

Ferris State University - Safety, Health, Environmental and Risk Management

Qualification of Drivers of Commercial Motor Vehicles

49 CFR Part 391 & State of Michigan (SOM)

SOM: Units of government and their employees must comply with 49 CFR 383.71(h) and Parts 382, 391, 392 and 393.

General Qualifications of Drivers (391.11) with exemptions for Private Motor Carrier of passengers (nonbusiness) 391.68

- Read and speak English
- Can operate CMV safely
- Physically Qualified
- Valid commercial driver's license
- Not disqualified from driving Part 391.15

Driver Responsibilities (391.13)

- Determine if cargo is properly located, distributed, and secured
- Be familiar with methods and procedures for securing cargo

Disqualification of Drivers (391.15)

- Drivers are required to notify FSU if CDL revoked, suspended or withdrawn
 - Driving CMV under the influence of alcohol or 21 CFR 1308.11 Schedule I controlled substance
 - Transportation, possession or unlawful use of 21 CFR 1308.11 Schedule I controlled substance while on duty
 - Leaving a scene of an accident while operating a CMV
 - A felony involving use of CMV
 - Conviction of violating the prohibition of texting while driving a CMV
 - Conviction of violating the prohibition of using a hand-held telephone while driving a CMV
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CDL – Quick Reference

Single vehicle or vehicle with trailer <10,001 lbs GVWR

- Mi Driver's license
- May need Chauffeurs*** Check exemptions

Vehicle with trailer/towed vehicle=>10,001 lbs GVWR or GVWC =>26,001 lbs**

(ie: Trailer with a 10,001 lbs GVWR)

- CDL**
- Medical Certification Card
- Driver's file

- Drug and Alcohol Testing & Training

Single Vehicle => 10,001 lbs GVWR but <26,001 lbs GVWR

- Medical Certification Card
- May need Chauffeurs License*** Check exemptions
- May need CDL**

Single Vehicle => 26,001 lbs GVWR

- Medical Certification Card
- CDL**
- Driver's File
- Drug and Alcohol Testing & Training

Medical Certification Card

- Physical conducted at Health Center

Drug and Alcohol Testing & Training

- Pre-employment
- Random
- Post accident
- Return to work
- Reasonable suspicion
- Employee & Supervisor Training

CDL Commercial Drivers License**

- A vehicle towing a trailer or other vehicle with a GVWR of 10,001 pounds or more when the GCWR is 26,001 pounds or more.
- A vehicle (including buses) having a GVWR of 26,001 pounds or more.
- A vehicle under 26,001 pounds GVWR that:
 - Is designed to carry 16 or more persons (including the driver)
 - Carries hazardous materials in amounts requiring placarding.

CDL Group Designations

A Michigan resident needs a CDL with the appropriate group designation as follows:

- **Group A** to operate a combination of vehicles with a gross combination weight rating (GCWR)* of 26,001 pounds or more including a towed trailer or vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR)** of more than 10,000 pounds.
 - **Group A** allows you to operate Group B and Group C vehicles.
- **Group B** to operate a single vehicle having a GVWR of 26,001 pounds or more.

- **Group B** allows you to operate Group C vehicles.
- **Group C** to operate a single vehicle having a GVWR under 26,001 pounds or a vehicle having a GVWR under 26,001 pounds towing another vehicle or trailer and carrying hazardous materials on which a placard is required, or designed to transport 16 or more passengers including the driver.

CDL Endorsements

In addition to the appropriate CDL group designation, endorsements are required for the following:

- T - Double or Triple Trailers: (Triple trailer combinations are not permitted in Michigan.)
- P - Passenger: For vehicles which are designed to carry 16 or more people (including the driver).
- N - Tank Vehicles: For vehicles designed to haul liquids or liquified gases in bulk in permanently mounted tanks or portable tanks rated at 1,000 gallons or more.
- H - Hazardous Materials: To carry hazardous materials in amounts requiring placards. Before applying for this endorsement, you must have a Federal Security Threat Assessment. For more information about the Federal Security Threat Assessment, [click here](#).
- X - This X-endorsement code will appear on the license instead of the H and N codes when an applicant receives both the tank and hazardous materials endorsements.
- S - School Bus: For commercial motor vehicles used to transport pre-primary, primary, or secondary school students from home to school, school to home, or to and from school-sponsored events.

***Chauffeur License

Unless exempt a chauffeur license is required if you:

- Are employed for the principal purpose of operating a motor vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 10,000 pounds or more. (See note below.)
- Operate a motor vehicle as a carrier of passengers or as a common or contract carrier of property.
- Operate a bus or a school bus.
- Operate a taxi or limousine.

Note: Michigan law considers someone to be employed for the principal purpose of operating a motor vehicle "when the person's employment customarily involves the necessary use of a motor vehicle for hire or for transporting passengers for hire, or for transporting for gain or hire any merchandise for display, sale, or delivery." (MCL 257.6(2))

***Chauffeur Exemptions

Some drivers do not need a chauffeur license:

- A farmer or farmer's employee operating a vehicle exclusively in connection with the farming operation.
- A fire fighter or a member of a fire department operating an ambulance.
- A fire fighter or police officer operating equipment used exclusively in connection with their employment.
- Utility company employees hired to drive trucks used to transport employees, materials, and tools.
- Service or repair personnel who operate motor vehicles to carry their tools and transport parts or appliances only incidentally in connection with their employment.
- Emergency medical services personnel operating an ambulance.

- County road commission employees and other employees of local units of government who do not drive their own vehicles and whose work consists of hauling road building materials and supplies for the road commission or for other municipal purposes.
- Michigan Department of Transportation employees whose work consists of operating vehicles with a GVWR of 10,000 pounds or more to transport highway and bridge maintenance materials and supplies for state trunkline maintenance.
- A person operating a motor vehicle for a volunteer program who only receives reimbursement for vehicle operating costs.
- A person who operates a motor home for personal pleasure.
- A parent or parent's designee for the purpose of transporting pupils to or from school and school-related events.

CDL Driver Files – 49 CFR Part 390

- Application for employment (391.21)
- Investigation and Inquiries (391.23)
 - Previous 3 years driving record from all states where licensed
 - Previous 3 years safety performance
 - Copy of MVR Record
 - Replies to safety performance inquiries and written record
 - Medical Examiners Certificate
- Annual Inquiry and review of Driving Record (391.25)
 - Obtain MVR
 - Check for violation of FMCSA
 - Review accident record
- Record of Violations (391.27)
 - Driver supply annually
- Road Test (391.31)
- Records (391.51 & 391.53)

Note: Driver Files are maintained in the Safety, Health, Environmental and Risk Management office for the purpose of determining and monitoring driver qualifications.