

Introduction

Operating commercial vehicles or vehicles equipped with air brakes requires special knowledge and skill. Other road users will depend on you to drive safely and skilfully. The cost of a mistake can be very high. When large vehicles are involved in crashes, the resulting damage – to vehicles, cargo and human lives – can be catastrophic. Almost all these crashes are preventable and you can help ensure they don't happen.

ICBC, government and the commercial transport industry are working together to reduce the number and the severity of crashes. You have the most important role in preventing crashes, since most are caused by driver error.

This guide provides the information you need to apply for a Class 1, 2, 3 or 4 commercial licence, or an air brake endorsement, industrial air brake endorsement or heavy trailer endorsement.

ICBC has incorporated detailed information on air brake systems into *Driving Commercial Vehicles* in order to provide a single source of information for commercial drivers and drivers of vehicles equipped with air brakes.

This guide can also be used as a reference long after you get your new licence. You already have knowledge and experience that will help, but to become a professional driver you must learn and practise the skills described in this guide.

Skill and ability alone are not enough. Safe drivers bring one more critical component to their jobs: the professional attitude they adopt when they sit behind the wheel. Today, with increasing traffic on our roads, drivers need to be more safety conscious and more responsible than ever before. Your safety and the safety of others will depend on your knowledge, attitude and actions.

Using This Guide

This guide contains the basic information you need to take the tests you must pass to qualify for a commercial licence, an air brake endorsement, an industrial air brake endorsement or a heavy trailer endorsement (code 20). It is also designed to be used as a source text by those taking an approved air brake course. Air brake courses are available throughout B.C.

The tests you take will depend upon the class of licence or endorsement you wish to get.

This guide can provide you with information on how to drive and information on air brake systems but it is not a training manual. Once you have your learner's licence, you may begin gaining the practical experience you will need to pass the required road test. You must spend time operating the type of vehicle you wish to be licensed for in order to prepare for your road test. You will also need instruction from an

appropriately licensed driver or from a professional driver training facility. You may find additional helpful information in manufacturer’s books, such as your vehicle’s transmission guide, and in other reference material on operating commercial vehicles.

Inside this guide

This guide is designed to be user-friendly. The **Table of Contents** is detailed enough for you to be able to find information easily. In each chapter we’ve included examples and tables, as well as **Definitions**, **Fast Facts** and **RoadSense Tips** to make the information as clear and easy to use as possible.

You’ll also find a boxed section at the beginning of each chapter entitled **What You’ll Learn**. This is a helpful tool that you can use to assist your learning. It can be used in two ways. **What You’ll Learn** can provide you with a detailed breakdown of what is covered in each chapter. You can also go back to it after you have studied the chapter and use it as a checklist to determine whether you have really learned everything covered. Also, you’ll find **Review Questions** at the end of most chapters. You may wish to use them as you prepare for your test.

Licence study chart

Review the table below to help you focus on the chapters you’ll need to prepare for your test.

If you are applying for:	Study these chapters:										
Class 1 licence	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Class 2 licence	1	2	3	Pages 116 – 117	5	6	7*	8*	9	10	
Class 3 licence or heavy trailer endorsement (code 20)	1	2	3	4		6	7*	8*	9	10	
Class 4 licence	1	2	3	Pages 116 – 117	5	6			9	10	
Air brake endorsement	1	2					7	8	9		
Industrial air brake endorsement	1	2					7	8	9		11

* Study this chapter if your vehicle is equipped with air brakes.