§408. Examination of applicants required; classes of licenses

A.(1) Except as otherwise provided, every applicant must pass a written knowledge and skills test for a motor vehicle representative of the type of motor vehicle he operates or expects to operate, or provide evidence on a form approved by the department that he has successfully passed the written knowledge test and a driving or skills test administered by an authorized third party. In addition to the specialized knowledge and skills tests, each such examination shall include: a test of the applicant's eyesight; his ability to understand highway signs regulating, warning, and directing traffic; his knowledge of railroad and highway grade crossing safety; his knowledge of sharing the road with motorcycles and tractor/trailer trucks; and his knowledge of all relevant traffic regulations.

(2) All tests shall be constructed in such a way as to determine if the applicant possesses the required knowledge and skills for the group of motor vehicles that will be operated. The department shall develop specifications for tests for each vehicle group and endorsement, which shall be at least as stringent as the standards established by the Federal Highway Administration in 49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 383. The department shall determine specific methods for scoring the knowledge and skills tests. The department shall develop standardized scoring sheets for the skills tests, as well as standardized driving instructions for the applicant. Knowledge and skills tests shall be based solely on information contained in the driver's manual. Each test shall have administrative procedures, designed to achieve inter-examiner reliability, that are sufficient to ensure fair pass/fail rates. The knowledge tests may be given in oral, written, or automated form. A simulator or off-road course may be used for skills testing as long as such testing is combined with actual on-the-road testing. If the applicant does not obey traffic laws or causes an accident during the test, he shall automatically fail the test.

(3) Each knowledge test for a Group "D" or "E" vehicle shall contain at least thirty items, exclusive of the number of items testing airbrake knowledge. Not less than two of the thirty items shall be relative to railroad and highway grade crossing safety. For each endorsement, the knowledge test and the airbrake component of the basic knowledge test shall contain a number of questions that is sufficient to test the applicant's knowledge of the required subject matter with validity and reliability. The applicant for a Class "A", "B", "C", "D", or "E" license shall correctly answer at least eighty percent of the questions on each knowledge test in order to achieve a passing score on such knowledge test. To achieve a passing score on the skills test, an applicant for a Class "A", "B", "C", "D", or "E" license shall demonstrate that he can successfully perform all of the required skills. If an applicant for a Class "A", "B", or "C" commercial driver's license scores less than eighty percent on the airbrake component of the basic knowledge test, the driver shall fail the airbrake component and, if the driver is issued a driver's license, an airbrake restriction shall be indicated on the commercial driver's license. If an applicant for a Class "A", "B", or "C" commercial driver's license performs the skills test in a vehicle not equipped with air brakes, the driver shall have omitted the airbrake component of the skills test and, if the driver is issued a driver's license, the airbrake restriction shall be indicated on the license.
(4)(a) The knowledge and skills tests for all applicants may be administered by the department or
the department may elect to authorize a third party, including another state, an employer, a public license
tag agent, a private training facility or other private institution, or a department, agency, or instrumentality
of state or local government, to administer knowledge and skills tests to applicants for Class "D" or "E"
drivers' licenses and to administer skills tests to applicants for a Class "A", "B", or "C" commercial
driver's license. The department may contract with or enter into agreements with such third parties or
certify or license them to perform the testing. However, the department shall ensure that examiners are
qualified to administer the tests on the basis of training or other experience. The department shall
establish minimum qualifications for persons administering driver's license tests and prescribe the
procedures to be used, including procedures which ensure confidentiality of tests. The tests given by the
third party shall be the same as those that would otherwise be given by the department.

(b) All third party examiners shall meet the same qualifications and training as state examiners to
the extent necessary to conduct knowledge and skills tests in compliance with this Subsection.
Department employees shall at least annually take the tests actually administered by the third party as if
the employee were a test applicant, or the department shall at least annually test a sample of drivers who
were examined by the third party to compare pass/fail results. These requirements and conditions shall be
included in any third party contract or agreement and shall be a part of any license, certificate, or permit
issued to such third parties. The department shall devise a system to regulate such third parties and the
regulations shall have the full force and effect of law.

(c) The department shall submit any such third party contract or agreement to the commissioner of
the division of administration for his approval.

(d) The third party shall provide evidence to the applicant who has successfully passed the written
knowledge and driving skills tests on a form approved by the department. The applicant shall provide this
form to the department before being issued a commercial driver's license.

(e) The Federal Highway Administration, or its representative, and the department, or its
representative, may conduct random examinations, inspections, and audits without prior notice. The
department, or its representative, shall conduct a random inspection at least annually.

(f) The department shall set the cost of any license, permit, or certificate to test applicants and
may set any maximum fee that such third parties may charge applicants.

(g) In addition to any other applicable sanction, improper issuance of proof of successful
completion of the knowledge and skills tests shall subject the third party to the penalties imposed by this
Chapter, up to a five thousand dollar civil penalty per violation, or revocation or suspension of the
privilege to test applicants, or both.


(6) At the discretion of the department, the driving skills tests may be waived for a driver who is
licensed prior to the institution of the new testing program and substituted with either an applicant's
driving record and previous passage of an acceptable skills test, or an applicant's record in combination
with at least two years of driving experience in a vehicle representative of the vehicle he operates or
expects to operate.

(7) In addition to the exemptions granted in Subsection (A)(6) of this Section, the department may
exempt the drivers of the vehicles listed in Subsection (A)(8) of this Section from the retest requirements.

(8) The department may permit drivers possessing a valid Class "D" or "E" license issued pursuant
to this Chapter to operate the following vehicles without a commercial driver's license, subject to the
following limitations:

(a) A vehicle designed for personal use unless used for commercial purposes or used to transport
hazardous materials required to be placarded.
(b) A farm vehicle which is controlled and operated by a farmer, including operation by employees or family members, is used to transport agricultural products, farm machinery, or farm supplies, to or from a farm, is not used in the operations of a common or contract motor carrier, and is used within one hundred fifty miles of the farmer's farm. In order to qualify for this exemption, an applicant shall meet the following criteria:

(i) An applicant with one to two years of driving experience shall demonstrate a satisfactory operating record for his entire driving history. An applicant with more than two years of driving experience shall demonstrate a satisfactory operating record for the two most recent years of his driving history. An applicant who has not previously been issued a driver's license shall not be eligible for this exemption.

(ii) For purposes of this Subparagraph, "satisfactory operating record" shall mean that an applicant has not had more than one license, has not had any license suspended, revoked, or canceled, has not had any conviction for a driving offense which requires disqualification as provided for in R.S. 32:414.2, has not had any conviction of a serious traffic violation as provided for in R.S. 32:414.2, and has not had any conviction of a state or local law relating to traffic control, other than a violation arising in connection with a traffic accident, and has no record of an accident in which the applicant was at fault.

(9) The department is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations necessary to administer and enforce this Subsection, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, subject to oversight by the Joint Legislative Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works. The department may delegate the duties and authority imposed by this Subsection.

(10) Provision shall be made for examination in the parish wherein an applicant resides, except for commercial driver skill and knowledge testing. The department shall locate testing centers for driver skill and knowledge testing in locations convenient to applicants.

(11) One of the motor vehicle field offices established within a parish shall be located in the parish seat. If an existing office is not in the parish seat, an additional office shall be located in the parish seat.

B.(1) There shall be three general types of drivers' licenses:

(a) The "Commercial Driver's License" (Classes "A", "B", and "C").
(b) The "Chauffeur's License" (Class "D").
(c) The "Personal Vehicle Driver's License" (Class "E").

(2) A commercial driver's license shall be required when a vehicle is used in commerce as defined in this Chapter, and is a commercial motor vehicle as defined in this Chapter. A farmer shall not need a commercial driver's license when operating a motor vehicle as provided for in Subparagraph (e) of this Paragraph. The department may elect to or, if required by the Federal Highway Administration, shall change the weight and passenger limits expressed herein to conform to regulations by the Federal Highway Administration. The department shall do so by regulations promulgated in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act subject to oversight by the Joint Legislative Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works. The different classes of drivers' licenses to be issued shall be as follows:

(a)(i) Class "A" "Commercial Driver's License" - "Combination Vehicle"

Permits the operation of all vehicles within Classes "B", "C", "D", and "E", with any appropriate endorsements, and any combination of vehicles with a gross combination weight rating of twenty-six thousand and one or more pounds, provided that the gross vehicle weight rating of the vehicle or vehicles being towed is in excess of ten thousand pounds. This class of vehicles does not include the operation of motorcycles and motor scooters except as an endorsement to the basic license.

(ii) Restriction. An individual who takes a skills test for a Class "A" Commercial Driver's License in a motor vehicle other than a tractor-trailer combination, sometimes referred to as an "eighteen wheeler",
shall be issued a license with a restriction prohibiting the operation of a tractor-trailer combination. This restriction shall be lifted only if the individual successfully completes a skills test in a tractor-trailer combination. In all cases, the party completing the skills test certificate shall fully describe on the face of the certificate the vehicle in which the skills test was administered. For purposes of this Item, a power unit with a gross vehicle weight rating of less than twenty-six thousand one pounds shall not qualify as the tractor portion of a tractor-trailer combination.

(b) Class "B" Commercial Driver's License - "Heavy Straight Vehicle"

Permits the operation of any vehicle within Classes "C", "D", and "E", with any appropriate endorsements, plus any single vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating of twenty-six thousand and one or more pounds, or any such vehicle towing a vehicle not in excess of ten thousand pounds gross vehicle weight rating. A "straight vehicle" is defined for the purpose of this class as being one that does not bend or have any moveable joint in its frame between the driver's seat and the cargo or passenger compartment. This class does not include the operation of motorcycles and motor scooters except as an endorsement to the basic license.

(c) Class "C" Commercial Driver's License - "Light Vehicle"

Permits the operation of any vehicle within Classes "D" and "E", with any appropriate endorsements, plus any single vehicle less than twenty-six thousand and one pounds gross vehicle weight rating, or any such vehicle towing a vehicle not in excess of ten thousand pounds gross vehicle weight rating. This group includes vehicles designed to transport sixteen or more passengers including the driver and which are not within the definition of a Group "A" or "B" vehicle, and vehicles used in the transportation of materials found to be hazardous for purposes of the Federal Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, 49 United States Code 1801 et seq. or under state law or regulation and which require the motor vehicle to be placarded under the Federal Hazardous Materials Regulations (49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 172, Subpart F) or under state law or regulation. This class does not include the operation of motorcycles and motor scooters except as an endorsement to the basic license.

(d) Class "D" Chauffeur's License

Permits the operation of all vehicles included in Class "E" plus any single motor vehicle used in commerce to transport passengers or property if the motor vehicle has a gross vehicle weight rating of ten thousand one or more pounds but less than twenty-six thousand one pounds, or any combination of vehicles used in commerce to transport passengers or property if the motor vehicle has a combined gross vehicle weight rating of ten thousand one or more pounds but less than twenty-six thousand one pounds inclusive of a towed unit with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than ten thousand pounds; or any vehicle designed or utilized for the transportation of passengers for hire or fee; and not utilized in the transportation of materials found to be hazardous under the provisions of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act which requires the vehicle to bear a placard under the provisions of Hazardous Materials Regulations (49 CFR Part 172, Subpart F).

(e) Class "E" Driver's License - "Personal Vehicle"

Permits the operation of any single motor vehicle under ten thousand one pounds gross vehicle weight rating or any such vehicle towing a vehicle not in excess of ten thousand pounds gross vehicle weight rating; any personal use of recreational vehicle or combination of vehicles; or any vehicle which is not within the definition of Group "A", "B", "C", or "D" and not utilized in the transportation of materials found to be hazardous under the provision of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act which requires the vehicle to bear a placard under provisions of the Hazardous Materials Regulations (49 CFR Part 172, Subpart F). This class of vehicles does not include the operation of motorcycles and motor scooters except as an endorsement to the basic license.
(3) The department shall issue endorsements for commercial drivers' licenses if applicants for such endorsements pass the appropriate knowledge and skills tests necessary for issuance of the endorsement and if the applicant passes any requisite security assessment for issuance of a particular endorsement. However, if an applicant for an endorsement is eligible for a waiver of the test requirements pursuant to any applicable federal waiver program implemented by the department at the time the applicant applies for the endorsement, the department shall issue the endorsement to the applicant. A federal waiver program may be implemented at the department's discretion. The following endorsements shall be available to the classes of commercial drivers' licenses:

(a) "T" - double/triple trailers. This endorsement shall not be construed so as to allow operation of triple trailer combinations in this state.
(b) "P" - passenger vehicle.
(c) "N" - tank vehicle.
(d) "H" - hazardous materials. This endorsement may be issued only if the department receives a "Determination of No Security Threat" from the Transportation Security Administration. This endorsement shall be denied or revoked if the Transportation Security Administration issues a "Determination of a Threat" assessment.
(e) "X" - combination tank vehicle and hazardous materials.
(f) "S" - school bus.
(g) Any other endorsement required by the department as long as it is fully explained on the license.

(4) There shall be the following restrictions possible to the classes of commercial driver's license:

(a) "L" - airbrake restriction.
(b) Any other restriction required by the department as long as it is fully explained on the license.

(5) The department may elect to issue a "nonresident commercial driver's license" to a person domiciled in a foreign country if the Federal Highway Administrator has determined that the commercial motor vehicle testing and licensing standards in the foreign domicile do not meet the standards contained in 49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 383. If the department elects to issue nonresident commercial drivers' licenses, the procedures for issuance and the notification to the Commercial Driver's License Information System shall be the same as those pertaining to any other commercial driver's license. Prior to issuing any nonresident commercial driver's license, the department shall establish enforcement procedures for disqualifying the holder of a nonresident commercial driver's license and for withdrawing, suspending, canceling, or revoking the nonresident commercial driver's license under the same conditions applicable to a commercial driver's license issued to a resident of this state. The department may set the fees to be charged for such license and the duration of such license by regulation in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act subject to oversight by the Joint Legislative Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works.

(6)(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the department shall issue a temporary driver's permit to an applicant who is a foreign national who has been present in the state for thirty or more days and who is employed in the agricultural industry; provided, however, that any person's status for the purposes of this Paragraph shall be determined regardless of immigration status.

(b) Such applicant shall provide an individual taxpayer identification number issued to the applicant by the Internal Revenue Service, proof of Louisiana residency, and any other forms of identification required by the department. Proof of residency shall include but not be limited to paid receipts for utility bills and bank statements.
(c)(i) A temporary driver's permit shall be readily distinguishable from all other permits and licenses issued by the department. Such permit shall expire one year from the date of issuance and may be renewed annually if the driver remains qualified pursuant to this Paragraph. Renewal of the permit shall be made in person.

(ii) The temporary permit shall be considered a license to drive and shall not be considered a form of identification.

(d) The department may set the fees to be charged for such permit by regulation in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, subject to oversight by the Joint Legislative Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works.

C.(1) Motorcycles, motor driven cycles, and motorized bicycles shall not be given a separate class, as such, but their use shall be provided for by making an endorsement on one of the basic classes outlined in this Section. Such an endorsement shall be made only after the applicant has taken and successfully passed tests specifically designed for the operation of such vehicles. No operator's skill test shall be required if an applicant has successfully completed the Motorcycle Safety, Awareness, and Operator Training Program provided in R.S. 17:282.

(2) The provisions of this Subsection shall not apply to motorcycles, motor driven cycles, and motorized bicycles under five horsepower. Their operation shall not require a license or endorsement.

D. Authorized emergency vehicles shall not be given a special class, as such, but their lawful operation shall be provided for by an appropriate special endorsement on a class "E" license indicating the group or groups of motor vehicles the driver is authorized to operate.

E. The license or special certificate of each applicant shall be endorsed appropriately with respect to his qualifications to operate said vehicles. Any applicable restriction shall be noted on the driver's license or special certificate.

F.(1) The department shall make provisions for testing driver's license or special certificate applicants in languages other than English and for testing deaf applicants. However, this shall not be construed to require the department to furnish an interpreter.

(2) Notwithstanding Subsection (G)(1) of this Section, a driver, unless exempted by the department by rule or regulations, who transports hazardous materials required to be placarded or who is otherwise subject to the English literacy requirement of 49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 391, shall be able to read and speak the English language sufficiently to converse with the general public, to understand highway traffic signs and signals in the English language, to respond to official inquiries, and to make entries on reports and records.

G. The deputy secretary of public safety services shall adopt and promulgate any rules and regulations relative to motor carrier operator qualifications, including minimum qualifications of operators of motor rules and regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act. Oversight review shall be conducted by the Joint Legislative Committee on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works. All rules and regulations adopted by the deputy secretary relative to motor carrier vehicle operator qualifications shall be consistent with the regulations of the United States Department of Transportation contained in Title 46 and Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations relative to motor carrier safety and the transportation of hazardous materials.

H.(1) Information on how to obtain a driver's license and endorsements shall be included in manuals made available by the office of motor vehicles to applicants at a cost to be established by regulation. The information provided to the applicant shall include:

(a) Information on the requirements and qualifications for obtaining a driver's license.

(b) The procedures for issuance of a driver's license.

(c) Information on third party testing.
(d) Information on the experience substitute for the skills tests.
(e) Information on any exemptions to the retest requirements.
(f) Any special test specification modifications for certain drivers.
(g) Information on the vehicle groups and endorsements.
(h) The substance of the knowledge and skills which drivers must have for the different vehicle groups and endorsements, including information on railroad and highway grade crossing signage and safety procedures.
(i) Information on the airbrake restriction.
(j) Details of testing procedures, including the purpose of the test, how to respond, any time limits for taking the test, and any other special procedures determined by the department.
(k) Directions on taking the tests.
(l) Information on the implied consent provision to be tested for alcohol or drugs.
(m) Information on the criminal and civil penalties imposed on drivers of commercial motor vehicles, including the disqualifications offenses.

(2) A supply of guides shall be furnished to libraries and schools in each parish and shall be available for use in the library or school at no cost to the applicant.

(3) Details on testing and other requirements established by the department shall be included in driver examiner manuals and made available to examiners and third party testers at a cost to be established by regulation. The information made available to the examiner shall include:

(a) Information on driver application procedures.
(b) Information on third party testing.
(c) Information on the procedures for issuance of the driver's license.
(d) Information on the experience substitute for the skills tests.
(e) Information on any exemption to the retest requirement.
(f) Details on the information which must be given to the applicant, including information on the implied consent provision to be tested for alcohol or drugs, the criminal and civil penalties faced by persons who operate commercial motor vehicles, and on the disqualification offenses.
(g) Details on how to conduct the tests.
(h) Scoring procedures and minimum passing scores.
(i) Information for selecting driving test routes.
(j) A list of skills to be tested.
(k) Instructions on where and how the skills will be tested.
(l) How performance of the skills will be scored.
(m) Criteria for automatic failures of the skills test.

(4) Information on any special procedures for applying for any other special endorsement, any special qualifications required of such persons, and any special knowledge or skills drivers are required to possess shall be included in a manual or manuals, unless such information is included in the driver's manual, and shall be made available to the applicant at a cost to be established by regulation. However, a supply of guides shall be furnished to libraries and schools in each parish, where they shall be available for use at no cost to the applicant.
§408.1. Third party testing; proof of testing

The Department of Public Safety and Corrections may authorize another state, an employer, a private driver training facility or other private institution, or a department, agency or instrumentality of a local government to administer the skills tests as specified herein if all of the following conditions are met:

1. The tests given by the third party are the same as those which would otherwise be given by the department.

2. The third party has an agreement with the department containing, at a minimum, provisions which:
   a. Allow the Department of Public Safety and Corrections or its representative to conduct random examinations, inspections, and audits without prior notice;
   b. Require the Department of Public Safety and Corrections to conduct on-site inspections at least annually;
   c. Require that all third party examiners meet the same qualification and training standards as Department of Public Safety and Corrections examiners to the extent necessary to conduct skills tests in compliance herein;
   d. Require that, at least on an annual basis, designated Department of Public Safety and Corrections employees take the tests actually administered by the third party as if said employee were a test applicant, or that the Department of Public Safety and Corrections test a sample of drivers who were examined by the third party to compare pass/fail results; and
   e. Reserve unto the Department of Public Safety and Corrections the right to take prompt and appropriate remedial action against the third-party testers in the event that the third-party fails to comply with state or federal standards for the commercial driver's license testing program or with any other terms of the third-party contract.

3. A driver applicant who takes and passes driving tests administered by an authorized third party shall provide evidence to the state licensing agency that he has successfully passed the driving tests administered by the third party on a form approved by the department.

4. Any third party or department employee authorized under the provisions of this Chapter to administer tests to applicants for commercial driver's licenses who falsifies information regarding test results or applicant qualification or who in any way participates in, aids, or abets the fraudulent testing or issuance to an applicant of a commercial driver's license or endorsement thereon shall be liable under this Chapter for civil penalties of not less than five hundred nor more than five thousand dollars per act. Furthermore, the department may establish procedures to void all transactions and any licenses issued as a result of such falsification or fraud, such procedures to be established pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act. Any authorized third party tester suffering a sanction under the provisions of this Chapter shall forfeit his authorized third party testing status and contract and shall not qualify for such status henceforth.
§408.2. Third party testing; limitation of liability

The third party tester, its agents, or its employees shall not be liable for any and all claims, losses, damages, costs, and other proceedings made, sustained, brought, or prosecuted in any manner based upon, occasioned by, or attributable to any injury, infringement, or damage arising from, or claimed to have arisen from, acts committed by a driver who has been given a written knowledge test or a skills test by such third party tester provided the test was administered in accordance with Louisiana rules, regulations, and laws.

Please visit [http://www.legis.state.la.us/](http://www.legis.state.la.us/) to view the most current information.