

Attachment B – Zone Change 934
Tow Truck Classifications

Montana Code Annotated (MCA)

61-8-905. Classification standards. (1) Commercial tow trucks are divided into the following five classes based on the manufacturer's rating:

(a) Class A tow truck equipment must have a minimum manufacturer's boom or combined boom rating of 4 tons and must be mounted on a truck chassis with a minimum manufacturer's rating of 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight.

(b) Class B tow truck equipment must have a minimum manufacturer's boom or combined boom rating of 8 tons and must be mounted on a truck chassis with a minimum manufacturer's rating of 18,000 pounds gross vehicle weight.

(c) Class C tow truck equipment must have a minimum manufacturer's boom or combined boom rating of 16 tons and must be mounted on a chassis that has a minimum manufacturer's rating of 32,000 pounds gross vehicle weight.

(d) Class D tow truck equipment includes manufactured rollbacks and car carriers with manufacturer's gross vehicle ratings of 10,000 pounds and over. The rollbacks and car carriers must be mounted on a truck-trailer chassis that, at a minimum, is equal to the minimum gross weight of the rollback or car carrier. Class D also includes any piece of towing equipment without a boom.

(e) Class E includes two or more tow trucks working together with a combined manufacturer's rating of a minimum of 80,000 pounds with access to supportive equipment, such as forklifts, banders, and air bags, for the recovery of rollovers and wrecked, disabled, and abandoned vehicles whose cargo requires special handling. Class E refers to tow truck companies and not to tow truck equipment.

(2) An operator of noncommercially manufactured or modified tow truck equipment in use on October 1, 1995, that wishes to participate in the law enforcement rotation system must have its equipment classified by the department within a time period set by the department. Once the equipment is classified, further modifications may not be made.

(3) An operator of new noncommercially manufactured or modified tow truck equipment must have its equipment independently certified before participating in the law enforcement rotation system. Once the equipment is classified, further modifications to the equipment must be recertified.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 283, L. 1995; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 88, L. 2003.




Vehicle Identification Guide

Accurate communications between on-scene responders, dispatch, and towing and recovery operators describing an incident and the vehicles involved helps with the quick and efficient clearing of the incident scene.


Use the guide below to describe to dispatch the type of vehicle that is disabled and the nature of the problem to enable the wrecker company to determine what type of tow/recovery vehicle that should respond.⁴

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 minivans, 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

<input type="checkbox"/> Year, make and model?	<input type="checkbox"/> 4x4 or AWD?
<input type="checkbox"/> Number of occupants?	<input type="checkbox"/> Keys?
<input type="checkbox"/> Full size pickup or van?	<input type="checkbox"/> Trailer?
<input type="checkbox"/> Is it loaded?	<input type="checkbox"/> What is the load?

VEHICLES IN THESE CLASSES USUALLY HAVE FOUR TIRES.

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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 vehicle utility vehicles, motor homes, package parcel trucks, ambulances, landscape vehicles, small flatbed and stake-type trucks, refueling, small and medium-duty buses (school and local).

CLASS 3, 4, 5 & 6 - LIGHT- OR MEDIUM-DUTY TOW
Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (10,001 up to 26,000 lbs.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Year, make and model?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Body type - pickup truck, box truck, flatbed, etc.	
<input type="checkbox"/> What is the load and is it damaged?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pickup, van, shuttle bus or motor home?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Number of occupants?	<input type="checkbox"/> Keys?
<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle description is critical to determine the type of tow/recovery vehicle that should respond.	

VEHICLES IN THESE CLASSES USUALLY HAVE SIX TIRES.