

Mandatory Entry Level Training for Class 1 drivers

Agriculture industry

Mandatory Entry Level Training for commercial drivers

Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT) for Class 1 (tractor-trailer) and Class 2 (bus and school bus) drivers came into force in Alberta on March 1, 2019.

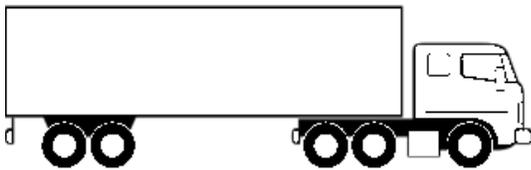
MELT includes mandatory, standardized driving training curriculums with set hours for in-class, in-yard and in-vehicle training.

MELT ensures that all new truck and bus drivers have the same, entry-level knowledge and practical skills to operate large, complex, commercial vehicles safely on the road.

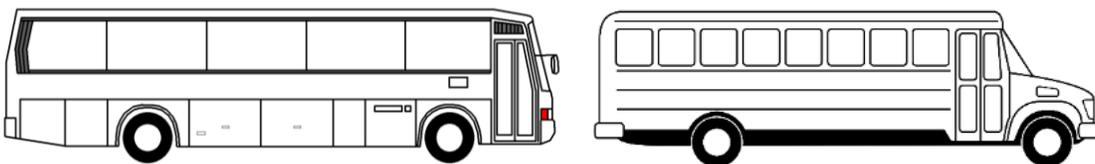
In Alberta, you **cannot drive** a vehicle if you do not have a valid driver's licence in the appropriate licence class for that vehicle.

MELT applies to these types of vehicles

- Class 1 - A tractor-trailer combination with three or more axles, equipped with air brakes



- Class 2 - A bus or school bus



MELT does not apply to these vehicles

- Class 3 - A single motor vehicle with three or more axles or a single motor vehicle with three or more axles towing a trailer with one or more axles, if the trailer is not equipped with air brakes



Drivers who don't have to take MELT

Drivers with a valid Class 1 licence obtained before October 10, 2018 have no further action to take to be MELT compliant.

Drivers with MELT requirements

New commercial drivers: If you want to get a Class 1 or Class 2 licence you need to complete MELT training and testing.

MELT transition drivers: If you got your Class 1 or Class 2 licence in the five months before MELT became mandatory—between October 11, 2018 and February 28, 2019, you are considered a “transition driver”. Transition drivers are subject to a two-year probationary period. If you maintain a clean driving record during this probationary period, no further action is required.

If you do not have a clean driving record, you will have to pass the MELT knowledge and road test before March 1, 2020 or within 90 days of being notified, whichever is longer. You will receive a letter from Alberta Transportation notifying you of the requirement. The purpose of this testing is to ensure that your driving skills meet the MELT standards.

MELT extension for farmers and farm workers

Farmers and farm workers are being offered an extension to comply with MELT to help with the 2020 seeding and harvest season. You must apply to Alberta Transportation for this extension by **November 30, 2020**.

Once you've been approved for an extension, you must do the following by **March 1, 2021**:

- 1) take and pass the pre-MELT Class 1 knowledge and road tests to get your Class 1 driver's licence
- 2) take and pass the Class 1 MELT knowledge and road tests to keep your Class 1 driver's licence. This second set of tests will show that your driving skills meet MELT standards.

MELT extension, how to apply:

- 1) Complete the [application form](#) by **November 30, 2020**.
 - o Farm owners/operators must complete the application form on behalf of their employees (i.e. the drivers they are requesting the extension for).
- 2) Email the completed application form to Alberta Transportation at transitiondrivers@gov.ab.ca
- 3) Alberta Transportation will review the completed application and, if farm-related status is confirmed, approve the extension with a confirmation letter with the names of the drivers who are approved to take the pre-MELT Class 1 knowledge and road test.

Take the pre-MELT tests to get your Class 1 licence

- 1) Study the [Commercial Driver's Guide](#) to prepare for your pre-MELT knowledge and road tests. **You must take these tests by March 1, 2021.**
- 2) Take your extension eligibility confirmation letter to any registry to take the pre-MELT knowledge test. You don't need to make an appointment for a knowledge test.
- 3) Once you've passed the knowledge test, book your pre-MELT road test in-person at any registry or online at <https://www.alberta.ca/drivers-road-test.aspx>. To take the pre-MELT road test, all drivers must:
 - be at least 18 years old
 - have your extension eligibility confirmation letter
 - have at least a full valid Class 5 Alberta driver's licence (Graduated Driver's Licensing Program drivers are not eligible for a Class 1 driver's licence)
 - have an approved Class 1 driver's medical examination report completed by an Alberta physician
 - have successfully completed the Air Brake Endorsement (Q Endorsement) Program
- 4) If you pass both tests, you will have a Class 1 driver's licence.
- 5) If you want to keep your Class 1 driver's licence, you must pass the MELT knowledge and road tests before March 1, 2021. If you do not, you will lose your Class 1 licence.

Take the MELT tests to keep your Class 1 licence

- 1) Study the [Class 1 MELT curriculum](#) to prepare for the MELT knowledge and road test. **You must take these tests by March 1, 2021.** As this process may take some time, make sure to leave ample time to take and pass the required MELT tests.
- 2) Take your MELT knowledge test. You can take your knowledge test at any registry. You don't need to book ahead of time.
- 3) Take your MELT road test. You can book your road test in-person at any registry or online at <https://www.alberta.ca/drivers-road-test.aspx>.

- 4) You will have two attempts to pass the MELT knowledge test and road test.
 - The first MELT knowledge test and road test will be paid for by government, but the driver is responsible for all other costs of testing, such as the rental of a commercial vehicle for the road test.
 - If you fail the first attempt at either the knowledge or road test, you have one more chance to re-take the test you failed, at your expense.
- 5) If you fail the second re-test attempt at either the knowledge or road test, you will lose your Class 1 driver's licence immediately and your driver's licence will be downgraded to the class of licence you held previously, such as a Class 5 driver's licence. You will no longer be authorized to drive Class 1 vehicles.
- 6) If you want to get a Class 1 driver's licence in the future, you must take MELT training and pass the MELT knowledge and road test.

IMPORTANT: Extension drivers who do not take the MELT knowledge and road tests by March 1, 2021 will automatically have their licence downgraded to the class of licence held previously (e.g. a Class 5 driver's licence). You will no longer be authorized to drive Class 1 vehicles.

MELT and seasonal workers

If you are a temporary foreign worker under the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program you can continue to use your existing driver's licence from your home country for up to 12 months during the time you are in Canada. This means if you already have a commercial driver's licence to drive a Class 1 vehicle from your home jurisdiction, you can drive Class 1 vehicles temporarily while you are in Canada. You are not subject to MELT requirements.

However, temporary foreign workers are not eligible to get an Alberta driver's licence. Only people who have established permanent residency in Alberta are eligible to apply for an Alberta driver's licence.

In addition, Alberta rules state that you cannot exchange a commercial driver's licence from a foreign jurisdiction for an Alberta commercial driver's licence. This has always been the case and will not change with the MELT Program. If you are moving to Alberta permanently, you must take MELT to get an Alberta Class 1 driver's licence.

Temporary foreign workers from outside of Canada who do not already have a commercial truck licence from their home jurisdiction are not eligible to get an Alberta Class 1 driver's licence.

Canadian seasonal workers in Alberta

The rules for Canadians from another province who are working temporarily in Alberta are the same as those for out-of-country drivers—you can temporarily use your existing driver's licence from your home province/territory for the time you are temporarily in Alberta. However, if you are moving to Alberta to live permanently, all drivers must:

- exchange your current driver's licence for an Alberta driver's licence within 90 days of moving to the province by handing in your valid provincial or territorial driver's licence to a registry agent (your licence class may change, based on the MELT requirements below)
- provide proof that you live in Alberta
- provide proof of residence in Canada

Drivers from Canadian MELT jurisdictions

If you are a Class 1 driver from Ontario, Saskatchewan or Manitoba and have taken a MELT program there, you are eligible to exchange your commercial driver's licence for an Alberta Class 1 driver's licence. You must provide proof of MELT training from your home jurisdiction.

Drivers from Canadian jurisdictions that do not have MELT

Two-plus years' experience

Class 1 drivers who have held their commercial driver's licence for more than 24 months are eligible to exchange their commercial licence for an Alberta Class 1 driver's licence.

One to two years' experience

Class 1 drivers who have held their driver's licence for 12 to 24 months have the option of:

- Completing Alberta's MELT program OR
- Challenging the MELT Class 1 knowledge and road tests.
 - You will have one attempt to pass each of the tests.
 - If you are unsuccessful at passing either the enhanced knowledge or road test, your driver's licence will revert to the class of licence you held in your home jurisdiction previous to your Class 1 licence (e.g. a Class 5).
 - You must take MELT training and pass the enhanced knowledge and road tests to get a Class 1 driver's licence in Alberta.

Less than a year experience

Class 1 drivers who have held their driver's licence for less than 12 months must complete Alberta's MELT Program and pass the MELT knowledge and road tests.

- In the meantime, your driver's licence will revert to the previous class of licence you had in your home jurisdiction (e.g. Class 5).

Contact us

For questions, contact the Alberta Transportation Client Support Centre between 8:15 am and 4:15 pm (open Monday to Saturday, closed statutory holidays) at 780-427-8230 (Edmonton area) or Toll free: 310-0000 before the phone number (in Alberta).

Email: trans.driver.prog@gov.ab.ca

Mail: Alberta Transportation

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