



licensing for recreational vehicles

If your trailer weighs more than 4,600 kg, you may need to upgrade your driver's licence. Here's what you need to know.

What type of vehicle can be operated 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.

How much can be towed with a passenger licence?

A Class 5 or Class 7 licence — which allows you to tow a trailer weighing up to 4,600 kg — should accommodate most types of trailers that would be towed behind a passenger vehicle or light truck.

What about towing a trailer that weighs more than 4,600 kg?

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

Why does towing a heavier trailer require an upgraded licence?

The 4,600 kg 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.

What are the options for upgrading a Class 5 to tow a heavier trailer without air brakes?

There are three options:

- Apply for a house trailer endorsement. This will allow you to tow recreational house trailers of any weight.
- 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.
- Apply for a Class 1, 2 or 3 commercial licence.

How do you 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.

Does a house trailer endorsement permit towing any other types of trailers over 4,600 kg?

The house trailer endorsement adds only permission to operate house trailers. Other types of trailers over 4,600 kg, such as house/horse trailers (trailers with living quarters for people along with space to carry horses), boat trailers, horse trailers, utility trailers, etc. are not permitted to be operated with a house trailer endorsement. For these other heavy trailers, you will need a heavy trailer endorsement (Code 20) or a Class 1, 2 or 3 driver's licence.

What's required if a trailer or RV has air brakes?

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

Are there costs associated with upgrading a licence?

The knowledge test costs \$15 and the road test \$50 for anyone under 65 years old. There's also a fee for your new photo driver's licence. Your doctor may charge a fee for the completion of a medical report.

What study materials are available on driving recreational vehicles?

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

For more information,
call 1-800-950-1498 or visit icbc.com.



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