



CHAPTER 20
ARTICLE 2C - COMMERCIAL DRIVER LICENSE

N.C.G.S. § 20-37.16.

Content of license; classifications and endorsements; fees.

SOURCE	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT	RETRIEVED	SOURCE FINGERPRINT
General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	S.L. 2024-30, s. 22(a) — sixteenth act in the lineage	21 September 2026, 02:13 UTC	917d3104c19437294fc1cc5d - 1b03b27b4f0e9bf7dc1ee4d1 - ed7cded952221d60

§ 20-37.16(a) A commercial drivers license must be marked "Commercial Drivers License" or "CDL" and must contain the information required by G.S. 20-7 for a regular drivers license.

§ 20-37.16(b) The classes of commercial drivers licenses are:

- (1) Class A CDL - A Class A commercial drivers license authorizes the holder to drive any Class A motor vehicle.
- (2) Class B CDL - A Class B commercial drivers license authorizes the holder to drive any Class B motor vehicle.
- (3) Class C CDL - A Class C commercial drivers license authorizes the holder to drive any Class C motor vehicle.

§ 20-37.16(c) Endorsements. - The endorsements required to drive certain motor vehicles are as follows:

EndorsementVehicles That Can Be Driven

HVehicles, regardless of size or class, except tank vehicles, when transporting hazardous materials that require the vehicle to be placarded

MMotorcycles

NTank vehicles not carrying hazardous materials

P Vehicles carrying passengers

S School bus

T Double trailers

X Tank vehicles carrying hazardous materials.

To qualify for any of the above endorsements, an applicant shall pass a knowledge test. To obtain an H or an X endorsement, an applicant must take a test. This requirement applies when a person first obtains an H or an X endorsement and each time a person renews an H or an X endorsement. An applicant who has an H or an X endorsement issued by another state who applies for an H or an X endorsement must take a test unless the person has passed a test that covers the information set out in 49 C.F.R. § 383.121 within the preceding two years. For purposes of this subsection, the term "motorcycle" shall not include autocycles. Autocycles shall be subject to the requirements under this section for motor vehicles.

§ 20-37.16(c1) Expired.

§ 20-37.16(c2) Expiration of H and X Endorsements. - Hazardous materials endorsements shall be renewed every five years or less so that individuals subject to a Transportation Security Administration security screening required pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 383.141 may receive the screening and be authorized to renew the endorsements of H or X to transport hazardous materials. Notwithstanding G.S. 20-7(f), a commercial drivers license that contains an H or X endorsement as defined in subsection (c) of this section shall expire on the date of expiration of the licensee's security threat assessment conducted by the Transportation Security Administration of the United States Department of Homeland Security. When the commercial drivers license also contains an S endorsement and the licensee is certified to drive a school bus in this State, the commercial drivers license shall expire as provided in G.S. 20-7(f). The H and X endorsements on a commercial drivers license shall expire when the commercial drivers license expires.

§ 20-37.16(d) The fee for a Class A, B, or C commercial drivers license is twenty-five dollars and fifty cents (\$25.50) for each year of the period for which the license is issued. The fee for each endorsement is five dollars (\$5.00) for each year of the period for which the endorsement is issued. The fees required under this section do not apply to employees of the Driver License Section of the Division who are designated by the Commissioner.

§ 20-37.16(e)

The requirements for a commercial drivers license do not apply to vehicles used for personal use such as recreational vehicles. A commercial drivers license is also waived for the following classes of vehicles as permitted by regulation of the United States Department of Transportation:

- (1) Vehicles owned or operated by the Department of Defense, including the National Guard, while they are driven by active duty military personnel, or members of the National Guard when on active duty, in the pursuit of military purposes.
- (2) Any vehicle when used as firefighting or emergency equipment for the purpose of preserving life or property or to execute governmental functions, including, but not limited to, necessary maintenance, training, or required operation for official business of the department.
- (3) A farm vehicle that meets all of the following criteria:

a. Is controlled and operated by the farmer or the farmer's employee and used exclusively for farm use.

b. Is used to transport either agricultural products, farm machinery, or farm supplies, both to or from a farm.

c. Is not used in the operations of a for-hire motor carrier.

d. Is used intrastate within the official State border of North Carolina.

A farm vehicle includes a forestry vehicle that meets the listed criteria when applied to the forestry operation.

§ 20-37.16(f)

For the purposes of this section, the term "school bus" has the same meaning as in 49 C.F.R. § 383.5.

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS I
16 ACTS

Amendment lineage

The State prints this history as a single parenthetical at the foot of the section. It is reproduced verbatim in the colophon and unpacked below in order of enactment.



Nº	YEAR	ACT	CHARACTER
01	1989	c. 771, s. 2	ENACTED
02	1991	c. 726, s. 18	AMENDED
03	1993	c. 368, s. 4	AMENDED
04	1993	1993 (Reg. Sess., 1994), c. 750, ss. 4, 6	AMENDED
05	1993	1995 (Reg. Sess., 1996), c. 695, s. 1	AMENDED
06	1993	c. 756, s. 5	AMENDED
07	1998	S.L. 1998-149, s. 5	AMENDED
08	2003	S.L. 2003-397, ss. 4, 5	AMENDED
09	2005	S.L. 2005-276, s. 44.1(g)	AMENDED
10	2005	S.L. 2005-349, s. 9	AMENDED
11	2011	S.L. 2011-228, s. 1	AMENDED
12	2012	S.L. 2012-85, s. 3	AMENDED
13	2015	S.L. 2015-163, s. 3	AMENDED
14	2015	S.L. 2015-241, s. 29.30(g)	AMENDED
15	2018	S.L. 2018-74, s. 15	AMENDED
16	2024	S.L. 2024-30, s. 22(a)	AMENDED

APPARATUS II
2 AUTHORITIES

Authorities referenced

Every G.S. cross-reference appearing in the text of this section, in order of first appearance. Nothing is characterized; the operative language is quoted from the section itself.

REFERENCE	APPEARS IN	OPERATIVE LANGUAGE IN THIS SECTION
G.S. 20-7	(a)	"must contain the information required by"
G.S. 20-7(f)	(c2)	"X to transport hazardous materials. Notwithstanding"

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-37.16 (2024).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-37.16(a) (2024).

Pinpoint keys are set in the left margin of the text rather than line numbers: subsection designators are stable across editions and paper sizes, line numbers are not.

COLOPHON

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HISTORY PARENTHETICAL, AS PRINTED BY THE STATE

(1989, c. 771, s. 2; 1991, c. 726, s. 18; 1993, c. 368, s. 4; 1993 (Reg. Sess., 1994), c. 750, ss. 4, 6; 1995 (Reg. Sess., 1996), c. 695, s. 1; c. 756, s. 5; 1998-149, s. 5; 2003-397, ss. 4, 5; 2005-276, s. 44.1(g); 2005-349, s. 9; 2011-228, s. 1; 2012-85, s. 3; 2015-163, s. 3; 2015-241, s. 29.30(g); 2018-74, s. 15; 2024-30, s. 22(a).)

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