

Licensing for Recreational Vehicles

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Driver Licensing Requirements for Recreational Vehicle Operators

To tow a trailer that weighs more than 4,600 kilograms, you may need to upgrade your driver's licence.

If you are driving an RV or towing a trailer, you need the correct class of licence for that vehicle.

Q. What type of vehicle can I operate with a Class 5 (passenger vehicle) or Class 7 (passenger vehicle novice) driver's licence?

A Class 5 or Class 7 licence allows you to operate a passenger vehicle that has two axles, such as a car or light truck, a limited speed motorcycle or any motorhome not equipped with air brakes.

Q. How much can I tow with a passenger licence?

A Class 5 or Class 7 licence allows you to tow a trailer weighing up to 4,600 kilograms (10,120 pounds). The maximum weight of 4,600 kilograms will accommodate most types of trailers that would be towed behind a passenger vehicle or light truck.

Q. What if I want to tow a trailer that weighs more than 4,600 kilograms?

If your trailer weighs more than 4,600 kilograms and you have a Class 5 passenger vehicle licence, you will need to upgrade your licence. A Class 7 licence, which is for new drivers, cannot be upgraded to permit towing a heavy trailer.

Q. Why do I have to upgrade my licence just to tow a heavier trailer?

The 4,600-kilogram weight limit is similar to the weight limits in other jurisdictions and was established as a safety threshold between small and large trailers. Towing a heavier trailer is more difficult and requires more skill than towing a light trailer.

Q. How do I upgrade my passenger licence so I can tow a heavier trailer without air brakes?

There are three options available for upgrading your Class 5 licence.

One is to apply for a House Trailer endorsement. This will allow you to tow recreational house trailers of

any weight. The second option is to apply for a Heavy Trailer endorsement (Code 20). This will allow you to tow any kind of trailer of unlimited weight provided it does not have air brakes. The third option is to apply for a Class 1, 2 or 3 commercial licence.

Q. What do I have to do to apply for a House Trailer endorsement, Heavy Trailer endorsement or a commercial (Class 1, 2 or 3) licence?

Each of these options involves passing a driver knowledge test, qualifying to applicable driver medical standards and passing a road test in an appropriate vehicle combination for the class of licence being applied for.

Q. Does ICBC have study material on driving recreational vehicles?

Yes. *Towing a Recreational Trailer* may be downloaded from www.icbc.com, or contact your nearest driver licensing office for a copy.

Q. Are there costs associated with upgrading my licence?

Yes. There are fees for the knowledge test (\$15.00) and the road test (\$50.00). You will not be charged for these tests if you are 65 years old or older. There is also a fee for your new photo driver's licence.

Your doctor may charge a fee for the completion of a medical report.

Q. What do I need if my trailer or RV has air brakes?

You need an air brake endorsement. If the trailer weighs over 4,600 kilograms, you will also need a Class 1 driver's licence.

Q. Need more information?

Call 1-800-950-1498 or visit www.icbc.com.

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