

# TRUCK CLASSIFICATIONS & “TON” RATINGS

In the [United States](#), commercial truck classification is determined based on the vehicle's gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR). The classes range from 1–8.<sup>[2][3]</sup> Trucks are also classified more broadly by the [Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration](#) (FHWA), which groups classes 1–3 as *light duty*, 4–6 as *medium duty*, and 7–8 as *heavy duty*.<sup>[2][4][5][6]</sup> The [United States Environmental Protection Agency](#) has a separate system of emissions classifications for trucks.<sup>[2][7]</sup> The [United States Census Bureau](#) also assigned classifications in its now-discontinued Vehicle Inventory and Use Survey (TIUS) (formerly Truck Inventory and Use Survey (TIUS)).<sup>[8]</sup>

## Light duty

### Class 1

The Class 1 truck [gross vehicle weight rating](#) (GVWR) ranges from 0–6000 lb (0–2722 kg).<sup>[2]</sup> Examples of trucks in this class include the [Toyota Tacoma](#), [Dodge Dakota](#) and [GMC Canyon](#).<sup>[9][10]</sup>

### Class 2

The Class 2 truck [gross vehicle weight rating](#) (GVWR) ranges from 6001–10000 lb (2722–4536 kg).<sup>[2]</sup> Examples of vehicles in this class include the [Dodge Ram 2500](#), [Chevrolet Silverado 2500](#), and the [F-250](#). Class 2 is subdivided into Class 2a and Class 2b, with class 2a being 6001–8500 lb (2722–3856 kg), and class 2b being 8501–10000 lb (3856–4536 kg). Class 2a is commonly referred to as a light duty truck, with class 2b being the lowest heavy-duty class, also called the light heavy-duty class.<sup>[10][11][12]</sup>

### Class 3

The Class 3 truck [gross vehicle weight rating](#) (GVWR) ranges from 10001–14000 lb (4536–6350 kg).<sup>[2][13]</sup> Examples of vehicles in this class include the Dodge Ram 3500, [Ford F-350](#), and the [GMC Sierra 3500](#). The [Hummer H1](#) is another example of a single rear wheel Class 3 truck, with a GVWR of 10300 lb (4672 kg).

## Medium duty

### Class 4

The Class 4 truck [gross vehicle weight rating](#) (GVWR) ranges from 14001–16000 lb (6351–7257 kg).<sup>[2][13]</sup> Examples of vehicles in this class include select [Ford F-450](#) trucks, Dodge Ram 4500, and the [GMC 4500](#).<sup>[10]</sup>

### Class 5

The Class 5 truck [gross vehicle weight rating](#) (GVWR) ranges from 16001–19500 lb (7258–8845 kg).<sup>[2][13]</sup> Examples of trucks in this class include the [International TerraStar](#), [GMC 5500](#).<sup>[14]</sup> Dodge Ram 5500, and the [Ford F-550](#)

## Class 6

The Class 6 truck [gross vehicle weight rating](#) (GVWR) ranges from 19501–26000 lb (8846–11793 kg).<sup>[2]</sup> Examples of trucks in this class include the [International Durastar](#), [GMC Topkick C6500](#).<sup>[3]</sup> and the [Ford F-650](#)

## Heavy duty

### Class 7

Vehicles in Class 7 and above require a Class B license to operate in the United States. These include GMC C7500.<sup>[6]</sup> Their GVWR ranges from 26001–33000 lb (11794–14969 kg).<sup>[2]</sup>

### Class 8

The Class 8 truck [gross vehicle weight rating](#) (GVWR) is anything above 33000 lb (14969 kg).<sup>[2][7]</sup> These include most [tractor trailer](#) trucks, like the [Freightliner M2 106](#) for example.

# Ton rating

When light-duty trucks were first produced in the United States, they were rated by their [payload](#) capacity in [tons](#) (e.g.,  $\frac{1}{2}$ -,  $\frac{3}{4}$ - and 1-ton). Over time, payload capacities for most domestic pickup trucks have increased while the ton titles have stayed the same. The now-imprecise ton rating is presently used to compare standard sizes, rather than actual capacities.

This has led to categorizing trucks similarly, even if their payload is different. Therefore, the Ford Ranger, Chevrolet S-10, and GMC S-15 are called quarter-tons ( $\frac{1}{4}$ -ton). The Ford F-150, Chevrolet 10, Chevrolet/GMC 1500, and Dodge 1500 are half-tons ( $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton). The Ford F-250, Chevrolet 20, Chevrolet/GMC 2500, and Dodge 2500 are three-quarter-tons ( $\frac{3}{4}$ -ton). Chevrolet/GMC's  $\frac{3}{4}$ -ton suspension systems were further divided into light and heavy-duty, differentiated by 5-lug and 6 or 8-lug wheel hubs depending on year, respectively. The Ford F-350, Chevrolet 30, Chevrolet/GMC 3500, and Dodge 3500 are one tons (1-ton).

Similar schemes exist for vans and SUVs (e.g. a 1-ton Dodge Van or a  $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton GMC Suburban), medium duty trucks (e.g. the Ford  $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton F-450) and some military vehicles, like the ubiquitous [deuce-and-a-half](#).

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Hyperlinks source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Truck\\_classification#cite\\_note-USCB1-8](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Truck_classification#cite_note-USCB1-8)

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