

This factsheet tells you how to get a licence for a heavy vehicle (eg truck, or truck and trailer). It outlines the different vehicle weights covered by each heavy vehicle class and the process to progress to a higher class. It provides helpful information relating to medical and eyesight requirements, advises 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 class of driver licence for the type and weight of vehicle you want to drive.

Some specialised vehicles require the driver to also hold an appropriate endorsement.

Factsheet 11 *Driver licence classes* explains the vehicle types and weights covered by each class and endorsement. Factsheets are available on our website and from driver licensing agents.

How do I get a heavy vehicle licence?

Before you can get a licence to drive heavy vehicles, you must gain experience driving lighter vehicles. You must then demonstrate your competence in heavy vehicles by passing the appropriate practical test or completing an approved course.

You will need to apply in person at an NZ Transport Agency driver licensing agent. These are selected branches of the Automobile Association (AA) and Vehicle Testing New Zealand (VTNZ). Go to www.nzta.govt.nz/agents to find an agent in your area.

Factsheet 20 *Identification for driver licensing* lists the forms of identification you will need to take with you.

Getting a Class 2 licence

You must first get a Class 2 *learner licence**. To do this, you must:

- hold a full Class 1 licence for at least six months
- present a medical certificate (if required)
- pass a theory test.

*See Learner licence conditions section for further 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 six 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 progression to a Class 2 full licence.

Getting a Class 3 licence

You must first get a Class 3 *learner licence**. To do this, you must:

- hold a full Class 2 licence for at least six months (or at least three months, if you are aged 25 or over)
- present a medical certificate (if required)
- pass a theory test.

*See Learner licence conditions section for further information.

Note: if you are aged 25 or over and you successfully complete the approved over 25 Class 3L course, you can apply for a Class 3 learner licence with no minimum time on a full Class 2 licence. See below 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 six 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 progression to a Class 3 full licence.

Getting a Class 4 licence

You must first get a Class 4 *learner licence**. To do this, you must:

- hold a full Class 2 licence for at least six months (or at least three months, if you are aged 25 or over)
- present a medical certificate.

You do not need to pass a theory test, as you will have passed this when obtaining your Class 2 licence.

*See Learner licence conditions section for further information.

Note: if you are aged 25 or over and you successfully complete the approved over 25 Class 4L course, you can apply for a Class 4 learner licence with no minimum time on a full Class 2 licence.

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

- present a medical certificate (if required)
- hold a Class 4 learner licence for at least six 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 progression to a Class 4 full licence.

Getting a Class 5 licence

You must first get a Class 5 *learner licence**. To do this, you must:

- hold a full Class 4 licence for at least six months (or at least

three months, if you are aged 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 section for further information.

Note: if you are aged 25 or over and you successfully complete the approved over 25 Class 5L course, you can apply for a Class 5 learner licence with no minimum time on a full Class 4 licence.

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

- present a medical certificate (if required)
- hold a Class 5 learner licence for at least six 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 progression to a Class 5 full licence.

Learner licence conditions

- You must not drive a vehicle (other than a motorcycle, moped or ATV) for which you have a learner licence unless you are accompanied by a supervisor. This means you must not drive on your own.

A supervisor is a person who:

- holds a current full New Zealand driver licence for the class of vehicle you are learning to drive and
- has held their full New Zealand driver licence for at least two years (or where their full New Zealand licence has been held less than two years, they have held an equivalent overseas driver licence for at least two years) and
- does not have a supervisor condition on their New Zealand licence.

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 have already presented one for a Class 2, 3, 4 or 5 application, or a P, V, I or O endorsement application, within the last five years, and you sign a declaration. The declaration will require you to confirm that any condition that you may have had hasn't worsened and you haven't been diagnosed with any other condition since you presented that medical certificate.

Medical certificates must:

- be the original
- be from a New Zealand-registered health practitioner - this can be your usual doctor (GP), a registered nurse or nurse practitioner, or a specialist if appropriate
- be not more than 60 days old
- state that you are safe to drive, or set out the conditions under which you can drive.

Eyesight requirements

Good vision is essential to driving a vehicle safely. Your health practitioner may check your eyesight when they issue your medical certificate. If they don't, you can prove that your eyesight is acceptable by:

- passing an eyesight check at a driver licensing agent, or

- presenting an original eyesight or medical certificate issued by a New Zealand registered optometrist or health practitioner (no more than 60 days old).

You may take the eyesight test while wearing glasses or contact lenses. Your licence will then have a condition that you must always wear these while driving.

If you try to pass the eyesight check at an agent and fail, then you must provide a satisfactory eyesight or medical certificate. Your application won't be completed (and you won't get a licence) until you've provided the certificate.

Sight in only one eye can dramatically 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 stating that you're safe to drive.

How much does it cost?

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

Learning licence application fee	\$48.20
Theory test fee	\$45.70
Full licence application fee	\$49.60
Practical test fee	\$59.90
All fees include GST and are non-refundable	

Changing or cancelling your test

If you have booked a theory or practical test and want to change or cancel the test, you will have to pay a further fee.

Where there are two or more complete working days (excluding weekends and public holidays) between the day you change or cancel your test and the date of your appointment, you will need to pay a rescheduling fee of \$16.40.

This is a regulated fee to cover the time taken and costs incurred when a test is cancelled or rescheduled.

Where there are *less than two* complete working days (excluding weekends and public holidays) between the day you change or cancel your test, and the date of your appointment, you will not pay a rescheduling fee but will need to pay a further test fee. This further test fee is not refundable.

You may be eligible for a refund of the first test fee paid where the cancelled test time was subsequently filled by another person. If the test fee is refunded, a processing fee of \$16.40 will be deducted.

About approved driving training courses

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

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

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

If you are over 25 years of age 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 which assesses the driving experience, knowledge and skills of persons 25 years of age or over. There are different courses to progress to a learner licence for Classes 3, 4 and 5.

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

By successfully completing this approved driving licensing course, you are not required to hold your learner licence for six months and you are not required to sit the practical full licence test. There are different courses to progress to each class of full licence (Classes 2, 3, 4 and 5).

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.

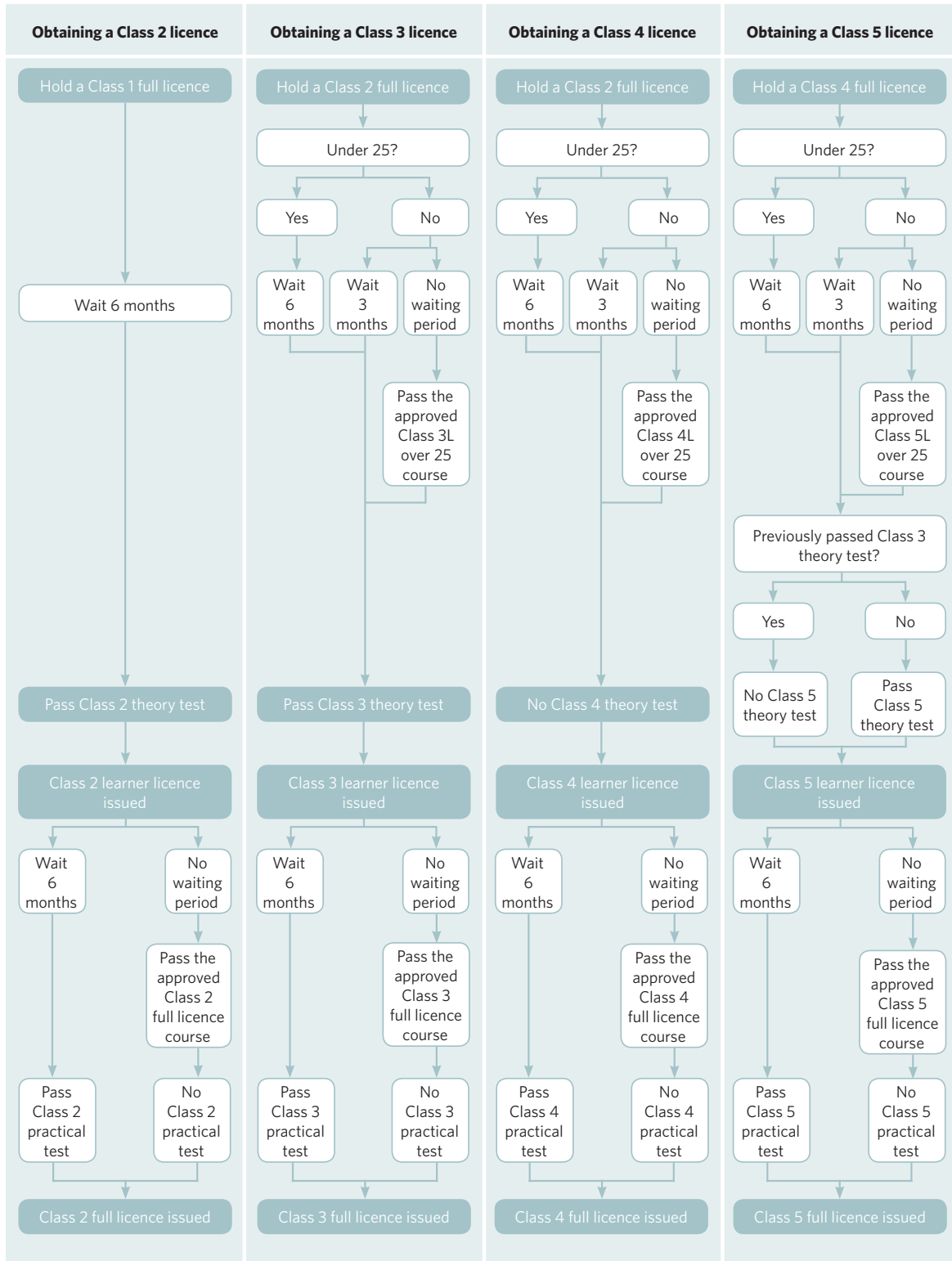
The following chart is a guideline to obtaining a licence class.

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:

- check the list of approved course providers in your area, or
- call contact centre on 0800 822 422.



The information in this factsheet is a general guide only. It is not the source of the law and should not be used in place of authoritative legal documents. Some factsheets are updated frequently and print versions can quickly become out of date. If the currency of the information you are reading is important, check the factsheet index on our website (www.nzta.govt.nz/factsheets) or call us on 0800 822 422.

Contact details

- Call our contact centre: 0800 822 422.
- Visit our website: www.nzta.govt.nz.
- Email us: info@nzta.govt.nz.
- Write to us: NZ Transport Agency, Private Bag 11777, Palmerston North 4442.