


Example of vehicle classes


(Source: FHWA Figure 21 bVehicle identification guide)

LAW ENFORCEMENT VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

CLASS 1 - LIGHT-DUTY
(6,000 lbs. or less GVWR - 4 tires)*



CLASS 2 - LIGHT-DUTY
(6,001 - 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 (6,000 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.

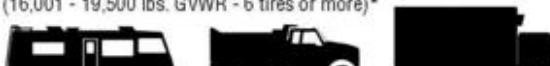
CLASS 3 - MEDIUM-DUTY
(10,001 - 14,000 lbs. GVWR - 6 tires or more)*




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?
☐ Vehicle description is critical to determine the proper tow vehicle


☐ Keys?

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-wheel 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, pintle 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

