

Example of vehicle classes

(Source: FHWA Figure 21 bVehicle identification guide)

LAW ENFORCEMENT VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

CLASS 1 - LIGHT-DUTY

(5,000 lbs. or less GVWR - 4 tires)*



CLASS 2 - LIGHT-DUTY

(5,001 - 10,000 lbs. GVWR - 4 tires)*



Class 1 through 2 include passenger cars, light trucks and mini vans, full size pickups, sport utility vehicles, full size vans

CLASS 1 AND 2 - LIGHT-DUTY TOW

Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (5,000 to 10,000 lbs.)

Passenger cars, small SUVs and pickup trucks

- ☐ Year, make and model?
- ☐ Number of occupants?
- ☐ Full-size pickup or van?
- ☐ Is it loaded?
- ☐ 4x4 or AWD?
- ☐ Keys?
- ☐ Trailer?
- ☐ What is the load?

VEHICLES IN THESE CLASSES USUALLY HAVE FOUR TIRES.

CLASS 3 - MEDIUM-DUTY

(10,001 - 14,000 lbs. GVWR - 6 tires or more)*



CLASS 4 - MEDIUM-DUTY

(14,001 - 16,000 lbs. GVWR - 6 tires or more)*



CLASS 5 - MEDIUM-DUTY

(16,001 - 19,500 lbs. GVWR - 6 tires or more)*



CLASS 6 - MEDIUM-DUTY

(19,501 - 26,000 lbs. GVWR - 6 tires or more)*



Class 3 through 6 include a range of mid-sized to larger vehicles including delivery trucks, utility vehicles, motor homes, package parcel trucks, ambulances, small dump trucks, landscape vehicles, small flatbed and stake-type trucks, refrigerated and box trucks, small and medium-duty buses (school and local transit buses.)

CLASS 3, 4, 5 & 6 - LIGHT- OR MEDIUM-DUTY TOW

Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (10,001 up to 26,000 lbs.)

- ☐ Year, make and model?
- ☐ Body type - pickup truck, box truck, flatbed, step van
- ☐ What is the load and is it damaged?
- ☐ Pickup, van, shuttle bus or motor home?
- ☐ Number of occupants?
- ☐ Keys?
- ☐ Vehicle description is critical to determine the proper tow vehicle

VEHICLES IN THESE CLASSES USUALLY HAVE SIX TIRES.

CLASS 7 - HEAVY-DUTY

(26,001 - 33,000 lbs. GVWR - 6 tires or more)*



CLASS 8 - HEAVY-DUTY

(33,001 lbs. and over GVWR - 10 tires or more)*



Class 7 and 8 includes a range of heavier vehicles including large delivery trucks, motor coaches, all tractor-trailer combinations, refuse trucks, construction vehicles, etc.

CLASS 7 AND 8 - HEAVY-DUTY TOW

Gross Vehicle Weight Rating

(Class 7 - 26,001 to 33,000 lbs.)

(Class 8 - 33,001 and up to state limit)

- ☐ Year, make and model?
- ☐ Bus or motor home?
- ☐ Number of occupants?
- ☐ Two or three axle truck or tractor-trailer?
- ☐ What is the load and is it damaged?
- ☐ Keys?

STRAIGHT TRUCKS, BUSES OR MOTOR HOMES IN THESE CLASSES WILL USUALLY HAVE SIX TO TEN TIRES. TRACTOR AND TRAILER COMBINATIONS WILL HAVE FOURTEEN OR MORE TIRES.

MOTORCYCLES - LIGHT-DUTY TOW

Sports motorcycle - off road/basic street type

Performance motorcycle - "racing" model type

Touring motorcycle - large, heavy road touring type

Custom or 3-wheeled motorcycle



TRAILERS - LIGHT-, MEDIUM- OR HEAVY-DUTY TOW

- ☐ Is it a truck and trailer to tow or just a trailer to tow?
- ☐ Number of axles and what is it hauling or is it designed to haul?
- ☐ Type of load or weight of load?
- ☐ If a tow, does the trailer have a ball, pin or a fifth wheel hitch?



MOTOR HOMES - LIGHT-, MEDIUM- OR HEAVY-DUTY TOW

Class C - usually built on a van or pickup type truck chassis

Class A - usually built on a medium to large truck or bus chassis

