

# Heavy vehicle driver licences

Find out how to get a licence to drive a heavy vehicle, such as a truck, or truck and trailer. This factsheet outlines the 4 licence classes for heavy vehicles and how to progress to a higher class. You'll also find helpful information on medical and eyesight requirements, what you need to bring and where you need to go.

## Heavy vehicle driver licences

You need a class 2, 3, 4 or 5 driver licence to drive heavy motor vehicles.

You must have the right licence for the type and weight of vehicle you want to drive. In some cases you'll also need special endorsements.

See *Driver licence classes* (Factsheet 11) for more information on the vehicle types and weights covered by each class and endorsement.

## How do I get a heavy vehicle licence?

Before you can get a licence to drive heavy vehicles, you'll need experience driving lighter vehicles. Then you'll need to pass the appropriate practical test or complete an approved course.

You'll need to go to a driver licensing agent to:

- pay the application fee
- complete the application requirements
- sit and pass the theory test.

To find an agent in your area go to:

[www.nzta.govt.nz/agents](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/agents)

*Identification for driver licensing* (Factsheet 20) lists what identification you'll need to take with you.

## Getting a class 2 licence

You'll need to get a class 2 **learner** licence first. To do this, you must:

- hold a full class 1 licence for at least 6 months
- present a medical certificate - if required
- pass a theory test.

See *Learner licence conditions* for more information.

To get a **full** class 2 licence, you must:

- present a medical certificate - if required
- hold a class 2 learner licence for at least 6 months and then pass a practical test in a class 2 vehicle
- OR
- hold a class 2 learner licence and then pass the approved training course for a class 2 full licence.

## Getting a class 3 licence

You'll need to get a class 3 **learner** licence first. To do this, you must:

- hold a full class 2 licence for at least 6 months (or at least 3 months if you're 25 and over)
- present a medical certificate - if required
- pass a theory test.

See *Learner licence conditions* for more information.

**Note:** if you're 25 or over and you successfully complete the approved over 25 class 3L course, the 3-month time requirement doesn't apply. See page 2 for more information.

To get a **full** class 3 licence, you must:

- present a medical certificate - if required
- hold a class 3 learner licence for at least 6 months and then pass a practical test in a class 3 combination vehicle
- OR
- hold a class 3 learner licence and then pass the approved course for a class 3 full licence.

## Getting a Class 4 licence

You'll need to get a class 4 **learner** licence first. To do this, you must:

- hold a full class 2 licence for at least 6 months (or at least 3 months if you're 25 and over)
- present a medical certificate - if required.

You don't need to pass a theory test, as you passed this when getting your class 2 licence.

See *Learner licence conditions* for more information.

**Note:** if you're 25 or over and you successfully complete the approved over 25 class 4L course, the 3-month time requirement doesn't apply. See page 2 for more information.

To get a **full** class 4 licence, you must:

- present a medical certificate - if required
- hold a class 4 learner licence for at least 6 months and then pass a practical test in a class 4 vehicle
- OR
- hold a class 4 learner licence and then pass the approved course for to a class 4 full licence.

## Getting a Class 5 licence

You'll need to get a class 5 **learner** licence first. To do this, you must:

- hold a full class 4 licence for at least 6 months (or at least 3 months, if you're 25 or over)
- present a medical certificate (if required)
- pass a theory test (unless you have previously passed a theory test for a class 3 licence).

See *Learner licence conditions* for more information.

**Note:** if you're 25 or over and you successfully complete the approved over 25 class 5L course, the 3-month time requirement doesn't apply. See page 2 for more information.

To get a **full** class 5 licence you must:

- present a medical certificate - if required
- hold a class 5 learner licence for at least 6 months and then pass a practical test in a class 5 combination vehicle  
OR
- hold a class 5 learner licence and then pass the approved course for a class 5 full licence.

## Learner licence conditions

- You must not drive on your own. You must always have a supervisor sitting in the front passenger seat beside you.

A supervisor is a person who:

- holds a current full New Zealand driver licence for the class you're learning to drive, and
- doesn't have a supervisor condition on their New Zealand licence, and
- has held a full New Zealand licence for at least 2 years OR has held an equivalent overseas driver licence for at least 2 years.

## Medical certificates

Medical certificates are usually required every time you apply for or renew a heavy vehicle driver licence. However, you may not have to present a medical certificate if you've already presented one for a class 2, 3, 4 or 5 application, or a P, V, I or O endorsement application, within the last 5 years, and you sign a declaration.

The declaration confirms that any condition you may have had hasn't worsened and you haven't been diagnosed with any other condition since you presented your medical certificate.

Medical certificates must:

- be the original
- be issued by a New Zealand-registered health practitioner - for example your doctor (GP), a registered nurse or nurse practitioner, or a specialist.
- be no more than 60 days old
- state that you're fit to drive, or set out the conditions under which you can drive.

## Eyesight requirements

You need to prove that your eyesight is up to standard when you apply for each stage.

To do this, you can:

- pass an eyesight screening check at a driver licensing agent  
OR
- present an original eyesight or medical certificate no more than 60 days old.

The certificate must be issued by a New Zealand registered optometrist or health practitioner. This could be your doctor (GP),

a registered nurse or nurse practitioner, or a specialist.

If you don't pass the eyesight check at an agent, you'll need to provide a certificate instead.

Sight in only one eye can affect your ability to judge distance. If you can only see out of one eye, or only have one eye, you must present an acceptable certificate.

If you don't pass the eyesight requirements, or don't provide an eyesight certificate before your test, you won't be given a temporary licence - even if you pass your driving test. You'll need to complete the eyesight requirements before your new licence can be issued.

## How much does it cost?

The table below sets out the fees for getting a heavy vehicle licence (class 2, 3, 4 or 5).

Class	Application fee
Class 2, 3 or 5 learner licence	\$77.50
Class 4 learner licence	\$27.10
Class 2, 3, 4 or 5 full licence	\$39.80
<i>All fees include GST</i>	

You pay the same application whether you're sitting tests or providing an approved course certificate. There are no test fees, and changing or cancelling your test is free.

## About approved driving training courses

Many drivers want to get their next licence class without having to wait the minimum time period.

There are 2 different types of courses available to achieve this:

### Courses for early progression of persons 25 years or over to a class 3, 4 or 5 learner licence

If you're over 25 and you want to get your class 3, 4 or 5 learner licence with no minimum time on the previous licence class, you need to successfully complete the approved driver licensing course. This course assesses the driving experience, knowledge and skills of people 25 and over.

There are different courses for each class of learner licence.

### Courses for progression to a Class 2, 3, 4 or 5 full licence

By successfully completing this approved driving licensing course, you aren't required to hold your learner licence for 6 months and you don't need to sit the practical full licence test. There are different courses for each class of full licence.

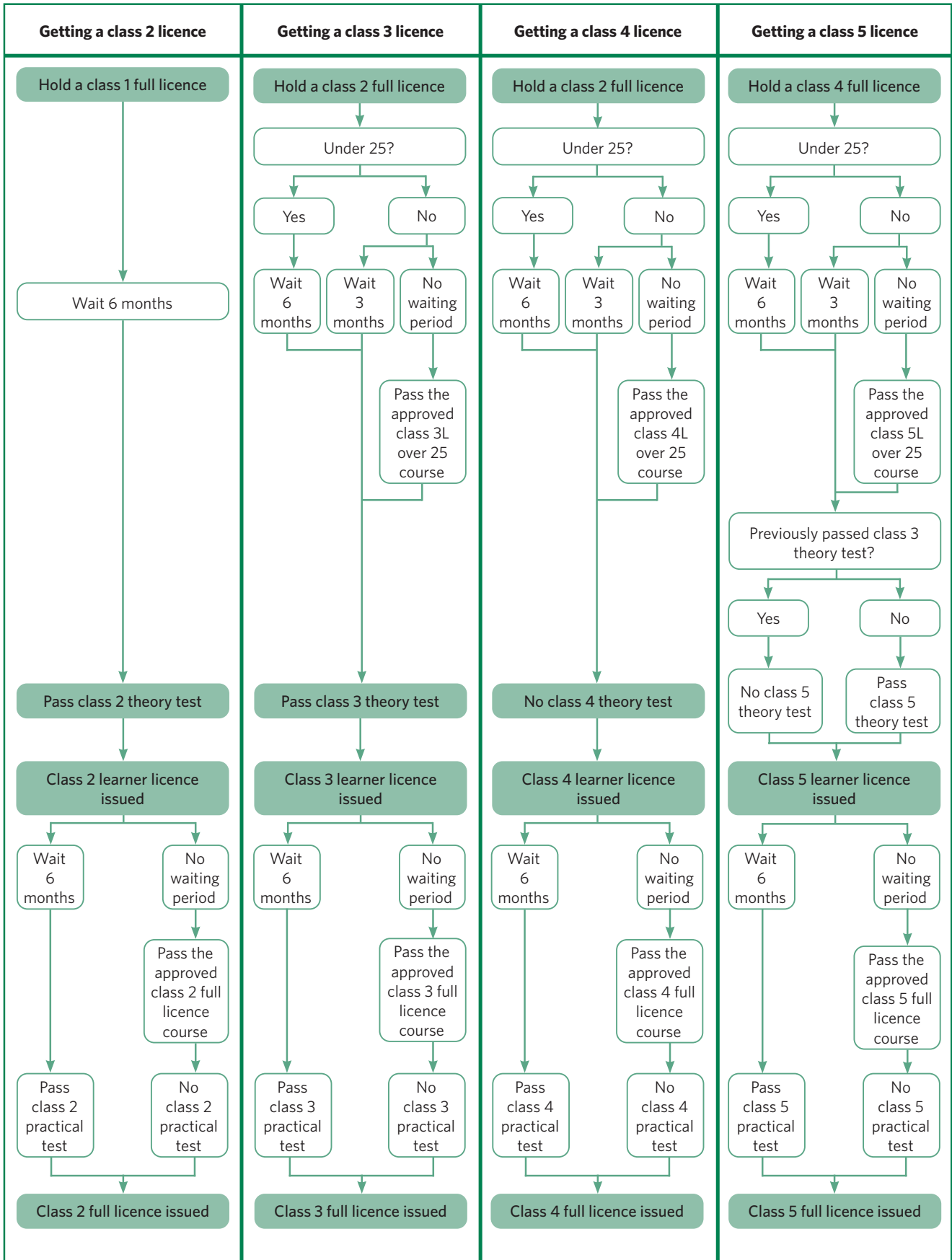
After completing the appropriate course, you need to take your course certificate to a driver licensing agent, apply to have the new class added to your driver licence and pay the relevant fee.

Contact a course provider for details on their course costs, location and times.

## Finding approved course providers

To find approved course providers in your area go to

[www.nzta.govt.nz/course-provider](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/course-provider)



This factsheet is a general guide only. It doesn't replace legal advice, and your exact requirements will depend on current legislation.

Make sure you have the most up-to-date version of this factsheet by checking [www.nzta.govt.nz/factsheets](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/factsheets)

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