

Frequently asked questions: Farm-Restricted Class 1 Driver's Licence

What change is the government making to Class 1 driver licensing?

Effective April 1, 2024, eligible farmers and their immediate family members can apply for a farm-restricted Class 1 driver's licence. Upon successful completion of a Class 1 knowledge and road test, vision screening, and submission of a driver's medical assessment, the driver will be issued a farm-restricted Class 1 driver's licence with condition code "P", indicating they must comply with farmer restrictions.

Why are these changes being made?

These changes are intended to relieve pressures on Alberta farm families by exempting them from the requirement for training and providing them a farm-restricted Class 1 driver's licence designation that allows them to transport their own goods. Current training for Class 1 driver licensing is extensive and covers topics that often do not apply to family farm operations.

How will this affect road safety for Albertans?

Traffic safety is a top priority for Transportation and Economic Corridors. This exemption is limited to a small group of people (farmers and their immediate family members). This group of people must also abide by restrictions on their driver's licence which allow them to operate Class 1 vehicles within Alberta only, and for authorized farm purposes only.

These drivers will still be required to complete a Class 1 knowledge and road test, vision screening, and submit a driver's medical assessment.

Penalties will be assessed for those found to be misusing their farm-restricted Class 1 driver's licence.

Who is eligible for a farm-restricted Class 1 driver's licence?

For the purposes of this exemption, a farmer is a person engaged in any of the following:

- the cultivation of land;
- the raising of livestock, including diversified livestock animals within the meaning of the Livestock Industry Diversification Act and poultry;
- the raising of fur bearing animals, pheasants or fish;
- the production of agricultural field crops;
- the production of fruit, vegetables, sod, trees, shrubs and other specialty horticultural crops;
- the production of eggs and milk;
- the production of honey; or
- the operation of agricultural machinery and equipment including irrigation pumps;
- the application of fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides, fungicides, and herbicides, including application by ground and aerial spraying for agricultural purposes; or
- the collection, transportation, storage, application, use, transfer, and disposal of manure, composting materials, and compost.

In order to be eligible for a farm-restricted Class 1 driver's licence, a farmer must:

- be actively and directly farming in Alberta;
- be responsible for management decisions and operating costs;
- have control of the farming assets, either by holding title to the assets or having a rental agreement with the person holding title; and
- have annual farm commodity production worth at least \$10,000 or \$5,000 to \$9,999 if the only other significant sources of income are Canada Pension Plan or Old Age Security.

An immediate family member of a farmer who meets the above criteria is also eligible for a farm-restricted Class 1 driver's licence. "Family member" is defined as:

- the spouse or adult interdependent partner of the farmer, or
- whether by blood, marriage, or adoption or by virtue of an adult interdependent relationship, a child, parent, grandparent, sibling, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, or first cousin of the farmer.

Drivers that are neither the farmer nor an immediate family member of the farmer (such as employees or temporary foreign workers) are not eligible for the farm-restricted Class 1 driver's licence.

What other requirements are there to obtain a farm-restricted Class 1 driver's licence?

Eligible farmers and their family members must meet all other eligibility requirements of a Class 1 licence aside from pre-licensing training, including the Air Brake (Q) endorsement. For more information, check the [Air Brake Program](#).

A registry agent will test your vision to see if your vision is good enough to drive.

A completed Driver's Medical Report Form will also be required: <https://www.alberta.ca/driver-medical-fitness>

What restrictions are there on a farm-restricted Class 1 driver's licence?

The holder of a farm-restricted Class 1 driver's licence may operate vehicles or combinations of vehicles which require a Class 1 driver's licence only:

- within the province of Alberta; and
- while engaged in necessary transportation (including return trips, picking up materials, etc.) for the following purposes only:
 - delivering animals, farm products, grains, or farm produce:
 - to the farmer's farm, if those commodities are to be used by the farmer in the operation of the farm; or
 - to a market, if the commodities being transported were either grown or raised by the farmer on the farmer's farm; or
 - transporting material or equipment that is owned by the farmer and used by the farmer in the operation or maintenance of the farmer's farm.
- If eligible as a family member, the above restrictions apply, and in addition to those restrictions, the family member may operate the vehicle or combination of vehicles requiring a Class 1 driver's license on behalf of the eligible farmer(s) listed in their Application as a family member only.

How will you ensure the holder of a

The text on the farm-restricted Class 1 driver's licence makes clear that the driver's licence is not valid outside of Alberta for the operation of vehicles which

farm-restricted
Class 1 driver's
licence does not
drive outside of
Alberta?

require a Class 1 driver's licence. If the driver is caught by law enforcement outside of Alberta, they may be charged in that jurisdiction.

Can the holder of a
farm-restricted
Class 1 driver's
licence operate
other types of
vehicles without
restrictions?

The holder of a farm-restricted Class 1 driver's licence may not operate vehicles which require a Class 2 or 4 driver's licence, unless they have completed the required knowledge and road tests as well as completed any other conditions of a Class 2 or 4 driver's licence.

The farm-restricted Class 1 driver's licence allows the operation of vehicles which require a Class 3 or 5 driver's licence without being restricted to Alberta or to farm purposes.

What are the
penalties for
misusing a farm-
restricted Class 1
driver's licence?

Drivers who operate Class 1 vehicles outside of Alberta and/or for any other purposes other than for farm purposes must obtain a full Class 1 driver's licence to do so. This includes drivers that operate vehicles for commercial farms or carriers in other industries.

Penalties will be assessed for those found to be misusing their farm-restricted Class 1 driver's licence. If the holder of a farm-restricted Class 1 driver's licence is found to have provided false information on their application, the Registrar may cancel their driver's licence.

How will the
government ensure
the restrictions on
farm-restricted
Class 1 driver's
licences are
enforced?

Law enforcement is aware of these changes and will be able to identify when the holder of a farm-restricted Class 1 driver's licence is operating outside of the restrictions. If operating with a registered gross vehicle weight of over 4,500 kg, farm-registered plates are required to stop.

What is the process
to apply for a farm-
restricted Class 1
driver's licence?

The eligible farmer or immediate family member must:

- Confirm eligibility.
- Visit a registry agent, declare farmer exemption and successfully complete a Class 1 knowledge test.
- Successfully complete vision screening and submit a driver medical assessment.
- Complete an application form which confirms their eligibility and submit this to a registry agent.
 - The application form can be found here: <https://cfr.forms.gov.ab.ca/form/DPLS13510>
 - Find a registry agent near you here: <https://www.alberta.ca/lookup/find-a-registry-agent.aspx>
- Successfully complete a Class 1 road test.

What are the rules for operating a farm-restricted Class 1 vehicle in Lloydminster and on Highway 17 along the Alberta-Saskatchewan border?

The holder of a Class 1 farm-restricted driver's licence may operate vehicles or combinations of vehicles requiring a Class 1 driver's licence:

- within the City of Lloydminster on either the Alberta or Saskatchewan side, or
- on Highway 17 in Alberta or Saskatchewan providing the trip starts and ends in the farmer's home jurisdiction and no services are provided in the adjacent jurisdiction.

Services provided (gas, hotel, loading, unloading, food establishments, etc.) does not include any service received within the full city limits of Lloydminster.

All other restrictions related to the farm-restricted Class 1 driver's licence apply.

Can I get a refund if I discover I am not eligible for a farm-restricted Class 1 driver's licence after I have completed the knowledge test?

No refunds will be offered for any services incurred. It is your responsibility to ensure you meet the eligibility criteria.

Eligibility criteria can be found here: <https://www.alberta.ca/farm-restricted-class-1-drivers-licence>

How can I study for the Class 1 knowledge test?

Eligible farmers and immediate family members will be given the same knowledge test as all other Class 1 drivers. The test is based on knowledge acquired through the mandatory entry level training program, as well as the Commercial Driver's Guide.

You can review the mandatory entry level training program curriculum here: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/commercial-truck-driver-training-course>

The Commercial Driver's Guide can be found here: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/commercial-drivers-guide>

Although Class 1 driver training is not required under this exemption, it is still available optionally. A list of driver training schools is available here: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/licensed-driver-training-schools>

Where and how can I complete the Class 1 knowledge and road test? How much do they cost?

You can go to a registry agent to take a Class 1 driver's knowledge test: <https://www.alberta.ca/drivers-knowledge-test>

You can schedule a Class 1 road test through a registry agent or online through the Alberta Road Test Scheduler: <https://eservices.alberta.ca/book-a-drivers-road-test.html>

A full list of fees can be found in the registry agent product catalogue: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/6041328>