

Frequently asked questions:

Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT) for Commercial Drivers

As of March 1, 2019 the MELT Program will be mandatory for all new Class 1 and Class 2 drivers. Those who obtained their Class 1 or Class 2 driver's licence between October 11, 2018 and February 28, 2019 inclusive must pass enhanced knowledge and road tests by March 1, 2020.

What is the Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT) Program?

Effective March 1, 2019, any person who wants to obtain a Class 1 or Class 2 driver's licence must take the Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT) Program. The MELT Program is comprised of mandatory standardized Class 1 and Class 2 curriculums with in-class, in-yard (where the vehicle is not moving) and in-vehicle (where the vehicle is moving) training. All students will be required to pass an enhanced knowledge and road test in order to obtain their commercial driver's licence.

What is the cost of the MELT Program?

The Government of Alberta is setting the cost of the MELT Program. This means that driver training schools or entities cannot charge more than the Government set driver training fee for delivering the MELT Program.

How long is the MELT Program?

The length of each module is: 40.5 hours for in-class, 15.5 hours for in-yard (where the vehicle is not moving) and 57 hours for in-vehicle (where the vehicle is moving). The Class 1 curriculum is available on the Alberta Transportation website <http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/4924.htm>. The Class 2 curriculum is being finalized and will be available on this same website soon.

Are there funding opportunities available to take the MELT Program?

Yes, there are funding opportunities available to those that meet the Government of Alberta eligibility requirements. Please see the following links for eligibility criteria and funding opportunities

<https://www.alberta.ca/canada-alberta-job-grant.aspx>

<https://www.alberta.ca/training-work-programs.aspx>

<http://advancededucation.alberta.ca/funding/financial-support-for-training/full-time-training/>

Why is government making changes?

The Government of Alberta is strengthening the requirements to obtain a Class 1 or Class 2 commercial driver's licence through mandatory standardized entry level driver training across Alberta.

Who will be affected by these changes?

Those who obtained their Class 1 or Class 2 driver's licence between October 11, 2018 and February 28, 2019 inclusive must pass enhanced knowledge and road tests—which will be based on the MELT curriculum—when it becomes available in March by March 1, 2020.

All new Class 1 and Class 2 drivers will have to take the MELT Program in order to obtain their commercial driver's licence as of March 1, 2019.

Out of Province residents who exchange their driver's licence to an Alberta driver's licence will be subject to the MELT Program requirements as applicable to the length of time they have held their Class 1 or Class 2 driver's licence in their home jurisdiction.

Driver training schools and entities who administer Class 1, Class 2 and/or school bus programs must be apply to Alberta Transportation to be relicensed by March 1, 2019.

All driver training instructors must be retrained, retested and relicensed in order to administer the MELT Program to students. The Government of Alberta will train and test senior driving instructors at no charge to them or their driver training school. Once they have passed the training and testing, they must train the driving instructors at their driver training school or entity to these standards.

What if I took my Class 1 or Class 2 road test before or on October 10, 2018?

If you took your road test on or before October 10, 2018 you are not required to take the enhanced knowledge and road test requirements.

Where do I take the MELT Program?

Effective March 1, 2019, any person who wants to obtain a Class 1 or Class 2 driver's licence must take the Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT) Program. Clients must find a licensed driver training school or licensed entity in Alberta that provides the MELT Program for Class 1, Class 2 and/or school bus programs. The Government of Alberta does not endorse any specific driver training school or entity. It is up to clients to find a driver training school or entity that they want to use for driver training.

What if I already have a Class 1 or Class 2 commercial driver's licence?

Class 1 and Class 2 driver's licence holders who obtained their licence on or before October 10, 2018, will not be required to take the MELT Program. Class 1 and Class 2 driver's licence holders who obtained their licence between October 11, 2018 to February 28, 2019 inclusive must take the enhanced knowledge test and road test—which will be based on the MELT curriculum—when it becomes available in March. These drivers must successfully pass the enhanced knowledge test and the road test before March 1, 2020.

The Government of Alberta will pay for the first enhanced knowledge and road tests. If a driver fails either first enhanced test, they will have one more chance to take the enhanced road and/or knowledge test at their expense. If a driver fails the second re-test attempt, the person is deemed to be the holder of the Class of driver's licence held by that person when that person first applied for that Class 1 or Class 2 driver's licence. They will be required to take the MELT Program, followed by a successful pass on the enhanced knowledge and road test, in order to re-obtain their Class 1 or 2 driver's licence.

Clients are responsible for all other the costs associated the enhanced tests, including providing a commercial vehicle to take their road test.

How does a client schedule the enhanced tests if they obtained their Class 1 or Class 2 driver's licence between October 11, 2018 to February 28, 2019 inclusive?

For the enhanced knowledge test, a client will go to the registry agent location, as they do today, and take their knowledge test. Once they pass this test, they must take the enhanced road test. Clients must contact the Alberta Transportation Call Centre to schedule their no-charge road test. A registry agent cannot schedule the no-charge road test.

How will registry agents be impacted with the MELT Program?

There are some impacts to registry agents. Registry agents will continue to provide the driver licensing services and knowledge test services as they currently do today for clients, however registry agents will have to do no charge services for those who fall under the MELT Program requirements for testing. The first knowledge and road testing will be tracked so registry agent locations will be reimbursed for these no charge services (\$12 for the knowledge test and \$28 for the road test as per the *Registry Service Charges Regulation*). We anticipate that approximately 5 500 Albertans are eligible for the MELT Program testing requirements.

What happens if a client does not take the enhanced knowledge or road test requirements before March 1, 2020?

If a client fails to complete both the knowledge and road test before March 1, 2020 the client is deemed to be the holder of a driver's licence of a Class held when they first applied for a Class 1 or Class 2 driver's licence. In other words, they no longer hold a Class 1 or Class 2 driver's licence and they will have the Class of driver's licence that they held before they obtained the Class 1 or Class 2 commercial licence. The client will no longer be able to operate a vehicle in either a Class 1 or Class 2 capacity. If they want to obtain a Class 1 or Class 2 driver's licence after this date they must take the MELT Program and pass the enhanced knowledge and road test.

What happens if a client fails the enhanced knowledge or road test requirements?

If a client fails two knowledge and road tests before March 1, 2020 the client is deemed to be the holder of a driver's licence of a Class held when they first applied for a Class 1 or Class 2 driver's licence. In other words, they no longer hold a Class 1 or Class 2 driver's licence and they will have the Class of driver's licence that they held before they obtained your Class 1 or Class 2 commercial licence. The client will no longer be able to operate a vehicle in either a Class 1 or Class 2 capacity. If they want to obtain a Class 1 or Class 2 driver's licence after this date they must take the MELT Program and pass the enhanced knowledge and road test.

What if a client is transferring their out of province Class 1 or 2 driver's licence to Alberta?

Out of province drivers must follow the MELT Program requirements once they transfer their driver's licence to Alberta. Drivers who obtained their Class 1 and Class 2 licence on or before October 10, 2018, will not be required to take the MELT Program. Drivers who obtained their commercial driver's licence between October 11, 2018 to February 28, 2019 inclusive must take the enhanced knowledge and road test—which will be based on the MELT curriculum—when it becomes available in March. These drivers must successfully pass the knowledge test and the road test before March 1, 2020.

If an out of province driver transfers their Class 1 or Class 2 driver's licence to Alberta after March 1, 2019 they will be subject to Alberta Transportation policies in determining if they qualify for an Alberta commercial driver's licence.

Will the Class 1 road test be in a manual or automatic transmission vehicle?

All Class 1 road tests will be conducted in a vehicle with manual transmission.

What is the S Endorsement?

The S Endorsement is course that is specifically designed for school bus drivers. It teaches the components that are specific to school buses. For example, the course teaches unloading and loading of students, handling emergencies, vehicle components and so forth.

Who needs the S Endorsement?

As of March 1, 2019 all school bus drivers must have the S Endorsement on their driver's licence before they can operate a school bus, regardless of the Class of driver's licence they hold.

Where do I take the S Endorsement course?

A client can contact licensed driver training schools or entities that administer the S Endorsement. The Government of Alberta does not endorse any specific driver training school or entity. It is up to clients to find a driver training school or entity that they want to use for driver training.

What if I have an S Endorsement or equivalent from another jurisdiction?

The Government of Alberta does not accept an S Endorsement or equivalent from another jurisdiction. If you want to operate a school bus in Alberta, as of March 1, 2019 you must obtain the S Endorsement on your driver's licence from a licensed Alberta driver training school or licensed entity. The Government of Alberta does not endorse any specific driver training school or entity. It is up to clients to find a driver training school or entity that they want to use for driver training.

What is the definition of a school bus?

The definition for a school bus has changed in the *Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation* as of March 1, 2019. Please see Section 20.5 of the *Operator Licensing and Vehicle Control Regulation* in the Queen's Printer Gazette, Part II, October 31, 2018.

http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/gazette/2018/pdf/20_Oct31_Part2.pdf

What about Class 3 driver training or driver training for other Classes?

The Government of Alberta heard feedback from both industry stakeholders and the public regarding including mandatory Class 3 driver training and mandatory driver training for other Classes. We are currently moving forward with Class 1 and Class 2 mandatory entry level training as of March 1, 2019. We will be conducting research for mandatory driver training for Class 3 and other Classes.

Did the Government of Alberta consult with anyone before making these changes?

The Government of Alberta held online polling, random telephone polling and in-person consultations with industry stakeholders in July 2018. We listened to both the public and industry about their issues and concerns with the current driver training industry and commercial carrier industry. The policy changes are a result of these consultations whose primary goal is to improve road safety for all road users.

For more information please contact: trans.driver.prog@gov.ab.ca