

# Upcoming workplace transport category updates



The Accrediting Bodies Association for Workplace Transport (ABA) are making changes to their grouping categories, due to come into effect **19th January 2026**.

In preparation, ABA member body, AITT have released a briefing document and supporting webinar video, explaining what is due to change and why. Please see the key information from AITT below:

**On 19 January 2026, the Accrediting Bodies Association for Workplace Transport (ABA) will make significant changes to its Workplace Transport Groupings. Please [watch our webinar](#), outlining the key things you need to know.**



The ABA uses these Workplace Transport Groupings to categorise equipment with different training needs. It's the system that keeps accredited training providers consistent, and ensures training is always relevant to the truck the operator is using.

As the materials handling market evolves, new truck types become popular. These new categories bring the structure up to date with today's operational needs, improving clarity and safety.

Importantly, the changes will NOT invalidate operators' existing certificates, even if their category is affected. However, there are some key differences you'll need to understand when arranging training in future – which is why our webinar on the ABA changes is helpful.

## **New Workplace Transport Groupings for a changing market**

Over time, the ABA's existing categories had been stretched to accommodate new truck types entering the market. This review solves this issue, with new categories that fit modern equipment and techniques. The new structure will help accredited training providers to meet a consistent standard.

The most important changes from 19 January 2026 are:

<b>A: Low-level order pickers</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Low-level order pickers move from <b>A2</b> (rider-operated electric pallet trucks) to <b>E0</b> – a new category of their own in the order picker group.</li></ul>
<b>B: Counterbalance trucks</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Categories <b>B1</b> (counterbalance lift trucks up to 5 tonnes) and <b>B4</b> (stand-on counterbalance trucks) merge into a single <b>B1</b> category.</li></ul>
<b>D: Reach trucks</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Categories <b>D1</b> (3-8 metres) and <b>D2</b> (over 8 metres) merge into a single <b>D1</b> category with no height restrictions.</li><li><b>D3</b> (stand-on reach trucks) is removed as a separate category.</li></ul>
<b>H: Tow tractors</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Category <b>H3</b> (pedestrian tow tractor and trailer over 15 tonnes) is removed.</li><li>Weight restrictions no longer apply.</li></ul>
<b>J: Telescopic handlers</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Categories <b>J2</b>, <b>J4</b>, and <b>J6</b> (rough terrain, industrial, and 360-degree slew trucks up to 9m) are removed.</li><li>Remaining categories <b>J1</b>, <b>J3</b>, <b>J5</b>, <b>J7</b>, and <b>J8</b> now have no height restrictions.</li></ul>
<b>M: Multidirectional trucks</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A new <b>M4</b> category is introduced for pedestrian-operated stacker trucks.</li></ul>
<b>S/SP: Vertical stock pickers</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A new <b>SP1</b> category is created for machines like the Crown Wave.</li><li>This replaces the current AITT category <b>S3</b>.</li></ul>

**Prepare before 19 January: read the document and watch the webinar**

If you're a training provider, an employer, or an operator, we strongly recommend you read the updated [Workplace Transport Groupings document](#) and prepare for any changes that affect you. Our [ABA changes webinar](#) will tell you how.

# How will the changes affect you and the training you book?

As a Mentor customer, there will be very little change from your perspective. It is simply the categorisation of the trucks that is due to be updated – the labels we use to group them - the testing standards are unchanged and so is the quality of training that you and your delegates can expect from us.

To aid the rollout of the new categories, here are some key questions answered from AITT, along with a few from us which explain the changes for Mentor customers.

## ***Course durations:***

### **Will course durations be changing as a result of the ABA changes?**

The B4 category (Stand-on counterbalance) is being removed so this training will now need to follow the timings for a B1 machine. All other course durations will remain the same.

### **Will there be an updated conversion training chart?**

Yes – this will be updated by the AITT Standards Committee and released in due course.

## ***Certification and skills:***

### **Do we need to replace operator certificates for courses which took place before the category changes?**

No. Any certificates issued before the category changes will keep the category code from when the training took place. For example, you do not need to re-issue a D1 certificate for an operator who was trained and tested on a D2 machine.

### **Will copy certificates requested from Mentor include the updated codes?**

Any Mentor customers who request copy certificates or ID cards for courses completed before the 19th January 2026 will be reprinted as they were originally (i.e. the same codes as previously issued). Any training certificates we issue for courses completed on or after the 19th January 2026 will include the new category codes.

### **If operator training was completed on an A2 (Rider Pallet Truck), can the delegate now operate an E0?**

If the certificate states that the operator was trained on a Low Level Order Picker, they can operate an E0.

## ***Booking process:***

### **Will the changes affect the Mentor booking process?**

Our booking process will remain unchanged - if you tell us the make and model of your truck, we will ensure the relevant training is booked on your behalf. What's more, our system will ensure that any reports we provide to you will recognise both new and old category codes, ensuring that you maintain access to accurate training data for your team.

### **We need to book a course in January for one of the updated categories. How will this work?**

When contacting Mentor to book your course, our expert advisors will guide you through the process from start to finish but, ultimately, it is the test date that will determine if your delegate will be issued a certificate with an old or new category code. If a delegate is tested on or before 18th January 2026, they will receive a certificate on the old category code – and anyone tested from 19th January 2026 onwards will be issued a certificate with the new code.

## ***For those with in-house instructors:***

### **Will there be updated AITT test paperwork and trainers' guides before the implementation date?**

Yes, the relevant test paperwork and trainers' guides will be updated to reflect the new categories. Contact AITT for details.

### **An instructor needs to update their card to show they can train on the new M4 category. How would they do this?**

Any instructors who wish to add any of the new categories should send their certificate as evidence to [technical@aitt.co.uk](mailto:technical@aitt.co.uk) and they will update it free of charge. For example, if an instructor currently holds A7 but was trained on an M4 style machine, they could send evidence to AITT for a free update.

## ***Any questions?***

Please contact us if you have any questions on 01246 555222. Mentor's knowledgeable advisors will be happy to help, and ensure that sure you get the right training certification for your team.