



Department of
the Secretary of State

Bureau of Motor Vehicles

Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State

Catherine Curtis
Deputy Secretary of State

Christopher J. Ireland
Director of Driver License Services

Subject: Maine's Move to CDL Modernized Testing

Hello CLP/CDL Applicants,

Modernized CDL Skills Exam Standard

The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) released a new version of the CDL Skills Exam that was approved by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) on August 11, 2022. The new standard included changes to the Vehicle Inspection (VI) and Basic Control Skills (BCS) portions of the exam. The public Road Test (RT) segment remained the same. The modernized test improves test administration effectiveness and efficiency by reducing the length of the Vehicle Inspection (VI) and allowing a smaller footprint for the Basic Control Skills (BCS) test pads.

Transition

Maine will be working towards the new modernized standard incrementally starting on November 1st, 2026. At that time Maine will transition to using the new Vehicle Inspection or VI modeling outlined in the newest Maine CDL Manual. Applicants scheduled for a full CDL Skills Exam on or after November 1st, 2026, will test on the new VI standard. What will not change currently within the full CDL skills exam will be the basic control skills and testing standards. Maine will continue to test basic control skills and using the skills outlined in this addendum. Maine will transition fully to all the new modernized standards on **September 1st, 2027**.

Changes to the Vehicle Inspection

- There are fewer items that need to be inspected with a focus on critical safety items
- A checklist is available for applicants to use during the Vehicle Inspection to reflect what drivers typically experience on the job
- The Vehicle Inspection section of the Driver's Manual now includes a description of the components that need to be inspected, information about why inspecting the item is important, and what the applicant must point out during the inspection

Basic Control Skills

- **Maine will continue to conduct Basic Control Skills testing with the 4 maneuvers outlined in the addendum until September 1st, 2027. After that date this addendum becomes void, and Maine will move to the 4 skills outlined in the newest CDL manual.**

What is not changing?

- There is no change to the Entry Level Driver Training (ELDT) requirements under 49 CFR Parts 380 Appendices A-E for the topics, content and maneuvers need to be included in Training Provider Theory and Behind-the-Wheel Range curriculums
- The time allotted for each of the three segments of the exam is 30 minutes for a total of 90 minutes for a full CDL Skills Exam
- The public Road Test portion of the exam remains the same

Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Manual

Applicants should use the newest Maine CDL Manual to prepare for the CDL Skills Test and the new Vehicle Inspection portion listed in Section 11. The new (VI) portion goes into effect November 1, 2026. Basic Vehicle Control Skills will remain the same until September 1, 2027; please refer to the addendum for skills and course layouts. Training providers should incorporate any changes into their training curricula. The new version of the manual includes copies of the Vehicle Inspection checklists and the course specifications.

Sincerely,

Aaron Hayden

Chief Driver License Examiner