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A CDL, or a Commercial Drivers License, is a valid driving document issued by the State Authority. This is mainly required in cases where you would need to drive a Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) on a regular basis. The CMVs usually include vehicles that usually transport large or heavy cargo. Besides appropriate endorsements for each CDL, there are also distinct types of CDL that are designated for particular types of transport vehicles only. To understand which CDL is the most suitable for your case, you must know the difference between class A and class B CDL. In this article, we bring you the fundamental differences between them. We will also try to break down a few crucial points as to how they vary from one another. How to Get a Commercial Drivers License? CDLs are generally issued by the state authority. You can legally apply for a CDL once you hit the age of 21. Each state has rigid state laws and guidelines governing the issuance of CDLs. You must pass a written test and a practical driving test designed specifically for your home state to qualify for obtaining a CDL. These tests usually verify whether you have the specialized skills and knowledge to operate a CMV flawlessly. However, some states issue single-state CDLs to drivers aged 18 too. These single-state CDLs only allow the driver to drive a CMV within the state under supervision but not beyond state borders. Luckily, in most cases, the restriction is removed automatically once the driver turns 21. What is Class A CDL? The Class A CDL generally permits drivers to operate combinatorial vehicles such as a tractor-trailer. These vehicles are more colloquially called 18-wheelers or big-rigs which they usually have more than two axles. Now the GVWR of the vehicles must be more than 26 thousand pounds along with a towing capacity of 10 thousand pounds in order to qualify for a Class A CDL. Additional endorsements on the Class A CDL further allow driving almost all CMVs, including those covered under CDL B and CDL C. When Do You Need a Class A CDL? You may need to obtain a Class A CDL when you are driving any one of the following: Tractor-trailers, Truck and trailer combinations, Tractor-trailer buses, Heavy Trucks, Semi-trucks, Livestock carriers, Tanker vehicles, Dispatch Vehicles, Courier Vehicles, Flatbeds. Training Needed for Class A CDL: Since Class A CDL is considered the most sophisticated and high-tier of all the variants, this particular variant needs the most versatile training. The skills to acquire usually include behind-the-wheel stability, vehicle maintenance, and adherence to state driving guidelines. All in all, if you can exhibit that you can safely drive a Class A CMV without any trace of errors, you can consider yourself worthy of obtaining a Class A CDL. What is Class B CDL? Class B CDLs are basically for unit vehicles that do not include trailers or other hitched attachments. These are vehicles having a GVWR of more than 26 thousand pounds but a towing capacity of fewer than 10 thousand pounds. These types of vehicles are typically small passenger vans of less than 16 seats. Additional endorsements on the Class B CDL further allow driving CMVs covered under CDL C but not under CDL A. When Do You Need a Class B CDL? You may need to obtain a Class B CDL when you are driving any one of the following: Straight trucks, Box trucks, Delivery Trucks, Garbage trucks with small trailers, Large passenger buses, Segmented buses, School Buses, City or Tourist Buses, Cement Mixers. Training Needed for Class B CDL: Obtaining a Class B CDL requires intense training to develop a combination of theoretical and practical skills. Besides driving on the road, class B CDL examinees must exhibit that they can successfully handle railroad crossings, cargo transportation, and vehicle inspection. Moreover, vehicle maneuvering and general knowledge about trucks are quite mandatory to pass the test successfully. Also read the article about the differences between AWD and 4WD. Other Variants: Class C CDL: Class C CDL is the third variant that is usually quite rare to come by. These documents are issued to drivers who want to drive vehicles carrying hazardous materials. These are usually extremely specific and strictly controlled under federal law of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act. Another case where CDL C can be issued to drivers is when they are operating a small passenger bus carrying 16 or more people, including the driver himself. CLPA CLP, or Commercial Learners Permit, is basically the first step in getting a CDL. The legal document is also issued by DMV and allows you to practice driving a CMV before taking on the actual test. CDL Endorsements: Endorsements are additional permits over your existing CDL. You must pass an extra test after your general CDL driving test in order to acquire one. These permits can allow you to extend the domain of your CDL and drive a wider variety of vehicles besides your permitted ones. After a valid endorsement, you can drive school buses, double or triple tractor-trailers, hazmat tankers, and other such CMVs. Generally, Class A CDL holders can apply for endorsements to Class B and Class C. Class B CDL holders, however, can only apply for a Class C Endorsement and not above that. Recommended for You: Difference Between Class A and Class B CDL. Comparison Table: Gross Vehicle Weight Rating, 26,001 lbs. or more/26,011 lbs. or more/Towed Vehicle Weight/Heavier than 10,000 lbs. Less than 10,000 lbs. Driving Allowance/Combination of vehicles/A single-vehicle that is not hitched to a trailer/Hitched trailer allowed/Yes/No/Vehicles Permitted/Tractor-trailers, Tankers, Flatbeds, Livestock Carriers, etc./School Buses, City Buses, Tourist Buses, Straight Trucks, Box Trucks, Dump Trucks, etc./Endorsements Available/For Class B and Class C/For Class C/Earning Potential and Job Opportunity/Higher/Lower/Job market competition/Higher/Lower/Choosing the Most Suitable Commercial Drivers License/Making the right choice when it comes to deciding which CDL to get can be tricky. In most cases, CDL A should be adept in covering for most cases. You can legally drive almost all types of vehicles with a CDL A along with the proper endorsements. However, this can be quite challenging to obtain on the first shot. You'll need sophisticated training and good test results. Now you can travel more considerable distances, and it will open up more job opportunities for you as well. Go for a CDL A if your target is a long-term career on the road. On the other hand, Class B CDLs are more target-oriented and specialized for a specific set of vehicles. If your focus is to drive only the specific Class B vehicles for a short-term career, opting for a CDL B is the wiser way to go. Since you need to pass through a comparatively easier test, obtaining the document would be less of a hassle for you. There is also less competition in the job market for CDL B holders. Final Words: That being said, you should now be knowledgeable enough to know about the difference between Class A and Class B CDL. No matter which document you choose to pursue, always remember that road safety should be your priority. Both documents will allow you to enter into a world of competitive pay and earn a decent living. You'll even have a life on the wheels where you can travel to and from your destination for the sheer thrill of it. Be sure to get the most suitable commercial drivers license for your vehicle and drive safely! Are you interested in a career in the transportation industry? Or does your employer require you to have a Commercial Drivers License or CDL? If you've been researching the different CDL classes, you likely have questions related to the licensing process and the requirements to start a truck driving career. Understanding the difference between Class A and Class B CDL can help you better understand which license you need to become a commercial truck driver. Ultimately, determining which CDL class is best for you depends on your individual career goals and interests. This article takes a closer look at the difference between CDL-A and CDL-B classifications to help you understand which is right for you. To break it down, if your commercial vehicle weighs over 26,001 pounds (excluding trailers), you need a Commercial Drivers License or CDL to drive that vehicle. Driving a commercial vehicle requires greater knowledge, experience, and physical ability than simply driving a car. CDL-A allows the driver to operate any vehicle with a semi-trailer or a trailer with two or more axles. A common Class A vehicle is a tractor trailer, also known as a semi. This includes combination vehicles with a gross combination weight rating (GCWR) of 26,001 or more pounds, provided the gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of the vehicle being towed is in excess of 10,000 pounds. CDL-B allows the driver to operate any single vehicle with a GVWR greater than 26,001 pounds. Common vehicles include school buses, dump trucks and straight trucks. Can tow a vehicle as long as it does NOT exceed 10,000 pounds GVWR. Class A: If you are pulling a commercial trailer that weighs over 10,000 pounds (most commercial trailers do), you will need a Class A CDL. Combination vehicles, such as tractor trailers or semi-trailers, always meet the requirements for CDL-A. Class B: A CDL-B is typically only for lighter vehicles, such as a straight truck or bus. With a class B license, you will not be permitted to drive a trailer that exceeds 10,000 pounds. So, a CDL-B could be considered more limiting in regards to the type of commercial driving career opportunities you can pursue. Tractor trailers, Truck & trailer combinations, Double and triple trailers, Tractor trailer buses, Tanker vehicles, Livestock carriers, Flatbeds, Limousine, Transit bus, Dump truck, Boom truck, Garbage truck, Well now explore the difference between CDL A and CDL B careers, including the benefits and considerations for each. Truck Driver Line Haul Driver Log Truck Driver Over the Road Driver (OTR Driver) Production Truck Driver Semi Truck Driver Tractor Trailer Operator Tow Truck Drivers If you're interested in pursuing virtually any commercial driving career, this may be the best option for you. Also, if you hold a CDL-A, you are also authorized to operate any vehicle that requires a CDL-B license. This allows you to operate a wider variety of commercial vehicles and have broader career opportunities, which can potentially increase your earning potential. Local Delivery Driver Construction Driver/Operator School or Transit Bus Driver Limousine Driver If your job only requires operating in one of the above vehicles, you may not need to earn your CDL-A. These types of CDL B driving jobs may be ideal for those who want to work in a more limited geographical area (stay close to home), or if trucking is not a long-term career path. (N) Tanker Endorsement: Class A & B (H) Hazardous Materials: Class A & B (T) Doubles/Triples Endorsement: Class A (P) Passenger: Class A & B (S) School Bus: Class A & B, only available if P endorsement complete Interested in Learning More About Truck Driving? CDL-A vehicles and trailers require greater training and skill to maneuver. The first step toward earning your CDL-A is enrolling in a FMCSA (Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration) approved ELDT (Entry Level Driver Training) training program. MTIS CDL Schools in Illinois and Missouri offer a CDL Training Course. At MTI, students learn truck driving procedures and techniques through classroom learning and behind-the-wheel driving practice from instructors with real-world trucking experience. Heres what you can expect when you attend MTI to train for your CDL license: Classroom theory focusing on CDL A requirements, driving safety, combination vehicles, air brakes, trip planning, and more. Behind-the-wheel experience operating commercial vehicles on the driving range to learn driving skills such as backing, parking, docking, managing speed and space relations, how to handle driving conditions, driving hazards, and more. After completion of the CDL Training Course, students will be prepared to take the CDL licensing exam and earn their CDL A license. Get on the road to earning your CDL A license! Sources: Have you been researching the Illinois CDL law changes in 2022? If so, youre likely interested in earning your CDL or Commercial Drivers License. Having a CDL is a requirement for all professional truckers. Read More Are you interested in starting a career as a truck driver? Do you have questions about getting your CDL license, like how old you have to be to get your CDL license? A commercial driver's Read More In order to drive large or heavy vehicles such as a semi-trailer, tanker truck, or bus, drivers in Missouri are required to hold a Commercial Drivers License. Also known as a CDL. Driving a large Read More When you decide that you are going back to school for your CDL, it can be confusing which Class of CDL you should get. The most common types of CDLs are Class A & B, which both allow you to perform different jobs and drive different types of vehicles. Depending on the kind of work you want to do, you will need to choose the type of CDL you get accordingly. In this post, we will discuss the main differences between a CDL A vs CDL B, along with what each does and does not allow you to drive when you get into the truck driving industry. Class A CDL: Class A CDL will allow you to operate a combination of different vehicles. For example, you can haul a semi-trailer and a trailer. You can drive a vehicle with a gross weight of more than 26,001 pounds and drag a trailer that weighs at least 10,000 pounds or more. It is worth noting that if you wish to do jobs that require things such as handling hazardous material, you will need to obtain additional endorsements on your CDL to do so. The exact laws and requirements regarding endorsements vary by state, but you required to comply with the endorsement requirements outlined in your state. After you have a Class A CDL, you can drive a variety of vehicles including: A tractor-trailer (18-wheeler) Tractor trailer buses Tankers Flatbeds Most vehicles that you can operate with a Class B or C CDL If you want to receive a Class B CDL, you could only drive a single vehicle weighing 26,001 pounds without a trailer attached. If you wish to drive a trailer, it is the only place you will be able to haul at that time. Again, it is worth noting that if you wish to drive a vehicle hauling hazardous material, you will need to obtain additional endorsements on your CDL to do so. In addition, some Class B vehicles (such as School Bus or Commercial Bus) require specific endorsements. The requirements and laws will vary by state, but you will be required to comply with the requirements outlined in your state. After you have your Class B CDL, you can drive the following vehicles: Straight trucks Buses (i.e., tour buses, city buses, etc.) Segmented buses Box trucks Dump trucks Some Class C vehicles (if you have appropriate endorsements) CDL A vs CDL B: The Advantages of Choosing Class A CDL: Earning your Class A CDL gives you a lot more options than the Class B CDL. The more options you have, the better chances you have of getting employment in the truck driving industry. However, there are other advantages to a Class A CDL that many people may not always see, including the following: Jobs requiring a Class A CDL have much higher earning potentials. Most carriers will prefer drivers with CDL A, especially since most carriers have drivers hauling heavier loads. It allows the driver to operate more commercial vehicles. You can drive the same vehicles on a Class A CDL as you could with a Class B or C CDL along with a whole other host of additional vehicles as well. It allows you to drive further distances, log more miles, and get into over-the-road (OTR) trucking (the highest paid trucking jobs of all). Having said all of this, the Class A CDL is your best bet if you plan on working for a carrier long-term and making a career out of truck driving. If you end up operating a vehicle that can also get operated under a Class B or C CDL, in most cases you will still be covered to drive those with a Class A CDL (possibly an additional endorsement needed for specific vehicles). Get Your Class A CDL at DDA: You can start your Class A CDL training at DDA, and we will help you get started on your way to a new career that gives you more options than any other class of CDL available. We offer both Basic & Advanced training to meet your specific needs. No experience required for either program and you can complete either course in anywhere from 4 to 30 weeks, with day or night class options. For further information on enrolling to at the DDA to get your Class A CDL, call today! 1-800-551-8900 A commercial drivers license (CDL) is required to operate large commercial vehicles such as tractor-trailers, bus/passenger carrying vehicles, tanker trucks, doubles and triples and hazardous materials. There are two main types of CDL licenses: Class A and Class B. A Class A CDL allows the holder to operate any combination of vehicles with a total weight of 26,001 pounds or more. This includes tractor-trailers, flatbeds, tankers, and other large vehicles. This type of license is typically required for long-distance trucking, hauling heavy machinery, and other professional driving jobs. On the other hand, a Class B CDL allows the holder to operate any single vehicle with a weight of 26,001 pounds or more, or any combination of vehicles with a total weight of less than 26,001 pounds. This includes buses, delivery trucks, and other medium-sized commercial vehicles. This type of license is typically required for local and regional trucking, bus driving, and other similar jobs. In addition to the weight restriction, there are also other differences between a Class A and Class B CDL license. For example, a Class A license may require a higher level of training and experience than a Class B license. Additionally, some states may have different requirements for obtaining a Class A or Class B CDL license, such as age restrictions or specific endorsements. For example in MI you can get your Class A CDL at 18 and in NY you have to wait until your 21. In summary, the main difference between a Class A and Class B CDL license is the type and weight of the vehicle that the holder is allowed to operate. A Class A CDL allows the holder to operate any combination of vehicles with a total weight of 26,001 pounds or more, while a Class B CDL allows the holder to operate any single vehicle with a weight of 26,001 pounds or more or any combination of vehicles with a total weight of less than 26,001 pounds. Its important to check the specific requirements of your state before obtaining your license and understand the specific rule of both in your specific state. If youre looking to begin a professional driving career, you may wonder whether a Class A CDL or Class B CDL is better. The honest answer: neither is better, theyre just different! Each license comes with varying qualifications and different work opportunities! To decide which path is right for you, lets first go over the differences between a Class A and Class B CDL. With a Class A CDL, a driver has many opportunities for work. Any combination of vehicles with a GVWR (gross vehicle weight rating) of 26,001 or more pounds can classify as Class A CDL vehicles. These drivers can haul a trailer that weighs 10,000 pounds or more. Class A CDL eligible vehicles include: Tractor-trailer, big-rig, or 18-wheeler semi/Flatbed vehicles Tanker vehicles Truck and trailer combinations (double and triple trailers) Tractor-trailer buses Many Class B and Class C vehicles Trailers with hazardous materials (upon endorsement completion) With this training, you can choose to work as a long-haul (over the road) driver, or you can find local jobs that allow you to be home with your family. This freedom to determine your career path is one of the many benefits of obtaining your CDL. CLASS B CDL If you have interest in a professional driving career outside of traditional long-haul trucking, a Class B CDL might be right for you! This commercial license is a bit more restrictive, but depending on your career goals, may be a better fit! Vehicles with a single-vehicle weight of 26,000 or more without a trailer are Class B CDL eligible. These drivers can also tow a trailer that weighs less than 10,000 pounds. Class B CDL eligible vehicles include: Large buses (city buses, school buses) Straight trucks Box trucks (including delivery trucks) Cement mixers Dump trucks Garbage trucks with small trailers A Class B CDL, though more restrictive, still provides many opportunities for a successful career as a driver. This is the best-fit option for many drivers who have no interest in long-haul driving. WHICH IS RIGHT FOR ME? After looking at the differences between Class A and B CDLs, its clear that each provide different opportunities for work! Though neither is considered to be better, it is likely that one of them is better for you specifically! The first step in making a decision process should be to determine your own career goals. If you know what type of vehicle you want to drive, you can decide which training course to enroll in based on the qualification that you would receive! However, if youre unsure about where your new career might take you, you may want to consider obtaining a Class A CDL! Since this commercial license allows you to also drive most Class B and C vehicles, it is a great all-encompassing option! At North American Trade Schools, we offer both Class A and Class B CDL Training! No matter which path you choose, our Job Placement Services will ensure that you can begin advancing your career right after graduation! Our team is ready and willing to guide you to a successful future! IF YOURE READY TO GET STARTED ON YOUR CLASS A OR B TRAINING AT NORTH AMERICAN TRADE SCHOOLS, GIVE US A CALL AT (443) 419-7544! You are stuck deciding between Class A vs Class B CDL? This is a common concern of many people when pursuing a commercial driving career. Each license allows drivers to operate specific vehicle types, and training varies. To help you make the right decision, this post discusses the primary differences between Class A and Class B CDL. For a brief answer, from gross vehicle weight rating, vehicle type, and training required, to earning potential, Class A CDL prevails against Class B. By the end, you will have a clear idea of which CDL fits your career goals. Keep reading for more! What is Class A CDL? Class A is the most comprehensive of the commercial drivers licenses, allowing drivers to operate large-scale vehicles, especially those with multiple units. According to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), a Class A license allows driving a vehicle combined with a gross combination weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more with the towed vehicle beyond 10,000 pounds. With appropriate endorsements, a Class A CDL allows the operation of Class B and Class C vehicles. The versatility in applying for a Class A CDL license makes it one of the most popular options among drivers who want to work across various industries, particularly in long-haul trucking. Class A CDL What is Class B CDL? Class B CDL authorizes drivers to operate any vehicle with one towing another, with a GVWR of 26,001 pounds or more, or to tow a vehicle that weighs no more than 10,000 pounds. Unlike Class A, which involves a combination of units, Class B is normally single-unit vehicles without trailers. With the right endorsement, a Class B license can also grant drivers the ability to operate Class C vehicles. Class B CDL The difference between Class A and Class B CDL: Considering taking Class A or Class B CDL? Here is the detailed breakdown of differences between Class A vs Class B CDL to help you determine your suitable license: GVWR (Gross Vehicle Weight Rating)/GVWR (Gross Vehicle Weight Rating) Class A CDL: At this level, drivers are allowed to operate vehicles that have a gross combination weight of 26,001 pounds or more, provided the vehicle being towed weighs more than 10,000 pounds. Class B CDL: Drivers can operate a single vehicle with a GVWR of 26,001 pounds or more and tow vehicles not exceeding 10,000 pounds. Vehicles allowed: Vehicle allowed: Class A vs Class B CDL: Class A CDL: This is mainly intended for large combination vehicles. It also covers many other types of commercial motor vehicles with specific endorsements. According to different states, extra endorsements may be required. A Class A CDL also authorized the operation of the same vehicles that are covered in Class B. Generally, drivers can operate these vehicles: Tractor-trailers, popularly known as 18-wheelers or big rigs. Truck and trailer combinations. Large buses such as school, city, or tourist buses. Dump trucks with small trailers. Tanker vehicles. Livestock carriers. Flatbeds. Class B CDL: This typically involves single-unit vehicles that are not towing a trailer or those towing less than 10,000 pounds. Drivers often drive the following vehicles: School buses. Straight truck. Delivery truck. Garbage truck. Cement mixers. Farm machinery in certain states. Required training: Required training: Both Class A and B CDL licenses require highly considerable training hours. However, the hours vary depending on the vehicles you operate. Class A: Generally requires 160 hours of training. Training involves larger, more complex vehicles. It would be best if you learned how to couple and uncouple trailers. Class B: Training is less than for Class B, about 80 hours in total. Single-unit vehicles, road safety, vehicle inspections, and hazard recognition are covered in the training program. Potential earning: Potential earning for class A vs class B CDL: Class A CDL: According to Indeed, the average annual salary of a Class A CDL driver in the United States is \$92,326 while top earners earn more than \$100,000 per year, which is 13% higher than the national average. However, salaries vary by location and experience. Class B CDL: The average compensation for a Class B CDL is around \$67,000 annually, while the more skilled drivers earn upwards of \$90,000. The entry-level positions usually start at around \$50,000 annually. FAQs: 1. What is the difference between class A and class B? There are four main differences between Class A and Class B CDL, including: Gross vehicle weight rating. Vehicles. Training requirements. Earning. Carefully read our explanation above to understand the differences in each area. 2. What weight is a Class B CDL? Class B CDL is any vehicle with a GVWR of 26,001 pounds or more and towing vehicles up to 10,000 pounds. 3. What weight is a Class A CDL? Class A CDL covers the operation of combination vehicles with a GVWR of 26,001 pounds or more, where the weight of the towed vehicles exceeds 10,000 pounds. 4. Which CDL is the highest? Class A is the highest CDL because it allows the holder to operate all those vehicles falling under Class B or C, plus large tractor-trailers and combination vehicles. Final thoughts: Now you understand all the differences between Class A vs Class B CDL. Choosing Class A or Class B depends on your career goals and the type of vehicles you wish to operate. Class A can offer wide opportunities for long-haul trucking and combination vehicles, while Class B is ideal for drivers who want to drive single-unit vehicles. Both licenses boast lucrative careers, so it is crucial to choose the one that identifies with your professional aspirations. Leave a comment or contact us if you have any questions related to this topic. We are always willing to help! When choosing which CDL to pursue training for, it can be helpful to know the difference in training, knowledge and vehicle specifications required for each class of CDL. This often begins with considering the kind of vehicles you wish to learn how to drive. This may be an important decision that can help determine which commercial drivers license (CDL) you may want to train for. There are three kinds of CDL: A class A license is considered the universal CDL, providing the opportunity to drive multiple types of commercial trucks and tractor trailers. A class B license also allows the operation of different types of vehicles such as straight trucks and dump trucks, but it is more limiting than a class A CDL. The differences between the types of CDLs relates to the types of vehicles and the weight of the vehicles, particularly the load that the vehicles will be towing. What is a Class A CDL? A class A CDL is required for operation of a combination of vehicles (such as a tractor connected to a trailer) with a gross vehicle weight of 26,001 pounds or more and a towing capacity of more than 10,000 pounds. This is the more inclusive CDL, allowing for the operation of what most people refer to as big-rigs, tractor trailers, or 18-wheelers. A class A CDL with the correct endorsements should allow the driver to operate many commercial motor vehicles. This includes operating class B and class C trucks. What is the Training for a Class A CDL? Training for a class A CDL can vary depending on which program you are looking into. It may include a combination of classroom and hands-on or behind-the-wheel training, and federal and state regulations training. It also can give students the chance to learn driving techniques that can teach students about safely driving and operating a Class A vehicle. The class A CDL can be a choice for a driver interested in driving different types of commercial motor vehicles. New England Tractor Trailer Training School (NETTTS) offers different class A CDL training program options, for drivers with different levels of experience. What is a Class B CDL? A class B CDL is required for the operation of a single vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of 26,001 pounds or more and a towing capacity of no more than 10,000 pounds. Class B vehicles do not typically have a trailer. With the correct endorsements, a Class B CDL can allow for the operation of vehicles including straight trucks, buses, garbage trucks, dump trucks, delivery trucks, and cement mixers. The correct endorsements with a Class B CDL can also be used to drive Class C vehicles. A class C CDL can be used for operating small hazmat vehicles, passenger vans of 16 people or combination vehicles not described in class A or B, for example a small truck towing a trailer. What is the Training for a Class B CDL? Training for a class B CDL is typically also a combination of classroom and behind-the-wheel training. Courses will vary depending on program or schedules but may include general knowledge, training requirements, vehicle maneuvering, writing trip reports, and exam preparation. It can also include practice driving on the range and public roadways. Additional coursework and training could consist of vehicle inspections, railroad crossings, transporting cargo, and general CDL and vehicle knowledge. NETTTS offers the Class B Commercial Heavy Straight Truck Training (CDLB 80) license program, which is a mix of classroom and behind-the-wheel training. What Are CDL Endorsements? Endorsements are available for the different types of CDL licenses. They can be required for drivers to operate certain vehicles, or transport certain types of cargo. Drivers must pass endorsement tests to drive these specific types of commercial vehicles: double or triple tractor-trailers, school buses, passenger vehicles carrying 16 people or more, hazmat, and tankers. Endorsements can offer more opportunities for CDL drivers to haul a larger variety of goods in different types of vehicles. Making the Choice of CDL: Thinking about which class of CDL can be a first step when looking into truck driving school. NETTTS is here to help you understand your options and can help assist you in figuring out your next steps. Contact NETTTS to learn about the various programs for class A and class B training offered at each of our four locations in Somers, CT, Bridgeport, CT, North Andover/Haverhill, MA and Pawtucket, RI! If youre interested in trucking, you know you need a commercial drivers license (CDL) to drive, but the different types of CDLs out there can be confusing. There are Class A, Class B and Class C CDLs. Which one do you need? Take a crash course in CDL types. Find out which one you need to start your over-the-road trucking career. CDL Class Differences: The type of CDL you have determines what you can drive. The classes are based on the vehicles or towed trailers weight. All vehicles have a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR), which is the total weight when loaded with cargo or passengers. You must have a CDL if you operate a vehicle with a GVWR of 26,001 lb. or more. For those driving combination vehicles, like a tractor-trailer, youll add another factor: the gross combination weight rating (GCWR). The GCWR includes the weight of a trailer. Lets look at the types of CDLs, especially Class A vs. Class B CDLs. 1. Class A CDL: You need a Class A CDL to be an over-the-road driver! With this type of CDL, you can drive large combination vehicles. You can operate vehicles over 26,001 lb. and tow a trailer that weighs over 10,000 lb. Heres what you can drive with a Class A CDL: Tractor-trailers Tankers Flatbeds Livestock carriers When you have a Class A CDL, you can also drive the vehicles under the other CDL classes as long as you have the proper endorsements. 2. Class B CDL: Whats the difference between CDL A and CDL B? While Class A CDLs are for combination vehicles, Class B CDLs are for single vehicles. Commercial vehicles with attached cabs fall here. A Class B CDL lets you operate a single vehicle weighing over 26,001 lb. It also lets you pull a trailer weighing less than 10,000 lb. You can drive these vehicles with a Class B CDL: Straight trucks Box trucks Passenger buses Dump trucks with trailer Class B CDL holders cant drive vehicles under the Class A category but can operate those under Class C. 3. Class C CDL: Transporting passengers instead of cargo requires a Class C CDL. Youll need this license to drive a vehicle with 16 people, including you and other passengers. Moving hazardous materials also requires this CDL. Class C is for vehicles weighing less than 26,001 lb. or towing less than 10,000 lb. Some examples include: Small HazMat vehicles Passenger vans Combination vehicles not included for Class A and B CDLs Whats A Class D License? A Class D license is the most common type of drivers license. Most people on the road hold Class D licenses. With this one, you can operate personal cars, trucks and vans. States may have different classes of drivers licenses for personal use. For these drivers, endorsement options include motorcycle and school bus licenses. Before you can earn your CDL, you must have a valid drivers license. 6 Steps to Earn Your CDL: Earning your CDL is the first step to becoming a driver! Commercial drivers must be 21 years old and have a valid United States drivers license. The drivers license must be valid for the past 12 months. Other qualifications include meeting medical requirements and having a safe driving record. To get a CDL, you must train, pass a written test and practice with a commercial learners permit (CLP). Apply to a company-sponsored CDL training program today and explore your next steps. 1. Apply online: Apply online for paid Class A CDL training. The Prime Training Program helps new drivers find their footing. Youll learn how to operate a tractor-trailer and get paid as you drive in the final stage of training. You can apply now or call to chat with a recruiter at 866-290-1568. 2. Enroll in CDL training: Once you apply, our recruiters will reach out to you. Well collect your information and confirm your eligibility. If you are eligible, we will help you get started by scheduling your DOT physical! Ask us questions about orientation or training. Well help set expectations and share tips, like what to pack for your first week. 3. Get your learners permit: Before you come to our terminals, youll get your commercial learners permit (CLP). Youll obtain your Class A CLP in your home state. A CLP works like a student drivers permit. Think back to when you were 16 and learning to drive a car. You will study for your CLP and take a written test at your local DMV. Once you pass, you can practice driving a tractor-trailer with an instructor. For your CLP test, you should study the general knowledge, air brakes, combination vehicles and tanker endorsement sections of your states driver manual. 4. Go to orientation: Arrive at our terminals for orientation. Youll start with hands-on training and simulator training. Experienced CDL instructors will teach you the basics. Youll build a foundation of knowledge in the classroom before driving. 5. Drive with an instructor: After orientation, the real fun begins! You will practice driving with an instructor during CDL training. With your instructor in the passenger seat, you will master backing, turning and using the truck controls. This training prepares you for the CDL skills tests. 6. Take the CDL exam: Youll take the CDL exam at Prime. Once you pass, youll move on to the next stage of training, where you team drive with a trainer. (And get paid weekly compensation!) After that? Congratulations, youre a professional truck driver! Start Your Career: You need a Class A CDL to become an OTR driver. Start your career today by taking the first step. You can apply for our CDL training program online or over the phone. Apply now or call our Recruiting Department at 866-290-1568. Lets talk about your future!

Difference between cdl a and cdl b license. Difference between class a b c cdl. Cdl-a vs cdl-b. Cdl differences. Differences between cdl class a and b. Difference between cdl a and b. What is cdl a and b.

