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Driver Licensing Requirements for Towing a Recreational Trailer

Fast Fact

Few recreational trailers exceed 4,600 kg.

Most that exceed 4,600 kg are over 9 metres (28 feet) in length. If you are unsure of the weight of your RV trailer, take it to a weigh scale and have it weighed.

Most fifth wheel RV combinations do not have air brakes.

Warning

It is your responsibility to ensure you have the appropriate driver's licence and driving skills for the trailer you are towing. Without the proper licence, you may be in breach of your insurance policy in the event of a crash. Your insurance claim may be denied, including claims for your own injuries, or damage that you might cause to your vehicle, or to other people or property. You may then be responsible for paying these costs. Need more information? Call 1-800-950-1498 or visit www.icbc.com

Towing an RV of Less Than 4,600 kg

Most recreational trailers weigh less than 4,600 kg, and thus may be driven by a driver with a Class 5 or 7 passenger car driver's licence. An air brake endorsement is required if either the truck or trailer has air brakes.

Trailer Weight

The class of driver's licence or licence endorsement you need to tow a trailer depends on its weight.

For driver licensing purposes, trailer weight means its actual on-road weight at the time it is being towed. For example, you may have an RV trailer that weighs 4,000 kg when empty. You may tow it empty with a Class 5 or 7 driver's licence. However, when equipped with furniture and stored water, food and other items, the weight can be considerably more. A Class 5 or 7 driver's licence may not be sufficient to tow the loaded trailer.

Towing an RV of More Than 4,600 kg

If you want to tow an RV that weighs more than 4,600 kg and neither the recreational trailer nor your truck has air brakes, you need:

- a Class 1, 2 or 3 driver's licence, or
- a Class 4 or 5 driver's licence with a heavy trailer endorsement (code 20), or
- a Class 4 or 5 driver's licence with a house trailer endorsement (code 51).

To get a heavy trailer endorsement (code 20), you need to:

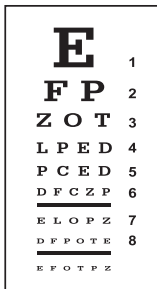
- pass a Class 3 knowledge test,
- meet commercial driver vision and medical standards, and
- pass a Class 3 road test while towing a trailer weighing more than 4,600 kg.

Fast Fact

To pass the tests to get a house trailer endorsement, you need to study this guide.

For details on obtaining a Class 1, 2 or 3 driver's licence or a heavy trailer endorsement, refer to *Driving Commercial Vehicles*.

Driving Commercial Vehicles is available at all ICBC driver licensing centres and on the internet at www.icbc.com.

**Fast Fact**

It is your responsibility to ensure that your vehicle is properly insured for use during your road test. ICBC accepts no liability whatsoever for ensuring that your vehicle is properly insured and expressly reserves its right to make determinations with respect to coverage in the event of a claim. Check with your Autoplan broker if you have any questions about your coverage.

To get a house trailer endorsement (code 51), you need to:

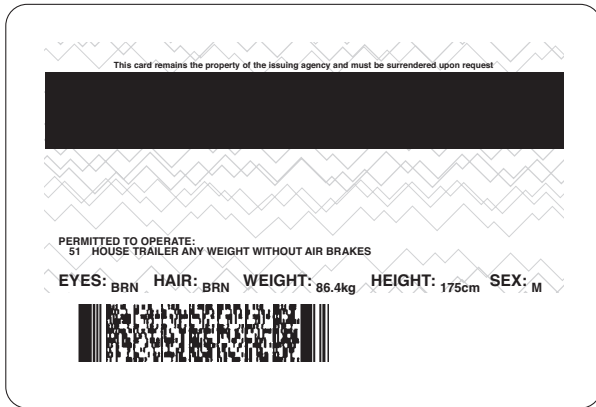
- pass a recreational trailer knowledge test,
- meet driver vision and medical standards and
- pass a road test while towing a recreational trailer weighing more than 4,600 kg.

If you want to tow an RV that weighs more than 4,600 kg and either the recreational trailer or your truck has air brakes, you need a Class 1 driver's licence with an air brake endorsement.

How to Apply for a House Trailer Endorsement

1. Study this guide.
2. Apply for a learner's licence at an ICBC driver licensing centre. You will be required to:
 - present one piece of primary and one piece of secondary identification (acceptable proofs of identification are listed later in this chapter),
 - pay the knowledge test fee,
 - take the knowledge and road signs test,
 - have your vision and hearing checked and answer questions relating to your medical health. You must disclose any known medical conditions.
3. You will receive your learner's licence after successfully completing all of the above, provided you do not have a medical condition that requires pre-approval. A learner's licence is valid for one year.
4. Practise with an appropriately licensed driver and/or attend a driver training school.
5. When you are ready, phone to schedule your road test. In Greater Vancouver phone 604-661-2255; in Chilliwack, Abbotsford, Kelowna or Prince George phone 1-888-715-7775. In other areas contact your local ICBC driver licensing centre.
6. Take your road test, which includes a pre-trip inspection test of your truck and recreational trailer combination.

Note: You must bring the same identification you used to apply for your learner's licence (Step 2) and the fee for your test.
7. You will receive a temporary licence after you successfully complete all your licensing tests. You must pay the fee for your new driver's licence.
8. You will receive your photo licence in the mail once it is confirmed that you meet the required medical standards.



Identification Requirements

Driver's licences and B.C. identification cards have become universally accepted and trusted forms of identification.

Our identification rules are in place to prevent someone from obtaining a driver's licence or B.C. identification card in your name, which could lead to them getting a credit card, bank card, or other identifying documentation in your name. If you are a victim of identity theft, you may suffer financial losses, a poor credit rating and a damaged reputation.

Every time you attend an ICBC driver licensing centre, you will need to bring two pieces of identification:

- one piece of primary ID showing legal name and date of birth; and
- one piece of secondary ID showing name, signature and/or photo.

Driver's licences and B.C. identification cards are issued in legal name only. If your name differs from that shown on your primary identification, you will also need to provide ALL name change documents to link back to your primary ID e.g., legal name change certificate and/or marriage certificate(s).

Some government documents are only acceptable as secondary ID as they may show other than your legal name.

The following list shows the ONLY documents we will accept.

All documents must not be expired for more than one year, except:

- Photo B.C. driver's licences and B.C. identification cards are accepted for up to three years after expiry.
- Government of Canada identification must not be expired.

Photocopies are not accepted. The only exception is a photocopy that is certified as a true copy by the government agency that issued it.

Always bring primary and secondary identification each time you attend to avoid delays or additional trips to our offices.

Fast Fact

If your legal name is different from that on either of your identification documents, you must also present a legal name change certificate or marriage certificate. If there has been more than one name change, you must bring all linking documentation.

Fast Fact

You may use your current B.C. driver's licence as either primary or secondary identification, but not both.

Fast Fact

If you were born outside Canada and do not have any of the required primary identification documents, please contact Citizenship and Immigration Canada at 1-888-242-2100

Fast Fact

You may use your current B.C. photo driver's licence or B.C. identification card as either primary or secondary identification, but not both.

Acceptable primary identification	Acceptable secondary identification
<p>Issued by ICBC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.C. Driver's Licence • B.C. Identification Card <p>Issued by Government of Canada:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canadian Citizenship Card • Permanent Resident Card • Canadian Record of Landing/ Canadian Immigration Identification Record • Study, Work, Visitor or Temporary Resident Permit (formerly Minister's Permit) • Identity Card (Issued by Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade to foreign representatives accredited to Canada and eligible members of their family) <p>Issued by Provincial or Territorial Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canadian Birth Certificate (a baptismal certificate is not acceptable) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School ID Card (student card) • Bank Card (only if applicant's name is imprinted on card) • Credit Card (only if applicant's name is imprinted on card) • Passport • Foreign Birth Certificate (a baptismal certificate is not acceptable) • Canadian or U.S. Driver's Licence • Naturalization Certificate • Canadian Forces Identification • Police Identification • Foreign Affairs Canada or Consular Identification • Vehicle Registration (only if applicant's signature is shown) • Picture Employee ID Card • Firearms Acquisition Certificate • Social Insurance Card (new style without signature strip not acceptable) • B.C. CareCard • Native Status Card • Parole Certificate ID • Correctional Service Conditional Release Card