Steps to get a Commercial Driver License (CDL)

1. Have NYS Driver License (Class D, E or Non-CDL C) or a valid CDL from another state.

2. Prepare for written test.
   • Study CDL Driver Manual

3. Apply for Commercial Learner Permit at a DMV Office.
   • Application fee of $10
   • Application (MV-44)

4. Pay $40 CDL road test (Skills test) fee before scheduling road test.
   • Can pay when DMV issues your Commercial Learner Permit or pay online

5. Complete Entry-Level Driver Training (ELDT) prior to taking CDL road test.
   • ELDT FAQs

6. Prepare for road test.
   • Study CDL Driver Manual
   • Practice with supervision by a driver who hold the same license class as the vehicle being driven
   • Those seeking a bus driver CDL are required to receive the ‘P’ (passenger) endorsement and ‘S’ (school) endorsement.

7. Schedule CDL road test (skills test).
   • Road Test Scheduling System
   • CDL Driver Manual Sections 11-13 covers the skills

8. Take your road test at least 14 days after receiving Commercial Learner Permit.

Common Mistakes

- Failure to do air brake check
- Performing air brake check incorrectly
- Not setting the brake (vehicle moves)
- Not studying the CDL Driver Manual

Important Resources

- NYS CDL Driver’s Manual
- Training Provider Registry
- Explanation of Driver License Classes, Endorsements & Restrictions (MV-500C)
- Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration