Driving Licenses Types & Classifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CDL</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Combination of vehicles 26,001 pounds or more. (where the trailer is 10,001 pounds or more)</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Single vehicle of 26,001 pounds or more. (may include trailer of 10,000 pounds or less)</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</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>
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<tr>
<td>D</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>
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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 only three driver’s licenses that can be used to operate a semi. The Class A CDL, the Non-CDL J50, and the Non-CDL J51. See farmer exemptions for more information.

### 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 26000 lbs.? (Can also include a trailer less than 10,000 lbs.)
      - **YES** You need a Class B CDL
      - **NO**
    - Is the vehicle designed to carry 16 or more people?
      - **YES** You need a Class C CDL.
      - **NO**
    - Does the vehicle require hazardous material placards?
      - **YES** You need a Class C CDL. (Farmers are given an exemption of up to 502 gal.)
      - **NO**
  - **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.