The Complete CDL Step-by-Step Process

Pricing and contacts updated November 27, 2026

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Print this guide before you begin and keep it with your permit documents. Follow the numbered steps, note your appointment dates and check your records before each visit. The guide explains CLP preparation, applicable ELDT, vehicle arrangements, Texas DPS testing and the final license transaction. Your requirements depend on your license and endorsements; appointment availability and readiness affect the overall time.

1st Step Prepare for your CLP knowledge tests

A Commercial Learner Permit (CLP) allows eligible supervised practice before the CDL skills test. The required knowledge tests depend on the license category, vehicle and endorsements you need. Texas DPS lists the following testing order:

- Texas Commercial Rules; General Knowledge; Combination Vehicles for Class A; Air Brakes when applicable; then required endorsement tests.

Use the current Texas Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers Handbook and appropriate practice materials. Our practice questions review relevant topics; they do not guarantee the questions on a DPS examination. DPS conducts CDL knowledge and skills examinations in English.

Optional online CLP practice

Practice topics at GetYourCDLQuick.com are selected and purchased separately. Each purchased topic includes 30 days of access after activation and unlimited repeat practice during that period.

Listed prices apply to all available payment methods.

Class A: $160 | Class B: $140
Passenger: $190 | School Bus: $220

Individual topics: Texas Commercial Vehicle Operation $50, General Knowledge $60, Air Brakes $25, Combination $25, HazMat $100, Tanker $40, Doubles/Triples $40, Passenger $50, and School Bus $40.

These purchases are separate from vehicle services and ELDT Theory. Choose only the topics you need. Confirm current prices and terms before purchasing.

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2nd Step Confirm your medical qualification

Determine your medical self-certification category. If a DOT examination is required, use a medical examiner listed on FMCSA's National Registry. The examiner determines qualification and the certification period, which can be up to 24 months or shorter when appropriate.

Texas DPS receives medical results electronically through NRII and states that it stopped accepting paper medical certificates on April 10, 2026. Verify that DPS has your current medical status before testing. Allow up to 10 business days after submission for processing. Keep a personal copy of any documents your examiner provides; it does not replace the electronic record.

Clinic contact from our resource list: Frisco Primary Care, (972) 731-7717, 4525 Ohio Drive, Suite 100, Frisco, TX 75035. Call to confirm the examiner, appointment, fee and current services.

friscoprimarycare.com

3rd Step Apply for the CLP and take the required tests

Schedule your own Texas DPS appointment for the correct transaction. Appointment and limited walk-in availability vary by office; no same-day place is guaranteed. Follow the current DPS checklist and the instructions for your individual situation.

Texas DPS appointment scheduler

Gather these items before your appointment:

- Your current, unexpired driver license and accepted identity/citizenship or lawful-presence documents.
- Social Security information that DPS can verify, plus two acceptable Texas residency documents or an applicable affidavit.
- Your applicable medical self-certification and current electronic medical status.
- The completed CDL application and any other records DPS requires for your situation.

Use the appropriate current forms. Not every certification form applies to every applicant. CDL-1 is the CDL application; DL-14A is used only if DPS requires it.

DL-69 What to Bring When Applying for a CDL
CDL-1 Commercial Driver License Application
CDL-4 Interstate Driver Certification
CDL-5 Intrastate Driver Certification
CDL-10 Certification of Physical Exemption
DL-5 Texas Residency Affidavit
DL-14A Adult Driver License / ID Application, only if DPS requires it

DPS lists the original CLP fee as $25. A CLP lasts 180 days or until the underlying Texas driver license expires, whichever comes first. One renewal is available under DPS's conditions. Track your expiration and contact DPS before it expires; an expired permit may require a new application and testing.

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4th Step Allow the required CLP waiting period

Hold the CLP for at least 14 days before taking the CDL skills test. Use this time to prepare and complete applicable requirements. Studying and eligible theory activities may begin before CLP issuance. Behind-the-wheel activity requires the proper permit or license and compliance with the applicable operating rules.

The 14-day hold is a minimum waiting period, not a promise that every applicant will finish in 14 days. Document readiness, medical and ELDT record processing, appointment availability and your performance affect the total time.

5th Step Complete applicable ELDT Theory

FMCSA Entry-Level Driver Training (ELDT) requirements took effect February 7, 2022. Unless an exemption applies, they cover a first Class A or Class B CDL, a Class B-to-A upgrade, and a first Passenger (P), School Bus (S) or Hazardous Materials (H) endorsement.

Class A, Class B, B-to-A, Passenger and School Bus applicants must complete their applicable Theory and Behind-the-Wheel (BTW) Range and Public Road requirements. Hazmat ELDT is Theory only. Select a provider listed on FMCSA's Training Provider Registry (TPR) for the required activity.

Theory is knowledge instruction. Select the course for your license category, upgrade or endorsement and complete its required lessons and assessments. CLP test practice alone does not satisfy ELDT Theory. Federal rules do not require Theory to be finished before the ordinary CLP tests or prescribe one mandatory order for Theory and BTW components.

Successful Theory completion requires an overall assessment score of at least 80%. Federal ELDT rules do not set a minimum number of Theory hours. Completion time depends on progress; a one-hour completion time is not promised.

Separate online Theory service

ELDT Theory Now ELDTTheoryNow.com

ELDT Theory Now provides a separate online Theory service. Check that provider's current course availability, charges, eligibility and terms. Its charges are separate from Get Your CDL Quick vehicle rentals and familiarization services.

After successful completion, the Theory provider reports the Theory record to FMCSA's TPR. Use the same legal name, driver license number and issuing state throughout the process. Theory completion does not finish BTW Range and Road requirements or replace the DPS skills test. See Steps 7 and 8.



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ELDT Theory topic reference

The Class A and Class B Theory curricula cover five main areas. Upgrade and endorsement curricula have their own applicable requirements. This topic list is a reference; complete the required curriculum with your selected Theory provider.

Basic Operation

Orientation; Control Systems/Dashboard; Pre- and Post-Trip Inspections; Basic Control; Shifting/Operating Transmissions; Backing and Docking; Coupling and Uncoupling for Class A.

Safe Operating Procedures

Visual Search; Communication; Distracted Driving; Speed Management; Space Management; Night Operation; Extreme Driving Conditions.

Advanced Operating Practices

Hazard Perception; Skid Control/Recovery, Jackknifing and Other Emergencies; Railroad-Highway Grade Crossings.

Vehicle Systems and Reporting Malfunctions

Identification and Diagnosis of Malfunctions; Roadside Inspections; Maintenance.

Non-Driving Activities

Handling and Documenting Cargo; Environmental Compliance Issues; Hours of Service Requirements; Fatigue and Wellness Awareness; Post-Crash Procedures; External Communications; Whistleblower/Coercion; Trip Planning; Drugs/Alcohol.

The Theory provider reports successful Theory completion. Your BTW provider separately evaluates and reports the applicable Range and Public Road components. Check your required records before the applicable licensing examination.



Vehicle arrangements are separate from ELDT completion and DPS licensing decisions.

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6th Step Select vehicle services individually

Choose each service individually; buying one does not require another. These rental and limited familiarization services use your existing knowledge and skills. Equipment use during each familiarization session is included in that fee. The published time limits cover the entire activity, including repeat visits.

The listed prices apply to all available payment methods.

Vehicle familiarization	Availability and total limit	Price
Pre-trip truck rental and familiarization	Mon/Tues/Weds: up to 3 hours per day for 3 days; 9 hours total.	$375
Backing truck rental and familiarization	Mon/Tues/Weds: up to 30 minutes per day; 3 sessions, 90 minutes total.	$375
Road truck rental and familiarization	One 60-minute session, one morning before the test; Mon-Fri. Self-directed road familiarity.	$250

The listed familiarization prices are the maximum for the selected activity.

Texas DPS test-vehicle rentals cover one appointment, up to 2 hours of test use.

Test-vehicle rental	Dallas South	Paris
Class A or Class B	$650	$1,300
Passenger or School Bus	$950	$1,600

Unlimited truck rentals for CDL skills-test retakes: $1,200, selected separately. The website's stated retest rental/familiarization benefits and limits apply. Reservations are required. DPS fees and fuel for each trip are separate. No passing result is guaranteed.

Customer Resources: pre-trip videos/reference materials, $100 for 30 days.
Fuel per test trip: Dallas-Fort Worth $80; Paris $245.
Other Texas DPS locations: contact us for rental and fuel prices.

Complimentary ELDT BTW Range and Road

Separate ELDT BTW activity is available at no additional charge with qualifying service selections, subject to eligibility and written terms. The $1,750 minimum uses the original prices of qualifying services, regardless of payment method, and excludes fuel and CLP practice. Qualifying selections are pre-trip, backing and road rental/familiarization, Class A/B test-truck rental and Customer Resources.

CLP practice, fuel, DPS fees and independent Theory charges are separate. A purchase does not establish ELDT completion. Confirm current availability, required advance disclosures, eligibility, written terms and reservations before booking.

Current service information and terms

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7th Step Complete applicable ELDT BTW Range and Road

BTW is the hands-on ELDT component, separate from online Theory, paid vehicle familiarization and the DPS skills test. Have a valid CLP appropriate to the vehicle and meet applicable medical, licensing and supervision requirements before required BTW activity.

Range training: complete the applicable controlled-area curriculum, including vehicle inspection, basic vehicle control, backing and parking. Class A also includes coupling and uncoupling. The instructor evaluates each required skill.

Public Road training: operate on public roads with the instructor. Applicable topics include turns, lane changes, speed and space management, visual search, vehicle control, shifting when applicable, curves, and highway entry and exit.

Completion is based on proficiency. Federal ELDT rules do not prescribe a minimum number of BTW hours. The instructor must cover every required topic, determine and document proficiency in each required element, and record the actual Range and Road clock hours. Use a vehicle appropriate for the license sought.

There is no promised one-hour completion time. A rental, familiarization session or appointment alone does not satisfy ELDT. After successful completion, the BTW provider reports the applicable Range and Road completion records.

8th Step Verify required ELDT completion records

The Theory provider reports Theory completion, while the BTW provider separately reports applicable Range and Public Road completion to FMCSA's TPR. Required records must be available for DPS to verify before the applicable examination. Hazmat Theory must be verified before its knowledge test. Confirm that the legal name, license number and issuing state match your DPS records.

9th Step Arrange the CDL skills test and vehicle

Confirm that your CLP is valid, its 14-day hold has been met, required ELDT is complete and reported, and your documents and medical record are ready. Coordinate your test appointment and selected rental services with our team. The skills test includes vehicle inspection, basic vehicle control and road testing.

Our selected pre-trip, backing or road services are company service choices, not universal state prerequisites. Road familiarization on the test morning is selected separately. Confirm your vehicle, test location, appointment and service terms before travel.



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10th Step Confirm and pay the applicable DPS fees

Use the appointment type that matches your actual transaction. If unsure, ask DPS; do not select an unrelated medical-card transaction to bypass the correct process. Confirm payment and appointment requirements before test day and keep the receipt.

DPS lists the original CLP fee as $25 and the standard original CDL fee for applicants ages 18-84 as $97. Other transactions or license types can have different fees. Texas law provides a $4 reduction for each remaining year of validity of an eligible existing noncommercial Texas driver license. DPS calculates the applicable credit and final amount.

DPS's skills-test guidance says an application is held 90 days from the initial application. A new application and fee are required after 90 days or three failed tests. Confirm how this applies to your record. Company rental and fuel charges are separate and follow the terms you selected.

11th Step Check in for your skills test

Follow the time and instructions on your appointment confirmation. DPS appointment guidance allows check-in up to 30 minutes before an appointment. Confirm office-specific instructions with DPS and arrive with the correct vehicle and records. Do not depend on an early inspection-card disclosure or a same-day payment exception.

12th Step Bring the required records and take the test

- Current driver license and current CLP, in the form DPS accepts.
- Appointment details, applicable payment receipt and other documents DPS requires.
- Current medical qualification in DPS's electronic record, when required; keep an examiner-issued copy for your own records.

Carry your valid license and permit when operating under the CLP and comply with the applicable supervision rules. Check the current DPS checklist before the visit. Missing or incorrect records can delay testing. Any additional vehicle rental is governed by the actual service terms; no outcome is promised.

13th Step Complete issuance and check your new CDL

After passing the required tests, follow DPS's instructions to finish issuing the CDL. Check your name, address, license category, endorsements and restrictions. Keep the temporary credential DPS issues and follow its printed expiration and restrictions. Use DPS's license-status service to track the permanent card. Operate only under the commercial privileges actually issued to you.

Prepare carefully and use this guide to track your progress. Passing depends on your performance and DPS's evaluation; no service purchase guarantees a license or completion date.

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Our facility and your scheduled visit

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Directions and contact information

Confirm your reservation and arrival instructions with our team. Keep your permit documents and this guide together. Bring the items requested for your scheduled activities:

- Clipboard and two black pens.
- Your current driver license and CLP; bring the copies requested for company records.
- An examiner-issued medical record copy, if requested for your file. DPS's electronic medical record remains controlling for its transaction.

Texas DPS testing locations from our resource list

Office	Address
Dallas South	39025 LBJ, E Service Road, Dallas, TX 75232
Fort Worth	8301 Brentwood Stair Road, Fort Worth, TX 76120
Grand Prairie	701 N Bagdad Road, Grand Prairie, TX 75050
Paris	4255 Bonham Street, Paris, TX 75460

Confirm current office services, address and appointment instructions with DPS. Other test locations may have different rental and fuel costs.

Find a Texas DPS driver license office

Nearby hotels

Holiday Inn Express & Suites
1001 Pullen Street, Royse City, TX 75189 • (972) 635-6560

Holiday Inn location • Best Western Plus Rockwall Inn & Suites

Hilton Dallas/Rockwall Lakefront

Contact hotels directly to confirm availability, rates and current details. Lodging is arranged separately.



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Get Your CDL Quick contacts

Contact	Role	Phone and email
Billy	Owner / Senior CDL Instructor	(214) 304-5291 billy@getyourcdlquick.com
Missy	Owner / Senior CDL Instructor / General Manager	(254) 747-3773 missy@getyourcdlquick.com
Jamie	Sales Manager / Director CDL Specialist	(469) 332-7188 Cell/Text: (469) 858-1513 jamie@getyourcdlquick.com

Official resources to check before your appointment

The links below open from the digital PDF. For a printed copy, use the listed form names and agency sites to find current instructions.

DPS Apply for a Commercial Driver License
DPS CDL medical certification and electronic reporting
DPS Driver license and permit fees
DPS CDL Skills Test Information DL-60A
DPS Texas CDL Handbook DL-7C
DPS Endorsements and restrictions
DPS Applying for a Texas driver license
DPS Texas residency requirements
DPS U.S. citizenship or lawful-presence requirements
DPS Non-domicile CDL and CLP information
FMCSA Training Provider Registry and ELDT information
Texas Transportation Code Chapter 522 Fee credit in section 522.029



Congratulations, Megan! Read her archived customer story on the next page.

Get Your CDL Quick is an independent business. Vehicle services, practice resources and any applicable ELDT activities have separate requirements and terms. Texas DPS determines eligibility, administers its examinations and issues commercial driver licenses. Purchasing services does not guarantee a passing result or a completion date. This company guide is not a government publication or an approval of the business by a government agency.

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Customer stories from our archive

Megan and Sam's October 2016 recordings capture the rollout of Texas's new CDL skills-testing standards, which began October 3. Watch the full videos through the links below. These archived experiences accompany the current requirements in this guide.

Megan: from learning the parts to a pre-trip milestone

Megan Inman says she passed her Class A test "with flying colors" after "like four days" driving a truck. She credits Billy and her husband for pre-trip preparation, recalls not knowing what a lug nut was two weeks earlier, and describes seeing more than 20 men fail to make it through the pre-trip that day. In the video, she says she was the first woman in Texas to pass during the new pre-trip rollout. Billy remembers her as the 21st person statewide and identifies her test vehicle as a Peterbilt 387 with a 28-foot pup trailer, an earlier vehicle than the newer Freightliner M2 options now offered.

Watch Megan's full customer video

Sam: a success in the new test's first week

On October 6, 2016, Sam Tippett says his examiner told him he had not missed anything and that he was the second person to pass in Fort Worth that week. In the interview, Billy describes a Fort Worth FedEx driver and a San Antonio driver passing earlier, making Sam third statewide in that account. Sam credits the preparation they reviewed the previous day. Billy identifies Sam as the company's first customer and recalls organizing DPS materials for independent pre-trip study, showing where components were located so customers could study the inspection themselves.

Watch Sam's full customer video

Rochelle: seeing the test from the driver's seat

In her archived review, Rochelle describes herself as an examiner and celebrates passing her own CDL test. She says her third attempt was her first using this service, after two attempts elsewhere, and wishes she had used it sooner. She praises the vehicles and process, and explains that taking the test yourself takes practice even when you test other people every day. Billy identifies Rochelle as a Texas DPS CDL examiner from Dallas with 16 years of experience at the time and recalls her test at Fort Worth's Brentwood office. Watch her discuss test-day pressure and the support she valued.

Watch Rochelle's full customer video

The milestone rankings and additional background are the interview and company's historical accounts. Individual preparation times and results vary. These personal reviews do not represent Texas DPS endorsement. Independent pre-trip study is separate from today's applicable ELDT proficiency and completion requirements.

Historical source: Texas DPS 2016 CDL program report

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