

VEHICLE EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

POLICY

It is the applicant's responsibility to provide a suitable vehicle for the drive test. An examiner will not knowingly take a person on a drive test in a vehicle without having reasonable assurance that the vehicle can be operated legally and safely. Any vehicle used on a drive test must be safe and legal, regardless of the vehicle's classification. If you are unsure if the vehicle is safe, talk to your Customer Service Manager.

Class C Vehicles

The vehicle must have the following operational equipment items to proceed with the drive test:

- Two red brake lights, one on each side of the vehicle.
- Adequate fenders on all wheels.
- Horn. Audible for 200 feet. It must be located so the driver can sound the horn safely while driving; *i.e.*, the driver doesn't have to touch two wires together or reach under the dash.
- Muffler with no excessive exhaust leaks or unreasonable noise.
- Foot brake (or hand brake as applicable for drivers with a disability).
- Rearview or side view mirror. The driver must have a clear view 200 feet to the rear of the vehicle.
- Headlights (headlights must be on during drive test).
- Operable inside and outside door handle on passenger's door. Door must open from the inside and the outside.
- Operable Speedometer.
- Oversized Class C vehicles must have hand and footholds that allow 3-point contact when entering or leaving the vehicle.
- Proper passenger seat beside the driver. It must be reasonably clean and have a seat back. If the seat is so dirty the examiner's clothing will become soiled from sitting on it, postpone the test until the car is clean. The seat must be securely affixed to the car body; the seat back should be in an upright position and not loose.
- Operable seat belts for the applicant and the examiner.

If the applicant has a seat belt exemption issued by ODOT, he/she is exempt from the seat belt law for medical reasons and is not required to wear the seat belt during the drive test; however, the examiner is required to wear a seat belt. Exemption from use of a Safety Restraint System, form 735-6653A is available online at www.odot.or.us/transafety or from the ODOT storeroom.

- Electrical turn signals that meet the requirements of [ORS 816.120](#):
 - a) Front turn signals lights may be white or amber
 - b) Rear turn signal lights may be red, amber or yellowThe applicant cannot use hand signals during the drive test.
- The vehicle must be capable of being started under its own power, e.g., with the starter. This is a safety issue when inexperienced applicants stall the vehicle at a busy intersection. Postpone the drive test if a vehicle is in an obviously unsafe mechanical condition.
- The vehicle must be equipped with tires that are not so bald or damaged as to constitute a hazard, e.g.: the tire has obvious breaks or bulges in the tread or sidewall; the tire is so bald that fabric material or metal is showing through the tread at any location; the tire is bald the entire

width of the tire (a tire that is only worn on the inside or outside of the tread because of improper alignment or balance may be acceptable); or the tire is severely under inflated.

The vehicle must also have the following operational equipment items if the weather conditions warrant their use or when other visibility restrictions are present:

- Windshield wipers in working order.
- Taillights in working order. Truck and trailer clearance/marker lights must also be operational.
- Studded tires or traction devices.
- Defroster in working order.
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In addition to the above equipment items, vehicles used on drive tests must meet the following requirements:

- DMV requires applicants to submit vehicle insurance information before conducting a drive test.
- No animals, including pets, may ride along during the drive test. A service animal for the person taking the drive test is allowed.
- Drive tests are conducted with the applicant and examiner only. This means no children, parents, friends, or interpreters may ride along during the drive test. The only exceptions are when a supervised drive test is being conducted or when a DMV employee is riding along to observe drive test procedures.
- No open containers (alcohol), drugs or drug paraphernalia, or weapons are allowed on the drive test.
- The vehicle cannot have obstructions (signs, posters, adhesive film, glaze applications, extensive window/windshield cracks, etc.) which unduly impair the vision of the driver or examiner to the front, side or rear of the vehicle.
- The vehicle cannot have distractions which may interfere with the safety and integrity of the drive test. Radios, tapes, CB radios, radar detectors, cell phones and GPS Navigation Systems should be turned off. Loose objects (papers, etc.) on the dash, rear-view mirror or back window ledge should be removed.
- Vehicles to be used in drive tests must display both front and rear valid license plates (need not be attached to the vehicle but must be visible from the front and rear,) temporary registration, trip permit, or a dealer plate. If plates are on the dashboard, they must be secure.

Some states only issue one plate per vehicle. If the applicant claims that only one plate was issued, accept the applicant's word.

Some states permit a grace period during which plates are valid after expiration. If an applicant claims the expired out-of-state plates are still valid, accept the applicant's word.

If the drive examiner determines the vehicle is not registered or does not display an equivalent registration alternative, postpone the drive test.

Do not conduct a drive test in a vehicle that does not meet these equipment or safety requirements. This is an "equipment failure."