

Class 1 Learning Pathway

Information for Farmers

On April 1, 2025, Alberta replaced its Mandatory Entry-Level Training (MELT) program with a new Class 1 Learning Pathway. This new pathway offers a flexible, apprenticeship-style approach to support new drivers in their ongoing career development. This model also provides farmers with more options for pursuing a Class 1 licence in Alberta.

Farm-Restricted Class 1 Licence

On April 1, 2024, Alberta introduced a new farm-restricted Class 1 licence. This licence enables eligible farmers to operate vehicles that require a Class 1 licence for farming purposes only, within the province of Alberta. To obtain a farm-restricted Class 1 licence, farmers must:

- submit an application form;
- successfully complete the Class 1 knowledge and road test;
- pass a vision screening; and
- submit a driver's medical assessment.

Farmers are not required to complete training in the new Class 1 Learning Pathway to obtain a farm-restricted licence. However, the pathway provides these drivers with a new option to remove their licence restriction. Drivers who have held their farm-restricted licence for at least 12 months without suspension or expiry can enroll in the Competence Building portion of the training to remove the restriction from their licence. This program includes 17-25 hours of one-on-one driving instruction with a driver training school in Alberta. Farmers are not required to retake the Class 1 knowledge or road test as part of this training.

More information about eligibility and how to obtain a farm-restricted Class 1 licence is available online at:

<https://www.alberta.ca/farm-restricted-class-1-drivers-licence>.

Experience and Equivalency Program

Farmers who hold a Class 2 or 3 licence and can demonstrate at least 2 years' experience driving commercial vehicles also have the option to apply for the Experience and Equivalency Program. This is a shorter Class 1 driver training program that includes 40 hours of in-yard and in-cab training with a driver training school.

More information about the Experience and Equivalency Program is available online at:

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/mandatory-entry-level-training-experience-and-equivalency-class-1-melt-program-overview>

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Farmers with no prior experience operating commercial vehicles also have the option to complete the full Class 1 Learning Pathway to obtain a Class 1 licence. To be eligible to enroll in training and obtain a Class 1 licence, they must be at least 18 years of age and hold a full Class 5 (non-GDL) licence.

More information about the full Class 1 Learning Pathway is available online at: <https://www.alberta.ca/class-1-learning-pathway>.

I'm a farmer who wants to get a Class 1 licence in Alberta.

Where do I begin?

