



CDL Class A vs Class B — Quick Guide

Legal differences, what you can drive, training & tests, and typical jobs.

Category	Class A	Class B
Legal definition	GCWR \geq 26,001 lb <u>and</u> trailer(s) $>$ 10,000 lb GVWR .	Single vehicle \geq 26,001 lb GVWR or that vehicle towing \leq 10,000 lb .
Typical vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tractor-trailers (53') & flatbeds • Reefers, tankers, livestock • Doubles/Triples (with T endorsement) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Straight trucks (box, dump, mixer) • Transit/coach/school buses (with P/S) • Tow small trailers \leq 10,000 lb
Knowledge tests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Knowledge • Combination Vehicles • Air Brakes (if applicable) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Knowledge • Air Brakes (if applicable)
Skills test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-trip on tractor + trailer • Backing: straight, offset, alley • Road test 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-trip on single vehicle • Backing: straight, offset, alley • Road test
Endorsements	H, N, X, P, S, (Air Brakes). T (Doubles/Triples) is <i>Class A only</i> .	H, N, X, P, S, (Air Brakes). No T for doubles/triples.
Jobs	OTR/regional, flatbed, tanker—widest market; often higher earning potential.	Local/home-daily: box delivery, dump, transit/school bus, sanitation, mixer.
Trailer towing	Tow $>$ 10,000 lb trailers.	Tow \leq 10,000 lb trailers.

Age & Medical (both classes): 18+ intrastate; 21+ interstate/hazmat. Current DOT medical card required.

ELDT for Both: Since Feb 2022, Entry-Level Driver Training (theory + BTW) is required before the skills test.

Upgrade path: Holding Class B and want Class A later? Complete the ELDT “Class B \rightarrow A upgrade” curriculum and pass the Class A skills test.

30-second cheat sheet: Want tractor■trailer flexibility & the broadest jobs? **Class A**. Want local, single■vehicle roles (buses, dump, box)? **Class B**.

Gorgeous TruckHers Inc. • Mia Robinson
■ GorgeousTruckHers@gmail.com • ■ (407) 906■5350
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