

March 15, 2019

Dear Valued Agricultural Sector Stakeholder,

The following information will help you navigate the application process, eligibility and next steps for getting a Class 1 driver's licence under the farmer's extension for Mandatory Entry Level Training.

- You have from March 15 to November 30, 2019 to apply and complete your pre-MELT knowledge and road tests for the farm-related extension to the Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT) Program for new Class 1 drivers.
 - Farm owners/operators must complete the application form on behalf of their employees (e.g. the drivers they are requesting the extension for.) All applicants must meet Government of Alberta eligibility requirements to be approved for this extension.
 - The application form is available online at <https://www.alberta.ca/mandatory-entry-level-training-for-class-1-and-2-drivers-licences.aspx> or can be found within the attachments.
- Once the application is complete, forward to Alberta Transportation at transitiondrivers@gov.ab.ca or send via mail.
- Alberta Transportation will review the application and, if farm-related status is confirmed, approve the extension and send a confirmation letter to the names of the drivers who are approved to take the pre-MELT knowledge and road test.
- Approved drivers will have until Nov. 30, 2019 to pass the pre-MELT knowledge and road test.

Getting a Class 1 under the extension

- Study the [Commercial Driver's Guide](#) to prepare for your pre-MELT knowledge and road tests.
- Take your extension eligibility confirmation letter to any registry to take the pre-MELT knowledge test. You don't need to make an appointment for a knowledge test.
- Once you've passed the knowledge test, book your pre-MELT road test. To take the pre-MELT road test, all drivers must:
 - be at least 18 years old
 - have their extension eligibility confirmation letter
 - have at least a full Class 5 Alberta driver's licence (Graduated Driver's Licensing Program drivers are not eligible for a Class 1 driver's licence)
 - have an approved Class 1 driver's medical completed by a physician
 - have successfully completed the Air Brake Endorsement (Q Endorsement) Program
- If you pass both tests, you will have a transitional Class 1 driver's licence, valid until March 1, 2020.

Keeping your Class 1 driver's licence under the extension

Transitional Class 1 drivers must show that they meet MELT standards by passing the MELT-enhanced knowledge and road tests by March 1, 2020, in order to keep their Class 1 driver's licence.

- Study the [Class 1 MELT curriculum](#) to prepare for the MELT-enhanced knowledge and road test.
- To be eligible to take the MELT-enhanced knowledge and road test, your employer (farm owner/operator) must fill out an endorsement form confirming your successful employment—either currently or during 2019 seasonal work. This endorsement form must be forwarded to Alberta Transportation.
 - Drivers who have been terminated for any reason may not be able to get an endorsement form from their employer. In this case, your transitional Class 1 driver's licence will expire on March 1, 2020 and you will have to take MELT training and pass the MELT-enhanced knowledge and road test to get it back. Your driver's licence will revert back to the class of driver's licence you previously held (e.g. a Class 5 driver's licence).
- Once the endorsement form has been received, Alberta Transportation will provide you with a confirmation letter advising that you are eligible to take the MELT-enhanced tests.
- You can take your MELT-enhanced knowledge test at any registry. You don't need to book ahead of time.
- You can book your MELT-enhanced road test online or in-person at any registry.
- You will have two attempts to pass the MELT-enhanced knowledge test and road test.
 - The first MELT-enhanced knowledge test and road test will be paid for by government, but the driver is responsible for all other costs of testing, e.g. the rental of a commercial vehicle for the road test.
 - If you fail the first attempt at either the knowledge or road test, you have one more chance to re-take the test you failed, at your expense.
- If you fail the second re-test attempt at either the knowledge or road test, you will lose your Class 1 driver's licence immediately and your driver's licence will revert back to the class of driver's licence you held previously, such as a Class 5 driver's licence.
- If you want to get a Class 1 driver's licence in the future, you must take MELT training and pass the MELT-enhanced knowledge and road test.

Note: Transitional drivers who do not take the MELT-enhanced knowledge and road tests by March 1, 2020 will automatically lose their Class 1 driver's licence on that date. Your driver's licence will revert back to the class of driver's licence you held previously (e.g. a Class 5 driver's licence). You will no longer be authorized to drive Class 1 vehicles.

If you have any questions on this process you can contact transitiondrivers@gov.ab.ca .