



Commercial Driver License (CDL) Testing With Hearing Exemption

CDL Testing is available to individuals who acquire a hearing exemption waiver issued by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) under 49 CFR 391.45

Requirements

- Must be at least 18 years of age and have a valid Ohio driver license to be presented at time of testing.
- Under 49 CFR 391.45, customer must obtain a hearing waiver issued by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA): <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/medical/driver-medical-requirements/driver-exemption-programs>.
- The hearing waiver must be kept with the driver at all times.
- Must obtain a CDL Temporary Instruction Permit Identification Card (TIPIC) by passing the vision and knowledge testing.
- Must obtain a Commercial Driver's License by passing the three part skills testing.

How to Obtain a CDL Temporary Instruction Permit Identification Card (TIPIC)

Vision/Knowledge Testing:

SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT:

- For group or individual scheduling call the CDL Coordinator at 614-728-9426.
- Customers can choose the Seville or Middletown test site operated by the State of Ohio.
- If needed, an interpreter must be requested when scheduling an appointment. The State will provide the interpreter to sign instructions only.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be at least 18 years of age and have a valid Ohio license to be presented at time of testing.
- Prior to scheduling, a hearing waiver must be issued by FMCSA.
- The hearing waiver, issued by FMCSA, must be brought to the testing site.
- If needed, an interpreter must be requested at the time of scheduling - The State of Ohio will provide an interpreter to sign vision and knowledge test instructions only. *An interpreter is not permitted to interpret at any time during CDL testing.* Customer may bring a dictionary for definitions.
- Customers will be required to answer a series of questions.

TESTING:

- Customers will need to pass the following:
 - **Vision Screening:**
 - There are three components to the CDL vision requirements: visual acuity, horizontal acuity, and color vision acuity.
 - **Knowledge Testing (80% needed to pass):**
 - General knowledge test must be passed before any other tests can be taken.
 - General Knowledge test does not have a time limit.

NEXT STEPS:

- **PASS:** If a Customer successfully passes the CDL knowledge test, they will need to visit any Deputy Registrar location to purchase the following:
 1. **Temporary Instruction Permit Identification Card (TIPIC):**
 - Customer must present a valid license, acceptable documents and CDL Self-Certification Authorization form BMV 2159 (<http://www.bmv.ohio.gov/dl-cdl-self-certification.aspx>) to acquire a TIPIC.
 - *The TIPIC is valid for six months from the issue date and can be renewed one time before the expiration date of the TIPIC.*
 - *Ohio only allows two CDL TIPIC's in a two year period from the first TIPIC's issuance date.*
 2. **CDL Skills Test Receipt** –
 - Must be purchased prior to scheduling an appointment for the skills test.
 - *Customer may now call and schedule the skills testing portion of the process, BUT cannot take the skills test until 14 days after issuance of TIPIC.*
- **FAIL:** If a Customer does not pass the knowledge test, they must wait one day before rescheduling. Follow the Schedule an Appointment guidelines above.
 - *Ohio only allows two CDL TIPIC's in a two year period from the first TIPIC's issuance date.*
 - *If the TIPIC is renewed, all three segments of the skills test must be retaken.*

How to Obtain a Commercial Driver's License (CDL)

Skills Testing:

SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT:

- **NOTE: You may schedule your skills testing when you receive the CDL TIPIC, however, all CDL TIPIC holders are required to wait 14 days after issuance of TIPIC before taking the skills testing.**
- To schedule CDL skills testing – call the CDL Coordinator at 614-728-9426.
- Customers can choose the Seville or Middletown test sites operated by the State of Ohio.
- If needed, an interpreter must be requested when scheduling an appointment. The State will provide the interpreter to sign instructions only.
- 3 hours is permitted for testing of applicants with a hearing waiver.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Customers must purchase a CDL skills test receipt at any Deputy Registrar location prior to scheduling an appointment for the skills test.
- Customers must present a valid Ohio driver's license, valid TIPIC, CDL Skills test receipt and hearing waiver issued by FMCSA.
- Hearing waivers must be kept with the driver at all times.
- If needed, an Interpreter must be requested at the time of scheduling - The State of Ohio will provide an interpreter to sign test instructions only. *An interpreter is not permitted to interpret at any time during CDL testing.* Customer may bring a dictionary for definitions.
- Skills testing will be available at the Seville or Middletown CDL test sites only.
- Customers must provide a vehicle for the class of license for which they are applying. The vehicle must be equipped with a passenger brake and seat 2 examiners.

TESTING:

- Customers will need to pass the following tests:
 - **Pre-trip (Vehicle Inspection):**
 - BMV will provide a white board. Customer will point to a part on the truck, write down the name of the part, and a few words describing what they would look for in a pre-trip inspection.
 - Customer may use page 11-7 of the Ohio Commercial Driver License Manual <http://www.bmv.ohio.gov/forms-dl.aspx> as a guide, but may not have any writing on it.
 - During the vehicle inspection test, you must show that the vehicle is safe to drive. You will have to walk around the vehicle and point to or touch each item and explain to the examiner what you are checking and why. You will not have to crawl under the hood or under the vehicle.
 - **PASS:** If you pass, you will proceed to the Basic Vehicle Control testing.
 - **FAIL:** If you fail the Pre-trip, you cannot continue to the Basic Vehicle Control test or Road test. You must purchase a new CDL receipt at any Deputy Registrar location, re-schedule an appointment and wait 7 days before retaking the pre-trip (vehicle inspection) test.
 - **Basic Vehicle Control:**
 - Your basic control skills could be tested using one or more of the following exercises off-road.
 - Straight line backing
 - Offset back/right
 - Offset back/left
 - Parallel park (driver side)
 - Parallel Park (conventional)
 - Alley dock

- **PASS:** If you pass you will proceed to the Road Test.
 - **FAIL:** If you fail the Basic Vehicle Control test, you cannot continue to the Road test. You must purchase a new CDL receipt at any Deputy Registrar location, reschedule an appointment and wait 7 days before re-taking the Basic Vehicle Control test.
- **Road test:**
- Two CDL Examiners will be in attendance on the Road test. One Examiner will ride in the front seat to provide directions by using hand gestures. A CDL Examiner will ride in the back scoring the road test.
NOTE: An interpreter is not allowed for the road test.
 - You will drive over a test route that has a variety of traffic situations. At all times during the test, you must drive in a safe and responsible manner; and you must:
 - Wear your safety belt.
 - Obey all traffic signs, signals, and laws.
 - Complete the test without an accident or moving violation.
 - During the driving test, the examiner will be scoring you on specific driving behavior. You will follow the directions of the examiner. Direction will be given to you so you will have plenty of time to do what the examiner has asked. You will not be asked to drive in an unsafe manner.
 - You are responsible for the safe operation of this vehicle at all times.
 - **PASS:** If you pass, please see [Next Steps](#) below.
 - **FAIL:** If you fail the Road test you must purchase a new CDL receipt at any Deputy Registrar location, reschedule an appointment and wait seven (7) days before retaking the Road test.

NEXT STEPS:

- **PASS:** If a customer successfully passes all skills tests, they will need to visit any Deputy Registrar location to purchase a CDL License.
 - Customer must present a valid license, acceptable documents and CDL Self-Certification Authorization form BMV 2159 (<http://www.bmv.ohio.gov/dl-cdl-self-certification.aspx>) in order to receive their CDL.
 - *A CDL License must be purchased within 60 days of passing skill tests or prior to expiration of the TIPIC, whichever comes first.*
 - *TIPIC restrictions stay in effect until CDL License is purchased.*
 - *Hearing waiver must be kept with the driver at all times.*
- **FAIL:** If a Customer fails any portion of the skills tests:
 - Customers must purchase a CDL receipt at any Deputy Registrar location prior to taking any of the skills tests.
 - To schedule re-testing, call the CDL Coordinator at 614-728-9426
 - *The TIPIC is valid for six months from the issue date and can be renewed one time before the expiration date of the TIPIC.*
 - *If the TIPIC is renewed, all three segments of the skills test must be retaken.*