

Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT) - FAQs

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1 - About Mandatory Entry-Level Training (MELT)

Where can I take the B.C. Class 1 MELT course?

- Driver training schools approved to deliver B.C.'s Class 1 MELT course will be listed on dtcbc.com in mid-June 2021.

Who will deliver the B.C. Class 1 MELT course?

- Driver training schools and instructors authorized by ICBC will deliver B.C.'s Class 1 MELT course

How long is the B.C. Class 1 MELT course?

- The course is 140 hours, and includes air brake training as well as six hours of mandatory flexible practical training. Detailed course curriculum information is available on dtcbc.com.
- Students should complete the training in accordance with the schedules set by ICBC-approved driver training schools or institutes that offer the course.
- Students are required to complete the B.C. Class 1 MELT course within 12 months from the date of enrolment, but it is expected students will complete the course in a much shorter timeframe.

What training will be part of the B.C. Class 1 MELT course?

- B.C.'s Class 1 MELT course includes practical in-yard training, on-highway driving and theoretical learning components.
- There is a focus on National Safety Code compliance for commercial vehicle safety, hours of service requirements, load securement, and other fundamentals like air brakes and professional on-highway driving skills.
- The B.C. Class 1 MELT course emphasizes safe operating practices for B.C.'s mountainous geography and diverse climate conditions, and highlights the unique driving conditions that can occur in other jurisdictions.

How much will the B.C. Class 1 MELT course cost?

- The driver training school industry will set their own competitive price for the cost of training, which will vary from school to school, allowing choice for consumers..

1 - About Mandatory Entry-Level Training (MELT) - cont.

Will there be any provincial funding available for drivers to take this program?

- A number of government programs exist to assist with the training costs, and to support new Class 1 drivers entering the trucking industry moving forward. These include:
 - Community Workforce Response Grant
 - Skill Enhancement Training Grant
 - Indigenous Skills Training Development Fund, and
 - B.C. Employer Training Grant
- To determine eligibility and how to access funding, Class 1 applicants may go to gov.bc.ca/vehiclesafety/training-grant

Which provincial body will be responsible for managing B.C.'s MELT course?

- ICBC is the regulator of B.C.'s driver training industry, which includes the province's driver training schools, driver training instructors and instructor training facilities. ICBC will manage oversight and delivery of B.C.'s Class 1 MELT program and course requirements.

What is the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's role?

- The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure led consultations and overall legislative and regulatory development of the program, with support from ICBC and the Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General.

Did driver training schools have any input into the curriculum?

- Yes. To support development of the curriculum, ICBC and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure partnered with the driver training and truck transport industries to ensure their expertise and insights contributed to the B.C. Class 1 MELT program.

How will MELT improve safety and reduce crashes?

- B.C.'s Class 1 MELT program will help ensure new commercial drivers are trained to a higher standard. Drivers will develop improved basic driving skills and entry-level industry skills, all of which support road safety and driver compliance with the National Safety Code.
- While mandatory training is likely to make roads safer, it will take time to see results from this program.

Will mandatory training for other commercial driver's licence classes be introduced?

- At this time, B.C. is only introducing mandatory training for Class 1 drivers who are authorized to operate all commercial vehicle types and passenger vehicles.

2 – Class 1 Driver's Licence Applicants and MELT

Who will be required to complete the B.C. Class 1 MELT course?

- As of October 18, 2021, a driver applying for a new Class 1 driver's licence must successfully complete the B.C. Class 1 MELT course before attempting a Class 1 road test.

Who is eligible to enrol in a B.C. Class 1 MELT course?

- To enrol, a person must be 19 years of age and hold a B.C. Class 1 learner driver's licence.
- Applicants must meet all commercial driver record pre-screening requirements if applicable, qualify on required knowledge testing, and be able to meet driver medical fitness and vision standards.

I am in the process of completing a B.C. Class 1 training course. How will this change affect me?

- The government is making this announcement well in advance of October 18, 2021, so those who are enrolled in other Class 1 driver training courses can complete their training and still have a reasonable amount of time to take an ICBC Class 1 road test and finish the process.
- If you are enrolled in a Class 1 driver training course now, or choose to enrol in an upcoming Class 1 driver training course that is not an approved B.C. Class 1 MELT course, you will not be provided credit toward the Class 1 MELT course.

I held a valid B.C. Class 1 learner driver's licence on March 31, 2021. Do I need to take B.C.'s Class 1 MELT course?

- If you held a valid B.C. Class 1 learner driver's licence on March 31, 2021, and have attempted at least one Class 1 road test between that date and before October 18, 2021, you will be eligible to take up to two more Class 1 road tests between October 18, 2021 and January 18, 2022 without having to take MELT.
- If you are unable to qualify on the Class 1 road test during this transition period and maximum number of attempts, you will be required to complete B.C.'s Class 1 MELT course before proceeding further.

What if I held a valid B.C. Class 1 learner driver's licence on March 31, 2021, but it expires before October 18, 2021? Do I need to take B.C.'s Class 1 MELT course?

- If you held a valid B.C. Class 1 learner driver's licence on March 31, 2021, but it expires before October 18, 2021, you may re-qualify for a Class 1 learner driver's licence before October 18, 2021, and providing you have completed at least one Class 1 road test between March 31, 2021 and before October 18, 2021, you will still be eligible to take up to two more Class 1 road tests between October 18, 2021 and January 18, 2022 without having to take MELT.
- If you are unable to qualify on the Class 1 road test during this transition period and maximum number of attempts, you will be required to complete B.C.'s Class 1 MELT course before proceeding further.

2 – Class 1 Driver’s Licence Applicants and MELT - cont.

I did not hold a B.C. Class 1 learner driver’s licence on March 31, 2021, but got one after this date. Do I need take B.C.’s Class 1 MELT course?

- If you pass the Class 1 road test before October 18, 2021, you do not need to complete MELT.
- If you are unable to pass the Class 1 road test before October 18, 2021, you will be required to complete B.C.’s Class 1 MELT course before taking further Class 1 road tests on or after October 18, 2021.

I passed a Class 1 knowledge test before March 31, 2021, but was not issued a Class 1 learner driver’s licence at the time because I was unable to pass the vision test or meet driver medical fitness requirements. Am I entitled to be exempt from B.C.’s Class 1 MELT course?

- No. While you may have made an application and completed some of the licensing requirements, you must meet both skills and qualifications as well as the Superintendent of Motor Vehicle’s driver fitness requirements before your application is considered complete and ICBC is permitted to issue a licence under the Motor Vehicle Act.

Will ICBC be adding more Class 1 road test appointments so I can get an appointment before the effective date of October 18, 2021?

- ICBC will not be increasing the number of Class 1 road test appointments available.
- Government has made the announcement of this new program requirement well in advance of October 18, 2021 to allow individuals currently enrolled in a training program to have a reasonable amount of time to book and complete a Class 1 road test before the changes take effect.

I understand this requirement will not take effect until October 18, 2021, but can I enrol in a B.C. Class 1 MELT course sooner?

- Yes. ICBC is working with driver training schools and instructors to ensure that schools can begin to teach the Class 1 MELT course prior to October 18, 2021.
- More information on when the public may begin to enrol in a B.C. Class 1 MELT course will be available on dtcbc.com in late Spring 2021.

I just got my Class 1 learner driver’s licence. Will I be able to get a road test before the Class 1 MELT course is required on October 18, 2021?

- There is no guarantee that those who got their Class 1 learner driver’s licence after March 31, 2021, will receive a Class 1 road test appointment before October 18, 2021.
- If you are applying for a Class 1 learner driver’s licence now, or are unable to obtain a Class 1 road test appointment before this date, you may wish to consider completing the Class 1 MELT course before it becomes a requirement on October 18, 2021.

2 – Class 1 Driver's Licence Applicants and MELT - cont.

I hold a valid B.C. Class 1 driver's licence. Do I need to take B.C.'s Class 1 MELT course once the requirement takes effect on October 18, 2021?

- No. Those with an existing B.C. Class 1 driver's licence as of October 18, 2021 will not have to take the B.C. Class 1 MELT course, regardless of the amount of time they may have held the B.C. Class 1 driver's licence leading up to this date.

I have held a Class 1 B.C. driver's licence, but it is expired. Do I have to take B.C.'s Class 1 MELT course once the requirement is in effect?

- It depends. Individuals who are eligible to renew their expired B.C. Class 1 driver's licence will not be required to complete B.C.'s Class 1 MELT course, as long as their B.C. Class 1 driver's licence has not been expired for more than three years.

I would like to apply for a Class 1 driver's licence but I'm not sure I can meet the driver fitness requirements and this is a big commitment. Can I confirm my medical fitness before I enrol in a MELT course?

- Applicants must declare any known or suspected medical conditions prior to applying for a Class 1 driver's licence. You may be issued a Driver's Medical Examination Report (DMER) at this stage of the application process depending on your declaration.
- However, a person will generally be issued a DMER, to be completed by a physician, once they have qualified on the Class 1 road test.
- We understand that some drivers will want to ensure they can meet the driver fitness requirements defined by the National Safety Code prior to enrolling in the B.C. Class 1 MELT course.
- If you have concerns over your fitness and ability to hold a Class 1 driver's licence, you may request to be issued a Class 1 DMER at an ICBC driver licensing office before you have enrolled in the MELT course.
- It will be important to complete the form within the required timeframe and ensure it is returned to the Office of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles at RoadSafetyBC to avoid negative impacts to your current class of driver's licence.
- Please keep in mind that if you request a Class 1 DMER from an ICBC driver licensing office and then change your mind about making a Class 1 driver's licence application, you will need to contact Road SafetyBC to have the DMER cancelled to avoid negative impacts to your current class of driver's licence.

Will there be any exemptions for drivers who want to enter a specific sector of the trucking industry?

- No. As in other Canadian provinces with a Class 1 MELT requirement, B.C. will not provide sector specific exemptions for drivers who require a Class 1 driver's licence to operate within an industry.
- This aligns with feedback from the B.C. trucking industry and driver training industry that basic entry-level training is necessary to operate heavy vehicles that require a Class 1 driver's licence for road safety reasons, regardless of what industry a driver is operating in, where they may be operating, or how frequently they are operating.

2 – Class 1 Driver's Licence Applicants and MELT - cont.

Will ICBC be making any changes to the Class 1 knowledge test?

- ICBC will not be making any changes to the Class 1 or air brake knowledge tests at this time. Additional information on changes to Class 1 knowledge test and air brake knowledge tests will be provided closer to October 18, 2021.

Will ICBC be making any changes to the Class 1 road test?

- No. The length of the Class 1 road test and how the test is marked will remain the same.
- The road test will continue to consist of a vehicle and air brake pre-trip, as well as a practical on-road test.
- Applicants must use a vehicle for the road test that is a tandem or tridem rear axle semi-truck or tractor towing a loaded tandem or tridem rear axle trailer. Both the tractor and trailer must have air brakes.
- If an applicant is using a fifth wheel trailer, the overall trailer length must be at least 12.19 m (40 feet). If the applicant is using a pintle hitch trailer, it must have an overall length of at least 7.5 m (24.6 feet). The tractor and trailer combination, including load, must weigh at least 28,000 kgs GVW.

Will there be any changes to the air brake training requirements for Class 1 driver's licence applicants during the transition phase to MELT?

- Currently, all applicants for an air brake endorsement take a 16 hour air brake course at a driver training school and are issued an air brake course card before taking an ICBC air brake knowledge test. This includes those applying for a Class 1 driver's licence with an air brake endorsement.
- While the B.C. Class 1 MELT course contains all air brake training that a Class 1 driver's licence applicant must complete before taking the ICBC air brake knowledge test, there is no requirement to take this course prior to October 18, 2021.
- However, if you choose to enrol in a Class 1 MELT course prior to October 18, 2021, you may complete the 9 hour air brake theory component of the Class 1 MELT course instead of the 16 hour air brake course to be eligible to take the ICBC air brake knowledge test.
- In either case, you will be issued an air brake course card so that you may attempt the air brake knowledge test up to a maximum of 3 attempts. If unsuccessful, you will have to repeat the 9 hour MELT air brake theory course component (or the 16 hour course) and be issued a new course card. The course card will note which air brake theory course you completed.

2 – Class 1 Driver's Licence Applicants and MELT - cont.

I am not interested in applying for a Class 1 driver's licence, but I would like to apply for an air brake endorsement on my Class 2, 3, 4, or 5/7 driver's licence. What are my air brake training options?

- All applicants for an air brake endorsement may continue to complete the 16 hour air brake course at a driver training school and be issued an air brake course card before taking an ICBC air brake knowledge test. You will be issued an air brake course card limited to 3 attempts on the knowledge test.
- However, during the transition phase to B.C.'s Class 1 MELT course, you may complete the 9 hour MELT air brake theory course component instead of the 16 hour course. The 9 hour MELT air brake theory course component is recognized as equivalent to the 16 hour course. You will be issued an air brake course card limited to 3 attempts on the knowledge test. If unsuccessful, you will have to repeat the 9 hour MELT air brake theory course component (or the 16 hour course) and be issued a new course card. The course card will note which air brake theory course you completed.
- It is important to note that if you choose to enrol in the 9 hour MELT air brake theory course component, you are not eligible to complete the 4 hour practical air brake certification with a driver training school. You will be required to complete an air brake pre-trip with ICBC.
- Therefore, if you intend to follow the air brake certification pathway, you must enrol in the current 16 hour air brake course and complete the 4 hour practical course and assessment with an approved driver training school.

I have completed a professional-level Canadian Class 1 driver training course that included all of B.C.'s Class 1 MELT curriculum requirements. Do I need to complete B.C.'s Class 1 MELT course?

- Similar to other Canadian provinces with a Class 1 MELT course, B.C.'s Class 1 MELT course is aimed at entry-level training for new Class 1 drivers.
- It is recognized that some new Class 1 drivers may wish to complete a more comprehensive professional-level training course.
- If the province you completed the professional-level Class 1 driver training course in recognizes the training course as meeting or exceeding its Class 1 MELT course, and the course meets or exceeds B.C.'s requirement, then you will not be required to complete the B.C. Class 1 MELT course.

Is there going to be a requirement for manual or automatic transmissions during the B.C. Class 1 MELT course and for the ICBC road test?

- At the discretion of the student, up to 10 hours of practical on-road training in the Class 1 MELT course may take place in a vehicle with an automatic or automated transmission. However, the remainder of the training must take place in a vehicle with a manual transmission. Manual transmission vehicles must have a minimum 13-speed transmission.
- You may choose to attempt the ICBC Class 1 road test using a minimum manual 13-speed transmission or automatic/automated transmission vehicle. If you qualify on the ICBC Class 1 road test with an automatic or automated transmission vehicle, you will be issued a driver's licence restricted to Class 1 commercial vehicles with an automatic transmission.

3 – Alignment across Canada

Is B.C. adapting another jurisdiction's existing training program?

- B.C.'s Class 1 MELT course and program requirements align with the Class 1 MELT programs of other Canadian provinces, while being tailored to B.C.'s challenging topography and changing regional climates.

Didn't the federal government already announce an entry-level training standard for commercial drivers?

- In February 2020, the federal government, along with the provinces and territories, introduced a Class 1 national entry-level training standard as part of the National Safety Code (NSC Standard 16).
- NSC Standard 16 is only a recommended curriculum framework that provinces and territories are encouraged to refer to when developing their own Class 1 MELT courses.
- B.C.'s Class 1 MELT course will not only meet, but exceed the minimum national standard.

I hold a Canadian commercial driver's licence other than a Class 1 and want to apply for a B.C. Class 1 driver's licence. Do I have to take the entire B.C. Class 1 MELT course?

- Yes. It is important that new Canadian Class 1 drivers are trained with the same basic foundational skills.
- While you may be familiar with some of the topics covered in B.C.'s Class 1 MELT course, the course is intended for those who are new to the unique operating characteristics of a semi-tractor trailer vehicle with air brakes.
- The B.C. Class 1 MELT course integrates theory and practical learning outcomes that are not intended to be taught in isolation of each other.

I completed a Class 1 MELT course in another province and was issued a Class 1 driver's licence. Do I have to complete B.C.'s Class 1 MELT course?

- B.C. will recognize the full Class 1 MELT courses from Alberta*, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Ontario* to support driver licensing reciprocity among Canadian jurisdictions and limit financial and employment barriers for citizens who move to B.C.
- If you can demonstrate you already completed a Class 1 MELT course in another Canadian province, you will not be required to complete the B.C. Class 1 MELT course, with some exceptions:
 - Ontario: While B.C. will recognize you completed an Ontario Class A MELT course, you will be required to complete a mandatory B.C. air brake course and pass an air brake pre-trip test before being issued a B.C. Class 1 driver's licence on or after October 18, 2021.
 - Alberta: Class 1 drivers who completed Alberta's Class 1 MELT course of 121.5 hours will not have to complete B.C.'s Class 1 MELT course on or after October 18, 2021. However, if you completed Alberta's Class 1 "experience and equivalency" course, you will be required to complete B.C.'s full Class 1 MELT course. In either case, Alberta Class 1 drivers applying for a B.C. Class 1 driver's licence must provide their Alberta Notice of Course Completion form or other verification document from Alberta's Ministry of Transportation to confirm which Alberta Class 1 MELT course was completed.

3 – Alignment across Canada - cont.

I completed an Ontario Class A MELT course. Why do I have to take additional training in B.C. for air brakes?

- The air brake system on a tractor-trailer vehicle is a foundational component of the vehicle configuration and lack of knowledge on how this system works and how to check for proper brake adjustment poses a significant road safety risk for all road users.
- While some drivers may have taken air brake training in Ontario, it is not mandatory for Class A drivers as part of the Ontario MELT course or as a stand-alone course.
- Under the National Safety Code, the entry-level training standard for Class 1 drivers requires air brake training as part of any Canadian jurisdiction's mandatory training of Class 1 drivers because of the safety risk of inadequately maintained brakes, especially in mountainous regions of a province.
- B.C.'s Class 1 MELT course contains a comprehensive air brake portion in alignment with the national entry-level training standard and based on recommendations from industry consultations.

I have not completed a Class 1 MELT course in another province, but I hold or have held a Canadian Class 1 driver's licence. If I am applying for a B.C. Class 1 driver's licence, do I have to complete B.C.'s Class 1 MELT course?

- It depends on the amount of time you have held your Canadian Class 1 driver's licence:
 - If you hold or have held a valid Canadian Class 1 driver's licence for at least 24 consecutive months that has been valid in the 3 years prior to applying for a B.C. Class 1 driver's licence, you will not be required to complete B.C.'s Class 1 MELT course.
 - If you hold or have held a valid Canadian Class 1 driver's licence for between 12 and up to 24 consecutive months (less a day) that has been valid in the 3 years prior to applying for a B.C. Class 1 driver's licence, you will not be required to complete the B.C. Class 1 MELT course providing you can qualify on a B.C. Class 1 road test within 12 months of the application and within 2 attempts.
 - If you have held a Class 1 driver's licence from another Canadian jurisdiction for less than 12 months, or hold or have held a Class 1 driver's licence from outside of Canada for any amount of time, you will be required to complete B.C.'s Class 1 MELT.

I have a valid Department of National Defence (DND) driver's licence that ICBC considers similar to a B.C. Class 1 driver's licence (e.g., B5, C40, or E14). Do I need to take the B.C. Class 1 MELT course to exchange my DND licence for a B.C. Class 1 driver's licence?

- It depends on the amount of time you have held your valid DND driver's licence. You will have to meet the same requirements as Class 1 drivers from other Canadian jurisdictions based on the amount of time you have held your DND driver's licence, as outlined in the answer above.

3 – Alignment across Canada - cont.

Will those who completed mandatory commercial driver training in another country receive any credit or be exempt from B.C.'s Class 1 MELT course?

- No. Consistent with most other Canadian provinces with a Class 1 MELT course, B.C. will not provide advanced standing or credit toward completion of training done in another country.
- The quality and content of training programs from jurisdictions outside of Canada cannot be verified to ensure that each one meets the same standards required under the entry-level training framework in the Canadian National Safety Code, or in B.C.'s Class 1 MELT course.

For more information on MELT please visit <https://dtcbc.com/driving-schools/melt/default.asp>