Non commercial classes of motor vehicles for which operators may be licensed should be determined as set forth on the back of this document by the gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR). See exemptions on the back of this document for a list of carriers exempted from obtaining a commercial driver’s license (CDL).

Chart below indicates the class of commercial driver’s license you will need.

| Does the vehicle, or combination of vehicles, have a manufacturer’s weight rating (GVWR), over 26,000 pounds? | YES | NO |
| Does the single vehicle have a GVWR over 26,000 pounds. | YES | NO |
| Is the vehicle a combination vehicle towing a unit over 10,000 pounds GVWR? | YES | NO |
| Is the vehicle designed to carry 16 or more passengers (including the driver)? | YES | NO |
| Does the vehicle transport placardable quantities of hazardous materials? | YES | NO |
| YOU NEED A CLASS “A” CDL | YOU NEED A CLASS “B” CDL | YOU NEED A CLASS “C” CDL | YOU DO NOT NEED A “CDL” |

A Safety Message from Project P.I.E. (Public Information & Education)  
FACT SHEET #23  
Georgia Department of Public Safety  
Motor Carrier Compliance Division  
P.O. Box 1456  
Atlanta, GA 30371-1456  
(404) 624-7211  
www.dps.georgia.gov
THERE ARE THREE TYPES OF “CDL’S” — CLASS A, B, AND C.
40-5-142 and 40-5-150

CLASS A — Combination of vehicles with a gross combined weight rating (GVWR) over 26,000 pounds, providing the GVWR of the vehicle(s) being towed is greater than 10,000 pounds. A driver with a Class A license will be able to drive Class A, B, C, and Non-Commercial Vehicles.

CLASS B — Single vehicles with a GVWR over 26,000 pounds, or any such vehicle towing a vehicle under 10,000 pounds GVWR. A driver with a Class B license will be able to drive Class B, C, and Non-Commercial Vehicles of equal or lesser class license.

CLASS C — Vehicles with a GVWR less than 26,001 pounds. Class C is strictly for vehicles designed to carry 16 or more passengers or carry hazardous materials in quantities large enough to require placards. A Class C license holder will be able to drive Class C CDL units and Non-Commercial Vehicles.

CDL DRIVER’S INSTRUCTION PERMIT: The holder of a commercial driver’s permit may drive a CMV on a highway only when accompanied by the holder of a CDL valid for the type of vehicle driven who occupies a seat beside the individual for the purpose of giving instruction in driving the commercial motor vehicle.
40-5-147 (c) (3) Class “P” (permit) 40-5-150 (b)(5).

SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS

AIR BRAKES — A “NO AIR BRAKE” restriction will be given to drivers that either:
1. Fail the “Air Brake” portion of the written examination; or
2. Fail the “Air Brake” portion of the driving test; or
3. Do not take the driving test in a vehicle with Air Brakes.

NOTE: Vehicles without air brakes do not require the driver to take the air brake part of the test; however, the driver cannot drive a commercial vehicle with air brakes.

ENDORSEMENTS
2. “P” Passenger Vehicles designed to carry 16 or more people, including the driver.
3. “N” Tanker - does not apply to portable tanks under 1,000 gallons or permanent mounted tanks less than 119 gallons.
5. “X” Combination Haz Mat and Tanker.

EXEMPTIONS
Drivers of the following are exempted from obtaining a commercial driver’s license:
1. Recreational vehicles for personal use.
4. Farm vehicles (not used for hire or not driven more than 150 miles from the farm must have proper class non-commercial drivers license. This is in accordance with Title 49 CFR and OCGA 40-5-142. Officer should review OCGA 46-1-1(9) (c), and 46-1-1 (13) (C) (FARM OPERATIONS).

TOW TRUCK OPERATIONS AND CDL

Do tow truck operators need CDL’s? Yes, if the weight or combined weight ratings (GVWR) of the vehicle(s) meet the weight requirements on the front of this sheet.

Do tow truck operators who hold a CDL require an endorsement to tow vehicles which would otherwise require an endorsement?
1. “First moves” restricted to an emergency. From site of break down/accident to nearest appropriate repair facility, no CDL endorsement is needed.
2. “Subsequent moves.” From one repair or disposal facility to another – yes, endorsement is needed.
3. Exception: Tow truck operators need not obtain a passenger endorsement.

LTI 08-26-97.

- Supplemental information is available for Farm Industry Operations Waiver (Fact Sheet #028).