

## AV File

California Department of Motor Vehicles  
Autonomous Vehicles Branch

# Autonomous Vehicle Tester (AVT) Program Manufacturer's Testing Permit Application Guide



The California Department of Motor Vehicles offers this guide to assist manufacturers that are applying for an autonomous vehicle testing permit.



For more information,  
visit the [Autonomous Vehicles page](#) on the DMV website  
at [dmv.ca.gov](https://dmv.ca.gov).

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# Introduction

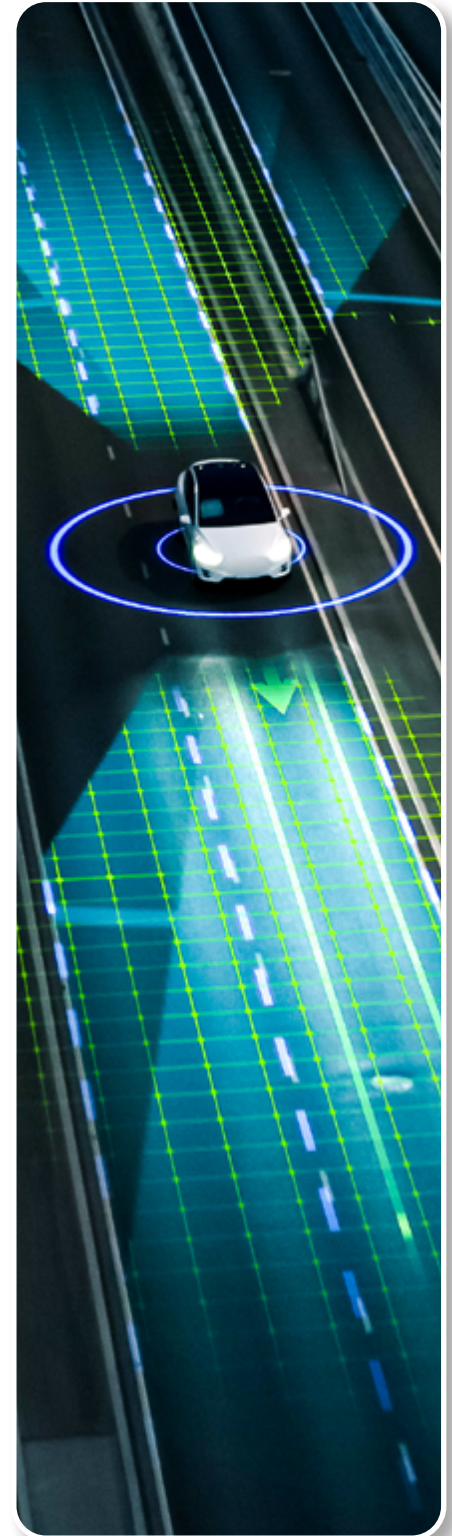
Thank you for your interest in the Autonomous Vehicle Tester (AVT) Program for testing autonomous vehicles on California public roads.

Beginning in 2026, new regulations introduce additional requirements for manufacturers. Under these rules, manufacturers approved for drivered testing on California public roads must submit a comprehensive description of a completed safety case as part of the application process and detailed monthly reports to the California Department of Motor Vehicles about braking events, vehicle miles traveled and dynamic driving task performance relevant system failures. Collision reporting to the DMV is aligned with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Standing General Order (June 2025). In addition, new regulations have removed the prohibition of heavy-duty vehicles for testing and commercial deployment.

This guide provides manufacturers with an overview of the process required when applying for an AVT permit (OL 315) using the Drivered Testing Permit Application (OL 311).

This is a resource for manufacturers, along with the California Vehicle Code Sections 38750 and 38752, the California Code of Regulations, Title 13, Division 1, Chapter 1, Articles 3.7 and the Autonomous Vehicle Industry Memorandums, published on the DMV's web page (AVIM 2026-01).

Applicants are encouraged to use the provided [Checklist](#) to ensure they meet all application requirements.



# What to Know Before Applying

## Application Fees

- \$3,600 fee for a Drivered Testing Permit Application Original or Renewal (OL 311).
  - ◇ This fee covers up to 10 vehicles and 20 autonomous vehicle test drivers.
  - ◇ Each additional set of 10 vehicles and 20 autonomous vehicle test drivers fee of \$50.
  - ◇ The Manufacturer's Testing Permit is valid for a period of 2 years. Manufacturers who choose to renew their permit can submit the completed OL 311 to the DMV and the \$3600 biennial renewal fee 60 days prior to the expiration date.
- \$70 fee to modify an existing permit.
  - ◇ This fee covers up to 10 vehicles and 20 autonomous vehicle test drivers.
  - ◇ Each additional set of 10 vehicles and 20 autonomous vehicle test drivers fee of \$50.
- Fees may be paid via an e-check, or credit card. A 2.3% fee applies to credit card payments.

**Reference: CCR Title 13, Article 3.7, §227.20; §227.28 (a)(1), §227.28(b), §227.28(c)**

## Financial Requirement

Manufacturers must provide evidence of financial responsibility totaling \$5 million. This requirement may be met by one of the following:

- An instrument of insurance.
- A surety bond.  
[Autonomous Vehicle Manufacturer Surety Bond \(OL 317\)](#)
- A certificate of self-insurance.  
[Autonomous Vehicle Tester \(AVT\) Program Application for Certificate of Self-Insurance \(OL 319\)](#)

**Reference: CCR Title 13, Article 3.7, §227.04 (c)**



## Secretary of State

Manufacturers must provide the Secretary of State with an entity number when the application is submitted.

### Employer Pull Notice Program

Prior to applying for a testing permit, a manufacturer shall enroll in the [Employer Pull Notice Program \(EPN\)](#) and register all autonomous vehicle test drivers.

**Reference: CCR Title 13, Article 3.7, §227.22; CVC 1808.1**

### Vehicle Registration Requirements

Complete your vehicle registration and ensure your vehicle registration record is up-to-date through a service channel (e.g., Online, DMV office, Industry Business Center, Registration Service) prior to applying for your AV Testing Permit.

- [California Vehicle Registration](#)

**Reference: CCR Title 13, Division 1, Chapter 1, Article 3.7, §227.16; §227.52; CVC 4150; CVC 672; CVC 5902**

### Review of Application

The DMV shall review the Drivered Testing Permit Application (OL 311) and notify the manufacturer within 10 business days of receiving the application whether all required documentation has been submitted.

The DMV shall notify the manufacturer of any deficiency in the application and allow the manufacturer a reasonable period of time in which to correct the deficiency. If the DMV determines that the application remains deficient, the department shall notify the manufacturer/applicant of the continuing deficiency. The DMV shall deny an application if the manufacturer/applicant fails to make the application sufficient after a reasonable opportunity to do so.

Following this review, if it is determined that the application is sufficient and all requirements have been met, the DMV shall approve the application and issue an Autonomous Vehicle Testing (AVT) Program Manufacturer Permit (OL 315).

**Reference: CCR Title 13, Article 3.7, §227.30(a), §227.30 (b)**



# Applying for an Original Drivered Testing Permit

Begin your application using the [Autonomous Vehicle Testing Form](#).

## Autonomous Test Vehicles Identification

The manufacturer shall include the following information to identify the autonomous vehicles to be used for testing on public roads:

- Make
- Model
- Model Year
- VIN
- License Plate Number and state of issuance
- Proof of valid out-of-state registration for each vehicle operating under manufacturer plates.
- The software version may be included by submitting a REG 256 Statement of Facts with the OL 311.



**Reference: CCR Title 13, Article 3.7, §227.16**

## Autonomous Heavy-Duty Commercial Motor Vehicles

Autonomous heavy-duty commercial motor vehicle manufacturers must also provide:

- A valid United States Department of Transportation number.
  - ◊ The applicant cannot proceed with the application if the DOT status has an Out of Service Order.
- An active Carrier Identification Number (California number) issued by the Department of the California Highway Patrol, if applicable.
- An International Registration Plan (IRP) Cab Card from the Base Jurisdiction, if the autonomous heavy-duty commercial motor vehicle is not titled in California.

**Reference: CCR Title 13, Article 3.7, §227.16(b)**

### Identifying Autonomous Vehicle Test Drivers and Qualifications

Manufacturers must identify each autonomous vehicle test driver by providing the following:

- Full legal name exactly how it appears on the Driver License
- California Driver License Number\*.
- Training Completion Date
- Employee Pull Notice (EPN) Enrollment Date

*\* If Out of State/Country Driver, provide the X-number, issued upon EPN enrollment. Additional DL proof will be required to satisfy the 3-year requirement (Photo of Out of State/Country DL or Official Driving Record).*

Manufacturer must certify on the application that all autonomous vehicle test drivers meet the following qualifications:

- Each autonomous vehicle test driver must have held a valid driver license for the three years immediately before applying to the Department.
- For the last three years driver does not have more than one violation point count determined as provided in subdivisions (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (g), or (h) of Vehicle Code section 12810.
- Driver was not the at-fault driver of a motor vehicle involved in an accident that resulted in injury or death of any person.
- For the ten years immediately preceding the application to the DMV, the test driver was not convicted for driving or operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol or any drug.
- Did not suffer any type of driver's license suspension or revocation that includes driving or operating any vehicle under the influence of alcohol, any drug.
- Each autonomous vehicle test driver operating an autonomous heavy-duty commercial motor vehicle must be enrolled in a Controlled Substance and Alcohol Testing Program that meets Title 49 CFR Part 382 and must comply with Vehicle Code section 34520.
- Each autonomous vehicle test driver operating an autonomous heavy-duty commercial motor vehicle not covered under 49 CFR 382.107 must be enrolled in a Controlled Substance and Alcohol Testing Program that is substantially similar to the federal requirements in 49 CFR Part 382.
- That each autonomous heavy-duty commercial motor vehicle test driver complies with the hours-of-service requirements in 49 CFR Part 395 and 13 CCR 1212.5 for the vehicle operated.

**Reference: CCR Title 13, Article 3.7, §227.16(a) §227.54(b)**



### Safety Case

A manufacturer submitting either an Original Drivered Testing Permit Application, Drivered Testing Permit Renewal Application must provide a comprehensive description of a safety case supported by a description of the evidence demonstrating:

- Functional safety
- Safety of the intended function
- Artificial intelligence safety
- Cybersecurity
- Operational safety

*The manufacturer's submission should be comprehensive and describe each of the core safety elements outlined in §227.02 (xx). The elements must be addressed in accordance with relevant standards and best practices. When preparing application you may consider the General Questions located in [Appendix B: Safety Case General Questions](#).*

**Reference: CCR Title 13, Article 3.7 §227.28 (d)**



### Training Program

Manufacturers are required to maintain a training program for autonomous vehicle test drivers and must provide the DMV with a detailed course outline and program description. Additionally, manufacturers must verify that each driver has completed the autonomous vehicle test driver training program and report the date of completion. Any modifications to the training program must be reported to the DMV within 10 business days.



### Approval

Upon the DMV's approval of a Drivered Testing Permit Application (OL 311), the manufacturer will receive a Drivered Testing Permit (OL 315) to conduct testing on California public roads. The manufacturer will also receive an OL 313 permit for each of its approved testing vehicles. Approved autonomous vehicle test drivers will receive a permit form OL 314. Each OL 313 and OL 314 permits **must** be kept in the vehicle at all times.

### Permit Term

The Manufacturer's Testing Permit is valid for 2 years. Manufacturers, who choose to renew their permit, can submit the completed OL 311 to the DMV and the \$3600 biennial renewal fee 60 days prior to the expiration date.

**Reference: CCR Title 13, Article 3.7, §227.36**

# Post Approval Requirements

Upon the DMV's approval of a Drivered Testing Permit Application (OL 311) and issuance of a Drivered Testing Permit (OL 315), a manufacturer must provide the following **data reporting**:

## Collision Reports

Effective April 28, 2026, collision reports are due within timeframes specified in the NHTSA Standing General Order 2021-01 (June 2025). Submit reports using the Collision Reporting Template provided by the Department.

**Reference: CCR Title 13, Article 3.7, §227.54**



## Braking Events

First report due 60 days after issuance of the Drivered Testing Permit (OL 315), effective 120 days after April 28, 2026; subsequent reports due by the thirtieth day of the month. For existing permit holders, the report is due on the 30th day of the month following the 120-day delayed operative date. If no applicable braking events occurred during the reporting period, the manufacturer shall report such to the DMV. Reports shall be submitted using the Braking Event Reporting Template. Manufacturers may submit a single report for drivered and driverless testing, which clearly identifies braking events that occurred under each permit.

**Reference: CCR Title 13, Article 3.7, §227.66**

## Vehicle Miles Traveled

Report due by the first business day on or after the fifteenth day of the month, effective 120 days after April 28, 2026. If no testing in autonomous mode occurred on public roads during the reporting period, the manufacturer shall report such to the DMV. The report shall be submitted using the Vehicle Miles Traveled Reporting Template. Manufacturers may submit a single report for drivered and driverless testing, which clearly identifies vehicle miles traveled that occurred under each permit.

**Reference: CCR Title 13, Article 3.7, §227.60**



### Dynamic Driving Task Performance Relevant System Failures

Report due by the first business day on or after the fifteenth day of the month, effective 120 days after April 28, 2026. If no dynamic driving task performance relevant system failures occurred during the reporting period, the manufacturer shall report such to the DMV. Reports shall be submitted using the Dynamic Driving Task Performance Relevant System Failure Reporting Template.

**Reference:** [CCR Title 13, Article 3.7, §227.54, §227.56](#)

### Autonomous Vehicle Noncompliance

Effective July 1, 2026, Law Enforcement Officers may issue a Notice of Autonomous Vehicle Noncompliance when an alleged violation of the California Vehicle Code or a local traffic ordinance is observed. Manufactures are required to notify the DMV within 72 hours of receiving an Autonomous Vehicle Notice of Noncompliance or within 24 hours if the Notice of Priority Noncompliance box is checked. These reports **must** be submitted electronically in .csv format via the directory using the applicable Reporting Template.

**Reference:** [CCR Title 13, Article 3.7, §227.68](#)

### Suspension, Revocation, and Restriction

The DMV may suspend, revoke, or impose an operational restriction on a Drivered Testing Permit (OL 315) for any reason listed in section 227.48 of the regulations.

**Reference:** [CCR Title 13, Article 3.7, §227.48](#)

### Credentials

The Department will issue credentials to submit reports.

**Note:** *Failure to submit data reports may lead to suspension.*



# Appendix A:

## Applying for Original Autonomous Vehicle Tester Permit OL 315 Checklist

Start the application process by accessing the [Autonomous Vehicle Testing portal](#).

### Section 1 - Autonomous Vehicle Tester Information

- 1. Enroll into the Employer Pull Notice Program (EPN), enroll all autonomous vehicle test drivers and provide the EPN on the application.
- 2. Provide a CA Secretary of State (SOS) entity number.
- 3. Manufacturers of Autonomous heavy-duty commercial motor vehicles must provide a US DOT Number and Carrier Identification Number.

### Section 2 - Vehicles Equipped for Testing

- 4. Identify all registered vehicle intended to be on the permit.
  - a. If using an IRP vehicle for out of state provide an IRP cab card for verification.
  - b. If using a M-Plate from Out of State, please provide a copy of the M-Plate documentation. For California M Plates, the manufacturer shall provide California OL registration.

### Section 3 - Autonomous Vehicle Test Drivers

- 5. Identify all autonomous vehicle test drivers intended to be on the permit.

### Section 4 - Applicant Acknowledgements

- 6. Initial all applicable acknowledgments.

### Section 5 - Attachments

- 7. Provide the autonomous vehicle test driver training program.
- 8. Provide evidence of financial responsibility totaling \$5,000,000 with either an instrument of insurance, surety bond, or certificate of self-insurance.

### Section 6 - Certification

- 9. Certify (sign and date).
- 10. Submit fee of \$3,600.

### Modifications

For changes or modification to your existing permit, submit an Drived Testing Permit Application (OL 311). Submit fee of \$70.

### Permit Term

The Manufacturer's Testing Permit (OL 315) shall be valid for a period of two years from midnight of the last day of the month of issuance.

**Reference: CCR Title 13, Article 3.7 §227.20 (a)**

# Appendix B: Safety Case General Questions

## Advisory Note

When developing your application you may consider the following questions. These questions are meant as suggestions and are not meant to be requirements for providing a completed description of a completed safety case and core safety elements. Manufacturers should rely on the adopted regulations governing autonomous vehicle testing and deployment as the definitive requirements. The questions in this document are advisory only and are not intended to replace or modify any regulatory obligations.

## General Questions

How does your safety case demonstrate that the Automated Driving System does not pose an unreasonable risk of accident, death, injury, or exacerbating injury?

What evidence supports compliance with functional safety, SOTIF, AI safety, cybersecurity, and operational safety?

For each safety claim, where is the supporting evidence and how is traceability maintained?  
(*hazard »» requirement »» design »» test »» evidence*)

If any core safety information elements are omitted, what is your justification for exclusion?

## Use Case Description

What is the intended use case, and what interactions with road users, infrastructure, and customers are expected?

What hazards have you identified as reasonably foreseeable within this use case?

Describe fleet size and scaling assumptions.

## Operational Design Domain (ODD) (Required for driverless testing and deployment)

Provide the complete ODD attributes: geography, speeds, weather, road types, lighting, VRUs, etc.

How does the Automated Driving System detect it is approaching or exiting the ODD?

How does the Automated Driving System safely transition to a minimal risk condition when an ODD exit is required?

## System Design (Non-proprietary Aspects)

How do system components interact (system-of-systems view)?

What functional requirements were derived from hazards, ODD constraints, and use case needs?

What are the key hardware and software components, and how do you ensure they meet applicable standards (e.g., ISO 26262)?

### **Vehicle Integration**

What changes were made to the base vehicle, and how did you verify these changes do not compromise FMVSS compliance?

How do hardware modifications affect crashworthiness or safety-critical systems?

### **Verification & Validation (V&V) Testing**

How are V&V requirements generated to cover both known and unknown unsafe scenarios (ISO 21448)?

Describe your testing mix (simulation, closed course, on-road) and how each contributes to safety assurance.

What constitutes a “test failure,” and how are failures addressed?

### **Safety-Relevant HMI**

How does the HMI inform passengers and other road users of vehicle intent and state?

What user testing validates the accessibility and interpretability of these HMI signals?

### **Safety Management System (SMS)**

Describe your SMS structure addressing safety policies, promotion, risk management, and assurance.

Give examples of safety incidents the SMS identified and how corrective actions were implemented.

How are feedback loops maintained across development, testing, and deployment?

### **Fleet Operations & Maintenance**

Describe your fleet monitoring process and how you detect anomalies or degraded performance.

How does the Fleet Operations account for emergency readiness and disaster preparedness.

Provide maintenance schedules and processes for keeping sensors and critical components calibrated.

How are degraded vehicles removed from service?

### **Remote Operations (RO) / Remote Assistance (RA)** (Required for driverless testing and Deployment of SAE Level 4/5 features)

Describe RA activation triggers and maximum latencies validated during testing.

What data is shared with remote assistants, and how do you ensure situational awareness?

Describe the training, certification, and fatigue-risk management program for remote operators.

### **Incident Response & Post-Incident Analysis**

What are your incident response procedures for collisions, MRCs, Natural Disasters, or system failures

How do you conduct root-cause analysis and implement corrective actions?

### **Post-Collision Vehicle Response, Data Collection, & Analysis**

How does the Automated Driving System detect a collision and transition to minimal risk condition?

Describe your data storage system for sensor data (30 seconds prior to collision requirement).

How is collision data analyzed and used for continuous improvement?

### **First Responder Safety Interactions**

Provide the First Responder Interaction Plan and describe training provided to agencies.

How does the vehicle communicate its operating mode and how can responders immobilize it?

How does your Automated Driving System recognize and comply with emergency vehicles and traffic direction?

### **Safety-Relevant Cybersecurity**

Describe the cybersecurity management system and how it covers the full Automated Driving System lifecycle.

What intrusion detection and response mechanisms exist on-vehicle and off-vehicle?

How do you assess cybersecurity risk, and what standards do you adhere to (e.g., ISO/SAE 21434, NIST CSF)?

### **Misuse Mitigation**

What safety features prevent or mitigate misuse by passengers or other road users?

What educational materials or onboard warnings are provided to reduce misuse risk?

How does the system detect tampering or misuse, and how does it respond?

### **Operational Readiness**

Describe your deployment readiness process—who signs off, based on what evidence?

Describe any safety performance thresholds or Key Performance Indicators used to determine readiness.

How do you verify continued compliance as software versions change?



DMV USE ONLY	
AVT NUMBER	
NAME	
DATE PERMIT ISSUED	DATE PERMIT EXPIRES
TOTAL FEE	RECEIPT NUMBER

## AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE TESTER (AVT) PROGRAM APPLICATION FOR MANUFACTURER'S TESTING PERMIT

**APPLICATION TYPE:**

- Original Driveded Testing Application \$3,600
- Driveded Testing Renewal Application \$3,600
- Modification \$70 (Address Change, Add/Remove Drivers, Add/Remove Vehicles)

**CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX:**

- Address Change   
  Authorized Representative   
  Add/Remove Driver(s)   
  Add/Remove Vehicle(s)

### SECTION 1 — AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE TESTER INFORMATION

NAME OF MANUFACTURER		EPN NUMBER	
BUSINESS NAME		SECRETARY OF STATE ENTITY NUMBER	
BUSINESS NAME LICENSED BY DMV		TELEPHONE NUMBER (    )	
STREET ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
MAILING ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT FROM STREET ADDRESS)	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
US DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NUMBER	CARRIER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER		

Company's training, testing, and employment records are kept at:  Additional pages(s) attached.

FACILITY NAME			
STREET ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
FACILITY NAME			
STREET ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE

### SECTION 2 — VEHICLES EQUIPPED FOR TESTING *List all vehicles in fleet.*

Number of vehicles in fleet \_\_\_\_\_

PLATE NUMBER	STATE ISSUED	VIN NUMBER	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL



DMV USE ONLY	
AVT NUMBER	_____
NAME	_____

**SECTION 2 — VEHICLES EQUIPPED FOR TESTING *Continued***

PLATE NUMBER	STATE ISSUED	VIN NUMBER	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL

\* Refer to excluded vehicle list CCR 227.28

**SECTION 3 — AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE DRIVER(S) *List all employees, contractors and designees.***

PRINT TRUE FULL NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)	DRIVER LICENSE NUMBER	STATE ISSUED
TRAINING COMPLETION DATE	DATE ENROLLED IN EMPLOYER PULL NOTICE PROGRAM	
PRINT TRUE FULL NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)	DRIVER LICENSE NUMBER	STATE ISSUED
TRAINING COMPLETION DATE	DATE ENROLLED IN EMPLOYER PULL NOTICE PROGRAM	
PRINT TRUE FULL NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)	DRIVER LICENSE NUMBER	STATE ISSUED
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PRINT TRUE FULL NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)	DRIVER LICENSE NUMBER	STATE ISSUED
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PRINT TRUE FULL NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)	DRIVER LICENSE NUMBER	STATE ISSUED
TRAINING COMPLETION DATE	DATE ENROLLED IN EMPLOYER PULL NOTICE PROGRAM	



DMV USE ONLY	
AVT NUMBER	_____
NAME	_____

**SECTION 4 — APPLICANT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The manufacturer shall adhere to the *California Code of Regulations*, Title 13, Division 1, Chapter 1, Article 3.7

**SECTION 5 — ATTACHMENTS**

The manufacturer shall adhere to the *California Code of Regulations*, Title 13, Division 1, Chapter 1, Article 3.7

**SECTION 6 — CERTIFICATION**

***I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.***

***I further certify that I am the authorized Administrator of the program for the above named employer.***

PROGRAM DIRECTOR/AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE PRINTED NAME AND TITLE		DRIVER LICENSE NUMBER	
SIGNATURE <b>X</b>		DATE SIGNED	
STREET ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
EMAIL ADDRESS	FAX NUMBER ( )	TELEPHONE NUMBER ( )	



## Autonomous Vehicles Branch

Making it easier to do business in California by encouraging innovation and providing professional, accurate, consistent, and timely service.

Email us with any questions at [AutonomousVehicles@dmv.ca.gov](mailto:AutonomousVehicles@dmv.ca.gov).

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