

CDL Checklist



To get a [Commercial Driver License](#) (CDL) in North Carolina, you must be at least 18 years old (21 for interstate or hazardous materials driving), have a valid Class A, B, or C driver license, and obtain a **Commercial Learner Permit**.

To get a Commercial Learner Permit, you must first pass the required vision, traffic sign recognition and CDL knowledge tests. The [N.C. Commercial Driver License Manual](#) provides details on state and federal requirements and testing information.

You will need to bring the following documents to a driver license office:

1. Valid driver license
2. A Social Security card or [one document proving they have a Social Security number](#)
3. For non-U.S. citizens, [one document issued by the U.S. government indicating legal presence](#)
4. [One document proving liability insurance coverage](#) from a provider licensed to do business in North Carolina

A Commercial Learner Permit is valid for 180 days and is eligible for one renewal, which is also valid for 180 days. You must have your commercial learner's permit for at least 14 days before you can take your skills test.

After obtaining your Commercial Learner Permit, you need to complete the Entry-Level Driver Training (ELDT) course from a school listed on the federal [Training Provider Registry](#). This classroom and behind-the-wheel training usually takes about 4 weeks.

Call 919-715-7000 to schedule an appointment to take the CDL road skills test. You must provide your own commercial motor vehicle for skills test. The vehicle must be representative of the type of license for which you are applying. Bring your valid driver license and your unexpired commercial learner permit.

Medical Certification

Individuals applying for a Commercial Driver License will be asked to verify the type of vehicle they operate or expect to operate as well as to provide medical certification to the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles.

Depending on [the type of commerce they operate in](#), commercial motor vehicle drivers might be required to have medical cards, which must be present at the time of both the original application and renewal.

If questions arise about a driver's physical condition, the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles may require the driver to submit a completed medical report, before or after certification, provided by NCDMV's Driver License Section.

Additional details:

- North Carolina issues commercial learner permits and licenses from a central location and mails them to applicants within 20 days. Applicants receive a Temporary Driving Certificate to use until their permit arrives.

Find a DMV Driver License Office:

