

# Mandatory Entry Level Training for Class 1 drivers

## Agriculture industry

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### Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT) for commercial drivers

Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT) is a mandatory training program for **new** Class 1 (tractor-trailer) and Class 2 (bus) drivers taught at driver training schools and organizations across Alberta. Once a driver has completed MELT, they must pass a knowledge and road test (based on the MELT curriculum) to get their Class 1 or Class 2 driver's licence.

The purpose of the training is to ensure that commercial drivers have the basic skills and experience to safely operate large commercial vehicles on the road.

### MELT requirements for new and existing drivers

Existing drivers: If you got your Class 1 licence before October 11, 2018, you don't need to do anything. You continue to be a Class 1 driver without additional requirements.

MELT transition drivers: If you got your Class 1 licence between October 11, 2018 and February 28, 2019, you must show that you meet the new training standards by taking the MELT-enhanced knowledge and road tests by March 1, 2020.

- Government will pay for the first attempt at the knowledge and road tests.
- You will have two attempts to pass.

New drivers: After March 1, 2019, all new drivers must take MELT to get a new Class 1 licence..

Farmers and Farm Workers: To meet the needs of the 2019 farming seasons, farmers and farm workers can apply to Alberta Transportation for an extension to get their Class 1 licence under the pre-MELT process until Nov. 30, 2019.

## MELT extension for farmers and farm workers

Farmers and farm workers are being offered an extension to comply with MELT. You must apply to Alberta Transportation for this extension.

If you are eligible for the extension, you will not be required to take MELT training and you may take the pre-MELT Class 1 knowledge and road test until Nov. 30, 2019.

All drivers, regardless of extension, must meet all of the existing Class 1 driver's licence requirements:

- be at least 18 years old
- have at least a full Class 5 Alberta driver's licence (Graduated Driver's Licensing Program drivers are not eligible for a Class 1 licence)
- have an approved Class 1 driver's medical completed by a physician
- have successfully completed the Air Brake Endorsement (Q Endorsement) Program

You must have your pre-MELT Class 1 licence in place by Nov. 30, 2019. Anyone who does not have their pre-MELT Class 1 licence in place by Nov. 30 must take MELT training and pass the MELT-enhanced knowledge and road test before getting a Class 1 licence.

Drivers who get their Class 1 licence under the farmer's extension must still show that they meet MELT standards, by passing the MELT-enhanced Class 1 knowledge and road tests before March 1, 2020.

## MELT extension for farmers and farm workers; how to apply:

- 1) Complete the [application form](#) before Nov. 30, 2019.
  - Farm owners/operators must complete the application form on behalf of their employees (e.g. the drivers they are requesting the extension for.)
- 2) Email the completed application form to Alberta Transportation at [transitiondrivers@gov.ab.ca](mailto:transitiondrivers@gov.ab.ca)
- 3) Alberta Transportation will review the application and, if farm-related status is confirmed, approve the extension with a confirmation letter with the names of the drivers who are approved to take the pre-MELT knowledge and road test.
- 4) Approved drivers will have until Nov. 30, 2019 to pass the pre-MELT knowledge and road test.

## Getting a Class 1 licence under the extension

- 1) Study the [Commercial Driver's Guide](#) to prepare for your pre-MELT knowledge and road test.
- 2) Take your extension eligibility confirmation letter to any registry to take the pre-MELT knowledge test. You don't need to make an appointment for a knowledge test.
- 3) Once you've passed the knowledge test, book your pre-MELT road test in-person at any registry. To take the pre-MELT road test, all drivers must:
  - be at least 18 years old
  - have their extension eligibility confirmation letter
  - have at least a full Class 5 Alberta driver's licence (Graduated Driver's Licensing Program drivers are not eligible for a Class 1 licence)
  - have an approved Class 1 driver's medical completed by a physician

- have successfully completed the Air Brake Endorsement (Q Endorsement) Program
- 4) If you pass both tests, you will have a transitional Class 1 licence, valid until March 1, 2020.

## Keeping your Class 1 licence under the extension

Transitional Class 1 drivers must show that they meet MELT standards by passing the MELT-enhanced knowledge and road tests by March 1, 2020, in order to keep their Class 1 driver's licence.

- 1) Study the [Class 1 MELT curriculum](#) to prepare for the MELT-enhanced knowledge and road test.
- 2) To be eligible to take the MELT-enhanced knowledge and road test, your employer (farm owner/operator) must fill out an endorsement form confirming your successful employment—either currently or during 2019 seasonal work. Email the endorsement form to Alberta Transportation at [transitiondrivers@gov.ab.ca](mailto:transitiondrivers@gov.ab.ca)
  - Drivers who have been terminated for any reason may not be able to get an endorsement form from their employer. In this case, your transitional Class 1 licence will expire on March 1, 2020 and you will have to take MELT training and pass the MELT-enhanced knowledge and road test to get it back. Your driver's licence will revert to the class of licence you previously held (e.g. a Class 5 licence).
- 3) Once the endorsement form has been received, Alberta Transportation will notify you that you are eligible to take the MELT-enhanced tests.
- 4) You can take your MELT-enhanced knowledge test at any registry. You don't need to book ahead of time.
- 5) You can book your MELT-enhanced road test in-person at any registry.
- 6) You will have two attempts to pass the MELT-enhanced knowledge test and road test.
  - The first MELT-enhanced knowledge test and road test will be paid for by government, but the driver is responsible for all other costs of testing, e.g. the rental of a commercial vehicle for the road test.
  - If you fail the first attempt at either the knowledge or road test, you have one more chance to re-take the test you failed, at your expense.
- 7) If you fail the second re-test attempt at either the knowledge or road test, you will lose your Class 1 driver's licence immediately and your licence will revert to the class of licence you held previously, such as a Class 5 licence.
- 8) If you want to get a Class 1 driver's licence in the future, you must take MELT training and pass the MELT-enhanced knowledge and road test.

Note: Transitional drivers who do not take the MELT-enhanced knowledge and road tests by March 1, 2020 will automatically lose their Class 1 licence on that date. Your licence will revert to the class of licence you held previously (e.g. a Class 5 licence). You will no longer be authorized to drive Class 1 vehicles.

## MELT and seasonal workers

If you are a temporary foreign worker under the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program you can continue to use your existing driver's licence from your home country during the time you are in Canada.

This means if you already have a commercial licence to drive a Class 1 vehicle from your home jurisdiction, you can drive Class 1 vehicles temporarily while you are in Canada. You are not subject to MELT requirements.

However, these workers are not able to obtain an Alberta driver's licence. Only people who have established permanent residency in Alberta are eligible to apply for an Alberta driver's licence.

You cannot exchange any commercial driver's licence from a foreign jurisdiction for an Alberta driver's licence. This has always been the case and will not change with the MELT Program. If you are moving to Alberta permanently, you must take MELT to get an Alberta Class 1 licence.

Temporary foreign workers from outside of Canada who do not have a commercial truck licence in their home jurisdiction, and therefore no experience driving a large truck, are not eligible to get an Alberta Class 1 licence.

## MELT and out-of-province drivers

The rules for Canadians from another province who are working temporarily in Alberta are the same as those for out-of-country drivers—you can temporarily use your existing driver's licence from your home province for the time you are in Alberta.

If you are moving to Alberta permanently from another province, however, you may be subject to MELT requirements.

- Class 1 drivers from a Canadian province who have taken an equivalent MELT program (right now only Ontario has an equivalent MELT program) are eligible to exchange their commercial licence for an Alberta Class 1 licence.
- Class 1 drivers who have not taken an equivalent MELT program, but who have held their commercial driver's licence for more than 24 months are eligible to exchange their commercial licence for an Alberta Class 1 licence.
- Class 1 drivers who have not taken an equivalent MELT program and have held their driver's licence for 12 to 24 months have the option of:
  - completing Alberta's MELT program
  - challenging the MELT-enhanced Class 1 knowledge and road tests.
    - If you are unsuccessful at passing either the enhanced knowledge or road test, your driver's licence will revert to the class of licence you previously held in your home jurisdiction (e.g. a Class 5).

- You must take MELT training and pass the enhanced knowledge and road tests to get a Class 1 licence in Alberta.
- Class 1 drivers who have held their driver's licence for less than 12 months must complete Alberta's MELT Program and pass the MELT-enhanced knowledge and road tests.
  - In the meantime, your licence will revert to the previous class of licence you had in your home jurisdiction (e.g. Class 5).

Note: If you are a Class 1 driver moving to Alberta to live permanently, you must:

- exchange your current driver's licence for an Alberta driver's licence within 90 days of moving to the province by handing in your valid provincial or territorial driver's licence to a registry agent
- provide proof that you live in Alberta
- provide proof of residence in Canada

More information on [MELT](#) can be found online.

For questions, contact the Alberta Transportation Contact Centre between 8:15 am and 4:15 pm (open Monday to Saturday, closed statutory holidays)

Phone: 780-427-8230 (Edmonton area)

Toll free: 310-0000 before the phone number (in Alberta)

Email: [trans.driver.prog@gov.ab.ca](mailto:trans.driver.prog@gov.ab.ca)

Mail: Alberta Transportation  
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