type



of vehicle for which you wish to be licensed to drive. The Skills Test is usually given by appointment only, as an examiner must be scheduled to ride with you over an approved course. Once again, contact the nearest Motor Vehicle Department in your state of residency for information regarding location, cost, time allotment, and appointment setup for the Skills Test.

### **The Knowledge Tests**

There are a total of seven Knowledge Tests: one General Knowledge test, five Endorsement Tests, and one Air Brakes Test. This may seem like a lot, but don't worry. Most drivers will only have to take three or four tests. Each of the seven Knowledge Tests will be scored separately.

### **Which tests should I take?**

#### **The General Knowledge Test**

All applicants for a CDL must take the GENERAL KNOWLEDGE TEST. This test assesses your knowledge of the general safety rules that must be followed while driving Commercial Motor Vehicles and while transporting cargo of all types.

In addition to the General Knowledge Test, you may have to take one or more Endorsement Tests and/or the Air Brakes Test depending on what type of vehicle you wish to be licensed to drive.

### **The Endorsement Tests**

There are five Endorsement Tests. Each one tests your knowledge of a particular type of Commercial Motor Vehicle. If you drive or plan to drive one of the specialized vehicles listed, you must take the corresponding test:

For each Endorsement Test that you take and pass, a special marking, or endorsement, will be placed on your CDL. This marking will indicate to others that you are qualified, or authorized, to drive that particular type of commercial motor vehicle.

**NOTE:** For additional assistance in determining which tests you need to take and which sections of this book you need to study, see "How to Use This Book" at the end of this chapter.

### **Which class of vehicles will I be licensed to drive?**

The class of vehicle (A, B, or C) that your CDL permits you to drive depends on two factors: (1) the Endorsement Tests that you take, and (2) the class of vehicle in which you take your Skills Test. If, once you have obtained a CDL, you wish to drive a commercial motor vehicle from a different vehicle class than the one indicated on your CDL, you will be required to retake and pass all related tests, except in the following situations:

A) If you have passed the Knowledge and Skills tests for a combination vehicle (Class A), you may operate a heavy, straight vehicle (Class B) or a small vehicle (Class C) as long as you already have the appropriate endorsements on your CDL and your license is not restricted for air brakes.

B) If you have passed the Knowledge and Skills tests for a heavy, straight vehicle

(Class B), you may operate any small vehicle (Class C) as long as you already have the appropriate endorsements on your CDL and your license is not restricted for air brakes.

**NOTE:** To drive a motorcycle or Class A limited use motorcycle, you must have a motorcycle license.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Morgan Woods:**

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have considerably more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a stroll, shopping, or went to the particular Mall. How about open or maybe read a book eligible CDL - Commercial Driver's License Exam (CDL Test Preparation)? Maybe it is to become best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time with your favorite's book, you can cleverer than before. Do you agree with it has the opinion or you have additional opinion?

#### **Anna Harlow:**

Reading a publication can be one of a lot of exercise that everyone in the world enjoys. Do you like reading book and so. There are a lot of reasons why people enjoy it. First reading a reserve will give you a lot of new details. When you read a guide you will get new information due to the fact book is one of a number of ways to share the information or their idea. Second, looking at a book will make anyone more imaginative. When you examining a book especially fictional works book the author will bring that you imagine the story how the character types do it anything. Third, it is possible to share your knowledge to other folks. When you read this CDL - Commercial Driver's License Exam (CDL Test Preparation), you may tells your family, friends in addition to soon about yours e-book. Your knowledge can inspire different ones, make them reading a book.

#### **Francis Rutland:**

Are you kind of hectic person, only have 10 or perhaps 15 minute in your day to upgrading your mind skill or thinking skill actually analytical thinking? Then you are having problem with the book in comparison with can satisfy your short space of time to read it because all this time you only find guide that need more time to be learn. CDL - Commercial Driver's License Exam (CDL Test Preparation) can be your answer as it can be read by anyone who have those short spare time problems.

#### **Ronald Johnson:**

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