



## How to get your multi-combination driver licence

A multi-combination (MC) licence is required to drive any B-double or road train.

## Compulsory requirements for MC licence

There are some compulsory requirements that must be met before obtaining an MC licence.

You must have held a heavy rigid (HR) or heavy combination (HC) licence for a period totalling at least one year. You also need to undertake a compulsory training and assessment course. The course must be approved by the RTA and conducted by training providers accredited by the RTA.

## Training details

Applicants are required to pay for the MC training and assessment course. The cost and course length may vary between providers.

The length of training also depends on the licence you already hold. If upgrading from an HC licence you will normally undertake a two-day course.

If upgrading from an HR licence, your period of training will be longer because you must be assessed to HC standard before beginning MC training.

If you need any further information about MC or other licence requirements, go to any RTA motor registry, call 13 22 13 or visit [www.rta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au)

## Heavy vehicle licence conditions

If you pass a driving test or undertake HVCBA or multi-combination training assessment in a heavy vehicle fitted with an automatic or synchromesh gearbox, a condition will be added to your licence which will only allow you to drive heavy vehicles with a similar transmission. To have the condition removed you need to pass another RTA test in a vehicle fitted with a constant mesh gearbox.

## Applying for an MC licence

To apply for an MC licence, go to an RTA motor registry and:

- Provide a current photo licence or other proof of identity that meets RTA requirements.
- Complete a licence application form.
- Provide a completed medical report.
- Show that you meet MC licence compulsory requirements.
- Pass a MC licence knowledge test.
- Pass an eyesight test.

After this, your licence application form will be returned to you. Then:

- Make sure your form has been stamped with a registry stamp, and reads 'approved to attend multi-combination driver training and assessment course'.
- Take this form to an accredited training and assessment course provider.\*
- Complete a compulsory MC driver training and assessment course, and obtain a certificate of competency.

Then go to an RTA motor registry and:

- Present your licence application form together with the certificate of competency.
- Provide a current photo licence or other proof of identity which meets RTA requirements.
- Complete the licence process.

\* An up-to-date list of RTA accredited MC training providers and their contact details can be obtained from any RTA motor registry, call 13 22 13, or visit the RTA website.



## Getting your heavy vehicle driver licence



### Roads and Traffic Authority

The information in this brochure is intended as a guide only and is subject to change at any time without notice. It does not replace the relevant legislation.

For further enquiries:  
[www.rta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au) | 13 22 13

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# How to get your light rigid, medium rigid, heavy rigid or heavy combination driver licence

Heavy Vehicle Competency Based Assessment (HVCBA) with an accredited assessor is the primary method for obtaining a heavy vehicle licence in NSW.

HVCBA has been designed to allow for greater flexibility to best suit industry needs. Applicants that undertake HVCBA have the ability to select their own assessor, learn and be assessed in a vehicle of their choice and arrange their own appointment times.

In areas outside of the Sydney, Newcastle and Illawarra regions, applicants are also offered the option of undertaking an RTA heavy vehicle driving test at a motor registry.

Both the HVCBA and RTA heavy vehicle driving test are conducted in loaded vehicles.

## HVCBA

### What do I need to do to get my licence under HVCBA?

You need to go to an RTA motor registry and:

- Complete a licence application form.
- Provide a current NSW photo licence.
- Pay the driver knowledge test fee.

- Pass a knowledge test for the class of licence you wish to obtain.

- Pass an eyesight test.

### How does HVCBA work?

If you choose to obtain your licence under HVCBA, you will have to pay the appropriate fee and you will be given two books, *'A Guide to Heavy Vehicle Competency Based Assessment'* and *'Heavy Vehicle Competency Based Assessment Learner Log Book'*

The guide outlines the requirements to pass the assessments as well as the tasks you need to perform to complete each competency. The log book is the official record of your progress. Remember you must keep your log book up-to-date.

You are assessed under a wide range of driving conditions by an RTA accredited assessor. When you have demonstrated that you can perform certain skills (competencies), these will be progressively recorded in your log book. Once all competencies are successfully completed and reported to the RTA by the assessor you can go to any RTA motor registry, pay the appropriate fee and upgrade your licence.

### Assessors

Under HVCBA you can learn to drive with a licensed driving instructor or with an appropriate NSW licence holder. However you can only be assessed by an accredited assessor. All assessors are licensed driving instructors so they can provide both training and assessment.

You can change driving instructors and assessors at any time.

## RTA heavy vehicle driving test

### What do I need to do to undertake the driving test?

You will need to:

- Complete a licence application form.

- Provide a current NSW photo licence or satisfactory proof of identity.

- Pay the driver knowledge test fee.

- Pass a knowledge test for the class of licence you wish to obtain.

- Pass an eyesight test.

- Book in for the test at an RTA motor registry, by phoning the RTA on 13 22 13, or online at [www.myRTA.com](http://www.myRTA.com)

- Pay the driving test fee.

When you undertake the test, an RTA testing officer will assess your driving skills around a specified test course.

Once you have passed the driving test you should pay the appropriate fee to upgrade your licence.

### What does a testing officer look for during the test?

The testing officer assesses most performance checks at specific locations on a test route. Some checks, such as the ability to use the vehicle controls, are assessed continuously during the test.

Some other examples of checks which will be made during the test include:

- Braking to a line.
- Maintaining safe buffer zones.
- Selecting when to merge or enter a stream of traffic.
- Using mirrors and observing.
- Selecting appropriate speed and vehicle position when turning.
- Co-ordinating gears, clutch, accelerator and other major controls.
- Correct signalling.

As part of the test you must describe to the assessor the process for coupling and uncoupling heavy combination (HC) and pre-departure check (MR - HC).

### Manoeuvres

The following chart shows which manoeuvres are conducted and tested for the various licence classes and types.

	LR truck	LR bus	MR truck	MR bus	HR truck	HR bus	HC
Long reverse	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bus stop skills	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Reverse park	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
U-turn (3-point turn)	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Kerbside stop	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pre-departure check	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Coupling or uncoupling	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes

### Passing the test

For each performance check made the testing officer will mark the test sheet 'Yes' if you have shown you are competent or 'No' if you have not. A 'Fail item' will be recorded for major breaches of the road rules such as speeding, not stopping at a 'Stop' sign or repeatedly not signalling. To pass the test you need to be competent in 95 per cent of the checks and get no fail items.

### Special test tips

- Activate hazard warning lights before starting to reverse.
- Where practical, signal at least 60 metres before a turn, changing lanes, etc.

## Requirements for HVCBA and RTA heavy vehicle driving test

### Vehicle requirements

The vehicle that you use must be the right type for the class of licence for which you are applying. If you are applying for a heavy rigid (HR) or heavy combination (HC) licence, there are additional minimum standards for vehicles which can be used. For more information see the *'Heavy Vehicle Driver Handbook'* or visit the RTA website.

### Load requirement

All heavy vehicles (except buses) must be loaded to at least 75 per cent of the maximum mass allowable for the vehicle to be driven on public roads. This is at least 75 per cent of either the 'legal mass limit', Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) for rigid vehicles or Gross Combination Mass (GCM) for articulated or heavy trailer combinations, whichever is the lowest.

There must be a lap-sash retractable seat belt fitted to the front passenger seat of the vehicle for the testing officer (MR and HR buses excepted).

The following vehicles must not be used for a driving test:

- Armoured security vehicles.
- Vehicles carrying dangerous goods.
- Federal interstate registered vehicles.
- Vehicles carrying livestock.
- Buses carrying passengers.
- Vehicles with trader's plates.

### Can I use my own vehicle?

You can learn and be assessed or tested in your own vehicle, as long as it is registered and roadworthy and meets the vehicle and load requirements.