



What Class of commercial driver's licence do you need?

Toolkit for RTA Transportation Managers

Nova Scotia Community Transportation Network | April 2022



Drivers Licencing Requirements

Driver's Licence Classes in Nova Scotia

The Registry of Motor Vehicles requires anyone who lives in Nova Scotia and wants to operate a motor vehicle on public roads and highways in Nova Scotia to have a driver's licence of the proper Class for the vehicle they wish to operate.

The types of licences required for operating vehicles associated with rural transportation range from Class 1 to Class 4 restricted with condition 16. They do not include Class 5, 6, 7 and 8.

The Classes of licences associated with passenger vehicles in Nova Scotia are:

Class 7 Learner's Licence

It is necessary for all drivers to have previously fulfilled the requirements of a Class 7 Learner's Licence, including not operating the vehicle without a fully licenced (Class 5 or above) supervising driver in the front seat, and no passengers.

Class 7 is a prerequisite for learning to drive class 5 vehicles (see below.)

Class 5

This most common of licences is required to drive cars, pick-up trucks, sport utility vehicles and vans with a seating capacity of less than 24. It is a non-commercial licence.

A Class 5N licence cannot be used as a level for upgrade to 4 or above. Class 5N licences are for drivers with less than 2 years experience. They also operate under some restrictions (Condition 47).

Class 4 (commercial)

This licence is for driving smaller buses and vans seating between 10-24 passengers for compensation, taxis and ambulances.

Class 4 restricted with condition 16 (commercial)

Class 4 restricted with condition 16 is for community transportation drivers, taxi, limo or rideshare drivers. The difference between it and a Class 4 is that a knowledge test is no longer required, although you must complete a Driver's Medical Examination report.

Class 3 (commercial)

This Class is for driving vehicles or vehicle-trailer combinations with a weight greater than 14,000 kilograms.

Class 2 (commercial)

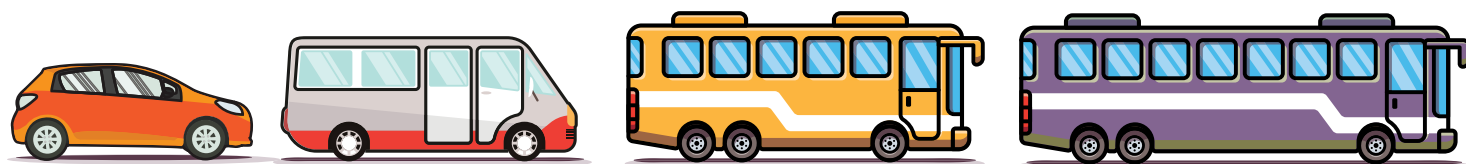
Class 2 allows the holder to drive large passenger vehicles (over 24 passengers).

Class 1 (commercial)

Class 1 allows the holder to drive large passenger vehicles (over 24 passengers) and also semi-trailers and tractor-trailer combinations.

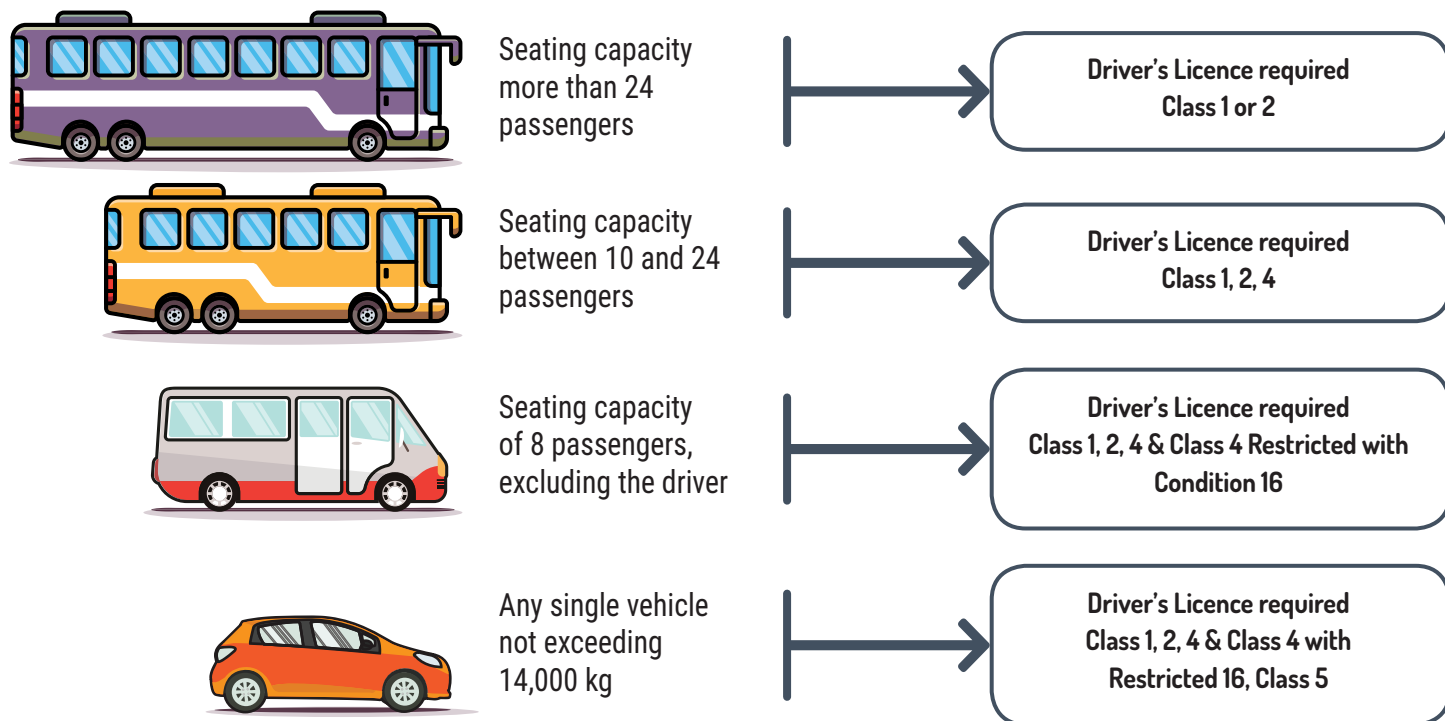
The following two classes do not pertain to passenger transportation:

Class 6 is for driving motorcycles and motor-driven cycles.
Class 8 for driving farm tractors.



What Type of Professional Drivers Licence do you need?

What type of vehicle does your organization own?



Commercial Licensing Upgrades for Classes 1 - 4

To apply for your upgrades

for Commercial Class 1- 4 Licence, you must:

- be age 19 for Class 1, 2, 3 and 18 for Class 4
- have 1 year experience with at least Class 5 licence (not a 5N)
- pay for and pass written test for the Class of licence upgrade
- pass a Driver Medical Examination report from a licensed healthcare provider, to be periodically renewed; cost to be paid by applicant
- pay for and pass road test in a Class 1-4 vehicle
- pay for licence upgrade

Costs:

Written test	\$15.15 HST included
Medical and optical report	approximately \$50-\$70 depending on healthcare provider
Road test	\$53.00 HST included
Licence upgrade	\$11.90 HST included

Note: Prices listed are as of March 1, 2022 but may not reflect current pricing.

To upgrade to another class of licence, you must first meet certain criteria. Depending on the class of licence you want to get, this process may involve classroom training, road testing and knowledge testing.

- You must be at least 19 years old and have a full driver licence before you can take the test. You can't take the test if you have a learner's licence (class7) or are newly licensed (Graduated Licence 5N or 6N).
- Study the Professional Drivers Manual before your appointment. It contains information you need to know to pass the test. You can get a free copy at any Access Nova Scotia or Registry of Motor Vehicles office.

The Process of obtaining a Class 1 - 4 Driver's Licence

Before you book a road test make sure you:

- know the type of road test you want to take
- have your driver's licence number (you can find this on the front of your driver's licence)
- pass a Driver Medical Examination report from a licensed healthcare provider
- submit payment for your road test before booking

<https://novascotia.ca/sns/rmv/interlock/pdf/ans-rmv-drivers-medical-examination-report.pdf>
<https://beta.novascotia.ca/pay-road-test-driving-test>

Payment options

You can pay with debit card, Visa, Master Card, American Express, cash, cheque or money order. Road test fees are to be paid before each test, even if you are re-taking because of a failed test. The cost is \$53, payable at any Registry of Motor Vehicles office throughout the province.

After payment is received you will be sent a road test receipt (no expiry). The receipt number must be presented at the time of scheduling your road test appointment. You must also present this receipt, along with your licence, insurance card (in the name of the vehicle owner), vehicle and trailer permit(s) to the Driver Examiner at the time of your road test. You may schedule your appointment by phoning: 1-800-898-7668 (toll-free) or 424-5851 (Metro Halifax)

How to pay

1. Complete the payment form online.
2. Include payment with your form.
3. Submit your completed form and payment.
4. The service emails you a road test receipt.
Keep a copy for your records.

Booking a road test

When you're ready to book a road test, call Registry of Motor Vehicles to schedule the test. Have your road test receipt with you when you call (you need this as proof that you paid for the test).

Licencing Upgrades to Class 1



To apply for a Class 1 Licence, you must:

- be age 19,
- have 1 year's experience with at least Class 5 licence (not 5N, a newly licensed driver's licence),
- pay for and pass written test for Class 1 vehicle
- pay for and pass a Driver Medical Examination report from a licensed healthcare provider, to be periodically renewed
- pay for and pass road test in a Class 1 vehicle
- pay for licence upgrade

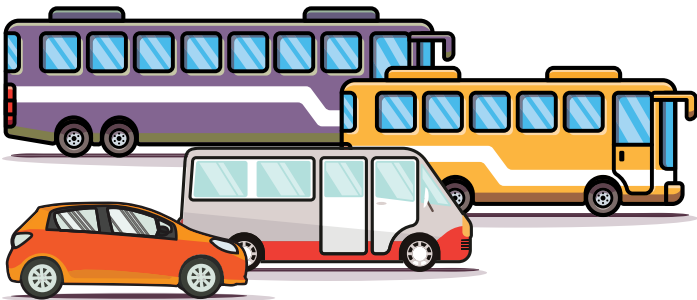
More things to know:

- Class 1 includes large passenger vehicles (over 24 passengers, semi-trailers and tractor-trailer combinations, and also all types of vehicles in Classes 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8
- Driver's Medical Examination reports are not covered by Nova Scotia MSI, fees may vary. Driver's Medical Examination report are available for download.
<https://novascotia.ca/sns/rmv/interlock/pdf/ans-rmv-drivers-medical-examination-report.pdf>
- To upgrade your present licence to Class 1 there is a road test examination fee. Book an appointment by phone or in-person and pay in-person or online.

Costs:

Written test\$15.15 HST included
Driver Medical Examination report approximately \$50-\$70 depending on healthcare provider
Road test \$53 HST included
Licence upgrade\$11.90 HST included

Licencing Upgrades to Class 2



To apply for a Class 2 Licence, you must:

- be age 19,
- have 1 year's experience with at least Class 5 licence (not 5N, a newly licensed driver's licence),
- pay for and pass written test for Class 2 vehicle
- pay for and pass a Driver Medical Examination report from a licensed healthcare provider, to be periodically renewed
- pay for and pass road test in a Class 2 vehicle,
- pay for licence upgrade

More things to know:

- Class 2 includes vehicles having a seating capacity of 24 or more and all types of vehicles in Classes 3, 4, 5, and 8
- Driver's Medical Examination reports are not covered by Nova Scotia MSI, fees may vary. Driver's Medical Examination report are available for download.
<https://novascotia.ca/sns/rmv/interlock/pdf/ans-rmv-drivers-medical-examination-report.pdf>
- To upgrade your present licence to Class 2 there is a road test examination fee. Book an appointment by phone or in-person and pay in-person or online.

Costs:

Written test	\$15.15 HST included
Driver Medical Examination report	approximately \$50-\$70 depending on healthcare provider
Road test	\$53 HST included
Licence upgrade	\$11.90 HST included

Licencing Upgrades to Class 4



To apply for a Class 4 Licence, you must:

- be age 18,
- have 1 year's experience with at least Class 5 licence (not 5N, a newly licensed driver's licence),
- pay for and pass written test for Class 4 vehicle
- pay for and pass a Driver Medical Examination report from a licensed healthcare provider, to be periodically renewed
- pay for and pass road test in a Class 4 vehicle
- pay for licence upgrade

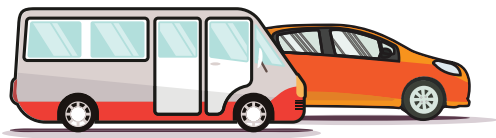
More things to know:

- Class 4 includes smaller buses and vans with seating under 24 passengers for compensation, taxis and ambulances and all types of vehicles in Classes 5 and 8
- Driver's Medical Examination reports are not covered by Nova Scotia MSI, fees may vary. Driver's Medical Examination report are available for download.
<https://novascotia.ca/sns/rmv/interlock/pdf/ans-rmv-drivers-medical-examination-report.pdf>
- To upgrade your present licence to Class 4 there is a road test examination fee. Book an appointment by phone or in-person and pay in-person or online.

Costs:

Written test	\$15.15 HST included
Driver Medical Examination report	approximately \$50-\$70 depending on healthcare provider
Road test	\$53 HST included
Licence upgrade	\$11.90 HST included

Licencing Upgrades to Class 4 restricted with condition 16



Class 4 Driver's Licence restricted with condition 16 is for community transportation drivers, taxi, limo or rideshare drivers (i.e. "drive for hire").

A knowledge test is no longer required to upgrade to a Class 4 restricted with condition 16, although you must still complete a Driver's Medical Examination report.
<https://novascotia.ca/sns/rmv/interlock/pdf/ans-rmv-drivers-medical-examination-report.pdf>

To apply for a Class 4 restricted with condition 16, you must:

- be age 18,
- have 1 year's experience with at least Class 5 licence (not 5N, a newly licensed driver's licence),
- pay for and pass a Driver Medical Examination report from a licensed healthcare provider, to be periodically renewed
- pay for licence upgrade.

More things to know:

- Vehicles having a seating capacity of 8 or less excluding the driver.

Costs:

Driver Medical Examination report approximately \$50-\$70 depending on healthcare provider
Licence upgrade \$11.90 HST included

Class 5 Driver's Licence (upgrade from Class 7 Learner's Licence)



You must complete all necessary requirements of a Class 7 (Learner's Licence) before upgrading to Class 5.

Class 5 is the most common driver's licence in Nova Scotia. It is for driving cars, pick-up trucks, sport utility vehicles and vans having a seating capacity of less than 24. Note, if you will be driving in a "drive for hire" situation, you must upgrade to at least a Class 4 restricted with condition 16.

To apply for a Class 5 licence, you:

- must be age 18 (or 16 with consent of parent or guardian),
- must have held a Class 7 Learner's licence for 12 months, or 9 months if you have completed a recognized driver education or driver training course,
- have successfully demonstrating driving ability in any Class 5 vehicle (driver's road test).
- may need, if required, to pay for and pass a Driver Medical Examination report from a licensed healthcare provider, to be periodically renewed

More things to know:

- Any single vehicle not exceeding 14,000 kg
- May be required to complete a Driver's Medical Examination report.
<https://novascotia.ca/sns/rmv/interlock/pdf/ans-rmv-drivers-medical-examination-report.pdf>

Cost:

Driver Medical Examination report approximately \$50-\$70 depending on healthcare provider
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