**DRIVER’S LICENSE TYPES & CLASSIFICATIONS**

A driver must be properly licensed to operate the size of the vehicle he/she is driving. Farmer exemptions from the CDL do exist; however, they must still have the correct classification of license in order to operate certain vehicles. The truck-tractor semitrailer combination is treated differently in Illinois than all other vehicle types. There are two driver’s licenses that can be used to operate a semi. The Class A CDL or the Non-CDL Class A with a J51 restriction. (J50 restriction is still valid as well.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CDL</th>
<th>NON-CDL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Combination of vehicles 26,001 pounds or more. (where the trailer is 10,001 pounds or more)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Single vehicle of 26,001 pounds or more. (may include trailer of 10,000 pounds or less)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Single vehicle of more than 16,000 but less than 26,001 pounds (may include trailer of 10,000 pounds or less)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Single vehicle of 16,000 pounds or less. (may include trailer of any size so long as the combination is not 26,001 pounds or more)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DO YOU NEED A CDL?**

- **NO**
  - Does the vehicle or combination of vehicles have GVWR over 26,000 lbs.? **YES**
  - Is the vehicle a combination vehicle towing a trailer over 10,000 lbs. GVWR? **YES** You need a Class A CDL.
  - **NO**
  - Does the single vehicle have a GVWR over 26,000 lbs.? (Can also include a trailer less than 10,000 lbs.) **YES** You need a Class B CDL.
  - **NO**
  - Does the single vehicle have a GVWR over 16,000 lbs. but less than 26,001 lbs.? **YES** You need a Class C license.
  - **NO**
  - Does the vehicle require hazardous material (HM) placards? **YES** You need a CDL/Endorsement. (Farmers are given an HM exemption of up to 502 gal.) **NO**
  - You DO NOT need a CDL.

**WHAT IF I AM A FARMER AND HAVE FARM PLATES?**

Illinois Farmers that fall under the Covered Farm Vehicle Exemption must have a Non-CDL license equal to the CDL classification.

**Note:** An individual getting a Non-CDL license should be able to make a next available appointment for the driving test. Those getting a CDL are required to wait 14 days.