



Frequently asked questions: New Made-In-Alberta Learning Pathway for Professional Drivers

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

Effective March 1, 2025, the government will be making changes to Class 1 driver training and licensing. The changes are focused on developing driver competency throughout a driver's career while ensuring road safety.

- The new, made-in-Alberta career pathway is being designed as an apprenticeship-style model to increase driver skills, improve safety, and enhance training for current and prospective Class 1 drivers in Alberta.
- The apprenticeship-style model will offer a learning pathway for Albertans to develop the skills to succeed and advance in their career as a professional driver.
- Drivers will proceed through phases while training to become a Class 1 driver.
- Phases are currently underdevelopment in partnership with industry members. More information about these changes will be announced closer to the implementation date of March 1, 2025.

Why are these changes being made?

Alberta is working to address the commercial driver shortage by implementing a new learning pathway that will accelerate a driver's road readiness, while keeping safety at the forefront.

When will these changes be implemented?

The first three phases of the new learning pathway will be implemented on March 1, 2025 and the final phases will be implemented at a later date.

How will this affect road safety for Albertans?

Traffic safety is a top priority for Transportation and Economic Corridors (TEC). The learning pathway will be designed to improve safety through enhanced training for both current and prospective Class 1 drivers in Alberta.

The new pathway will require more hours of in-vehicle training than the current program and will provide opportunities for ongoing competency training that will continue throughout a driver's career, increasing safety.

How will this affect the cost of Class 1 driver training?

Government has allocated \$41 million in grant funding over the next three years to implement the new learning pathway and support drivers and carriers with enhanced training.

How will you ensure a driver in restricted to operating in Alberta does not

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.

drive outside of
Alberta?

Will there be more
than one
knowledge or road
test?

Are any other
changes being
made to Class 1
driver licensing?

No. Once a driver completes their Class 1 knowledge and road test, they will not be required to test again. The performance of restricted drivers will be monitored until they achieve their full Class 1 licence in Phase 3.

Effective April 1, 2024, eligible farmers and their immediate family members will have the option to 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. The driver will not be required to complete pre-licensing training.

This Class 1 farm-restricted driver's licence is valid only when operating vehicles or combinations of vehicles for specified farming purposes.

Farm-restricted Class 1 drivers may also be subject to licence code restriction "N" which means the holder may not operate vehicles or combinations of vehicles which require a Class 2 or 4 driver's licence unless that person has completed the required knowledge and road tests as well as completed any other conditions of a Class 2 or 4 driver's licence.

More information can be found here: <https://www.alberta.ca/changes-to-driver-licensing-system>.