

New ABA Workplace Transport Groupings: What's Changing?

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:

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

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.

As always, AITT operates in accordance with the HSE Approved Code of Practice L117. It's therefore essential that all instructors maintain relevant knowledge, formal training, and practical experience specific to the equipment and operational parameters (such as height capability and boom configuration) for the categories they are now authorised to instruct on.

In the meantime, we've answered some key questions below, to help you make a smooth transition.

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

Only for certain machine types. For example, the B4 category is being removed so this training will now need to follow the timings for a B1 machine.

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

Yes. All the relevant test paperwork and trainers' guides will be updated to reflect the new categories.

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

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.

If an operators training was completed on an A2 (Rider Pallet Truck), are they now permitted to operate an E0 category?

Yes - If the training certificate states that the operator was trained on a Low Level Order Picker.

Will there be an updated conversion chart and skills mapping document?

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

I need to book a course in January for one of the updated categories. How would this work?

The test date will determine if you should issue a certificate with an old or new category code. If you test a candidate up until 18 January, you would issue a certificate on the old category code – and use the new code for tests from 19 January onwards.

One of my instructors 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 and we'll 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.

Can AITT support me with implementing these changes?

Absolutely. Our friendly team will be on hand to answer any questions and provide any support required so you can make a smooth transition to the new categories and groupings. As always, please feel free to contact us on technical@aitt.co.uk.