



CDL Requirements

Wisconsin Chapter 343



Wisconsin CDL Regulations

Commercial Driver's
Licenses are regulated
under State Statute 343



Who Needs a CDL?

Any vehicle or vehicle combination that is:

- Over 26,000 pounds by the:
 - Gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR)
 - Gross combination weight rating (GCWR)
 - Actual Weight
 - **Registered Weight**

For roadside inspection purposes, the highest value or combination of values will be used to make enforcement decisions.

****States may be more restrictive than 49 CFR Part 383 guidance.** Wisconsin does not list commerce as an element of the need for a CDL; WI requires a CDL based on weight only**



Who Needs a CDL

- A driver transporting hazardous materials requiring placarding
- A driver using a vehicle designed to transport 16 or more passengers including the driver



CDLs

- Single license requirement per Federal guidelines
- Effective March 1, **2015** persons with a Commercial Driver License (CDL) will be required to provide proof of legal status upon original (first time) issuance, renewal, transferring an out of state license or when adding or removing a class, endorsement or restriction.



CDL Requirements



- Age: 18 to obtain a CDL, will be restricted to drive inside Wisconsin (Intrastate Only).
- Residence: Must be a resident of Wisconsin.
- Physical Examinations: Some drivers will require medical certificates (this is unchanged from requirements before CDL – 49 CFR Part 391.41).



CDL (Cont.)

Testing of commercial drivers, must pass a **knowledge test** and a **driving skills test** in the type of vehicle they drive.

- Knowledge test is done at the local DMV office.
- Driving skills test is done with 3rd party tester.
- New ELDT Requirements as of Feb 2022



CDL – School Bus



School bus drivers are required to pass a knowledge test and abbreviated driving skills test at each renewal in addition to providing proof of physical fitness in the form of a completed MV3030B or a valid Medical Certificate.



CDLs – Hazardous Materials



Hazardous materials (Hazmat) drivers who are renewing, transferring or applying for the "H" endorsement for the first time require a *background check*, including fingerprinting. Drivers are also required to complete the Hazardous Materials Endorsement Application MV3735, pass the "H" knowledge test and provide proof of Citizenship or Legal Status in the U.S. at the time of testing.



CLP (Commercial Learner's Permit)

Must be at least 18 years of age and possess a valid license when operating a commercial vehicle with a learner's permit. A properly licensed operator must occupy the seat nearest the driver. No passengers are authorized.



Waivers to the CDL Requirement



- **Fire fighters and rescue squad members** are not required to hold a CDL to drive properly equipped emergency or fire fighting vehicles.
- **Recreational vehicle operators** - The operator of the commercial motor vehicle is a person operating a motor home, or a vehicle towing a 5th-wheel recreational vehicle or single-unit recreational vehicle and the vehicle or combination, including both units of a combination towing vehicle and the 5th-wheel recreational vehicle or recreational vehicle, is both operated and controlled by the person and is transporting only members of the person's family, guests or their personal property.

Recreational vehicle operators (owned or leased motor home, fifth wheel mobile home or touring mobile home, provided it isn't longer than 45 feet) not engaged in commercial activity.



Waivers to the CDL Requirement



- **A farmer, the farmer's family members, and/or the farmer's employees** are not required to hold a CDL to drive a commercial motor vehicle owned or leased by the farmer, provided the vehicle is transporting farm supplies, produce or machinery to or from a farm and is not used in "for hire" carriage. This waiver applies for intrastate operations anywhere in WI. If transporting placardable amounts of hazardous materials the waiver is restricted to areas within 150 miles from a farm. However, a farmer driving a commercial motor vehicle with double or triple trailers or designed to carry or actually carrying 16 or more passengers must have a CDL with proper endorsements.
- **Must be at least 18 years old** to operate an articulated farm CMV.
- **Back-up (substitute or replacement) snowplow drivers** for **local** units of government subject to the all of the following:
 - Are an employee of a local unit of government with a population of 3,000 or fewer.
 - Hold a valid Class D license.
 - Are operating within the boundaries of the local unit of government.
 - Is one of the following:
 - Substituting for or replacing, a regular employee who ordinarily operates the vehicle.
 - An additional employee because a snow emergency exists as determined by the local unit of government.



Special CDL Categories



Farm Service CDL



- A special Farm Service CDL is available for persons employed by a Farm Service Industry for 210 days or less per calendar year.
 - Farm retail outlet
 - Agri-chemical business
 - Custom harvester (see additional limitations)
 - Livestock feeder

****Restricted to Class B or Class C vehicles. See brochure.****



Vehicle Classes – Requiring a CDL

- Class A Vehicle
- Vehicle operated in combination
- Combination GVWR, actual weight, or registered weight over 26,000 pounds
- The towed unit has a GVWR, actual weight, or registered weight over 10,000 pounds



Class A Vehicle – Cab Over



Class A Vehicle - Hotshot



Vehicle Classes – Requiring a CDL



- Class B Vehicle
- GVWR, actual weight or registered weight of power unit over 26,000 pounds.
- Can be in combination with a trailer of 10,000 pounds or less



Class B Vehicle – Quad Axle Dump



Class B Vehicle – Bobtail Power Unit



Vehicle Classes – Requiring a CDL

- Class C Vehicle
- Transports an amount of hazardous material requiring placarding
- Transports 16 or more passengers including the driver
- GVWR, actual weight or registered weight of 26,000 pounds or less



Class C Vehicles – Limited-capacity School Bus and a Straight Truck **requiring** placards



Available Endorsements for a CDL



- T – Double or Triple Trailers
- H – Hazardous Materials
- N – Tank Vehicles
- P – Passenger Vehicles
- S – School Buses
- X – HazMat and Tank Vehicle
(if adopted/allowed)



Common Restrictions for a CDL



- **K**—CDL intrastate only
- **51**—CDL intrastate only in excepted industry
- **V**—CMV medical variance required
- **L**—No air brake equipped CMV
- **Z**—No full airbrake equipped CMV (Skills test was taken in vehicle with partial air brakes.)
- **E**—No Manual Transmission
- **O**—No tractor/trailer CMV
- **M**—No Class A Passenger Vehicle



Vehicle Operations requiring a CDL



A CDL is required of drivers, paid or volunteer, who drive the following types of vehicles (**WI SS differences in Yellow Italics**):

- The vehicle is a single vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating, actual gross weight or **registered weight** of over 26,000 pounds. *The vehicle may tow a vehicle of 10,000 pounds or less using the same measurements.*
- The vehicle is a combination vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating, actual gross weight rating or **registered weight** of over 26,000 pounds if the aggregate total of the vehicle or vehicles being towed is in excess of 10,000 pounds.
- The vehicle is designed to transport or **is actually transporting** 16 or more passengers including the driver or transporting hazardous materials that requires placarding.



CDL Disqualifications



CDL Disqualifications



Disqualification means:

- Suspension, revocation, cancellation, or any other withdrawal by a state driver licensing agency of a person's privileges to drive a commercial motor vehicle. These can be safety-related and non-safety related.
- Person is no longer qualified to operate a CDL required vehicle
- The loss of qualification could automatically follow conviction of the following offenses.



Serious Traffic Offenses

- **SERIOUS TRAFFIC OFFENSE** means:
 - Excessive speeding (15mph or more over posted limit)
 - Improper or erratic lane changes
 - Following too close
 - Fatal accident
 - No CDL while operating a CDL required CMV
 - Driving a CMV without proper class of CDL or endorsement
- *See the Disqualification Handouts for additional violations and length of revocation*



Serious Traffic Offenses

- Operating a while under the influence of an intoxicant. The legal limit while operating a CMV is .04 BAC.
- Leaving the scene of an accident.
- The commission of a felony.
- *Any of the above offenses that result in a conviction, based on the class of vehicle operated, will result in the corresponding disqualification of CDL privileges*



CDL – DUI FAQ



- If I am driving my car, am I still at a .04 BAC for an OWI conviction or a .08 BAC?

Remember: .00 or Absolute Sobriety while on duty in a CMV
.04 BAC for CMV OWI **conviction**
.08 BAC for non-CMV OWI **conviction**

.04 BAC is about 2.5 drinks in one hour by a 180-pound male



CDL - DUI



- There is no occupational license for CDL holders.
- CDL + DUI = Revocation



Knowledge Check



Proper CDL/Endorsements

What is a minimum required?



- RAM 2500 with a GVWR of 9,900lbs towing a 12,000lb GVWR trailer
- International M2 with a GVWR of 26,001-33,000lbs transporting hazmat requiring placarding
- Chevy 3500 Dually with a registered weight of 14,000lbs (GVWR 12,300) towing a trailer with a loaded weight of 11,300lbs that displays a 12,670lb GVWR VIN plate.
- A micro-bus with a design capacity of 16 passengers



What license product is needed?



- Ford F250 with a GVWR of 10,000lbs towing a 16,680lb GVWR trailer.
- Dump Truck with a GVWR of 25,999lbs. and towing a 10,000lb trailer.
- Motorhome with a GVWR of 16,000lbs. hauling a 16,000lb race car trailer and racing in tonight's race. (See 390.3, Interp Q#21 for additional guidance)
- A straight truck with a loaded weight of 18,900lbs but is registered at 32,000lbs.
- A Ford F350 registered at 14,000lbs (GVWR 12,001-14,000) towing a 3-car raised platform trailer with a GVWR of 10,000lbs and registered at 12,000lbs but with an actual weight of 12,350lbs.



What would you want to know for this set-up?



What CDL is Needed? (Ask Questions!)



What Class? (Ask Questions!)





Motor Carrier Information Line: 608-267-9762

