



COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE

Some operations within the diocese require driving buses or larger vehicles. Certain commercial vehicles must be driven by an operator with a **commercial driver's license** (CDL). CDL licenses are defined by the United States federal government and classified on the type of vehicle and the vehicle's gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR). Commercial driver licenses are classified as:

Class A	GVWR of 26,001 lbs. or more, to include a towed vehicle that is HEAVIER than 10,000 lbs. This includes tractor-trailers, tankers, and truck-trailer combinations.
Class B	A single vehicle with a GVWR of 26,001 lbs. or heavier AND/OR any vehicle as described above that is towing another vehicle weighing UP TO 10,000 lbs. Class B includes tour buses, school buses, box trucks, and straight trucks.
Class C	A vehicle weighing less than a Class A or Class B AND is intended to transport 16 or more people (counting the driver) OR contains hazardous materials (HAZMAT).

Many CDL licenses also require additional written or driving tests to qualify for the **endorsements** necessary to operate each type of vehicle. Operators frequently are issued **Commercial Learner's Permit (CLP) Endorsements** with restrictions to practice driving without passengers in the vehicle. Two of the more common endorsements issued are:

CLP (Permit) P Endorsement	You may not operate a commercial motor vehicle carrying passengers. Exceptions include federal or state auditors and inspectors, test examiners, other trainees, and the commercial driver's license holder accompanying the commercial learner's permit holder. Requires background check <u>AND</u> road skills test.
P Endorsement	Permits you to drive a passenger-carrying vehicle. You must take the road test in the class vehicle you wish to operate. Requires background check <u>AND</u> road skills test.
CLP (Permit) S Endorsement	You may not operate a school bus vehicle carrying passengers. Exceptions include federal or state auditors and inspectors, test examiners, other trainees, and the commercial driver's license holder accompanying the commercial learner's permit holder. Requires separate application form, fees, background check, written knowledge <u>AND</u> road skills tests.
S Endorsement	Permits the operation of a school bus. Requires separate application form, fees, background check, written knowledge <u>AND</u> road skills tests.

Also, the federal government places **restrictions** on the commercial driver's license depending on an operator's level of experience and past testing qualifications. Four of the more common restrictions are:

J Restriction	Permitted to operate ONLY a school or activity bus, but no other type of commercial motor vehicle.
K Restriction	May NOT operate a commercial motor vehicle outside of Virginia. <i>Prior to July 1, 2014 - You may not operate a vehicle with Full Air or Air over Hydraulic brakes. If you plan to operate a vehicle with either of these types of air brakes, you must take the air brakes knowledge test. You also must take the road test in a vehicle equipped with Full Air or Air over Hydraulic brakes.</i>
M Restriction	Restricts operation to a Class B or Class C passenger vehicle/school bus. Usually happens when school bus endorsement is earned from driving a Class B vehicle.
N Restriction	Restricts operation to a Class C passenger vehicle/school bus. Occurs when passenger or school bus endorsement is earned from driving a Class C vehicle.

Restrictions may be removed by completing additional written knowledge tests, road skill tests, and paying additional fees.

Contact the Office of Risk Management with any questions.

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