

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

THIS SECTION COVERS

- 1.1 – CDL Tests
- 1.2 – Medical Documentation Requirements
- 1.3 – CDL Disqualifications
- 1.4 – Other CDL Rules
- 1.5 – International Registration Plan and International Fuel Tax Agreement

There is a federal requirement that each state have minimum standards for licensing of commercial drivers.

The California Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Program was enacted to improve traffic safety on our roadways. As a result, California has developed licensing and testing requirements for drivers of commercial vehicles that equals or exceeds federal standards.

This handbook provides driver license (DL) testing information for drivers who wish to have a commercial learner's permit (CLP)/commercial driver license (CDL). This handbook does **not** provide information on all the federal and state requirements needed before you can drive a commercial motor vehicle (CMV). More information may be found in Title 49, *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) or *California Vehicle Code* (CVC).

WHO NEEDS A CDL

You Must Have a CDL to Operate:

- A single vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 26,001 pounds or more.
- A combination of vehicles with a gross combination weight rating (GCWR) of 26,001 pounds or more.
- A vehicle designed, used, or maintained for carrying more than 10 passengers, including the driver (see chart below).
- A 3-axle vehicle weighing more than 6,000 pounds.

You Must Have a CDL When:

- Towing a vehicle or trailer, which has a GVWR of 10,001 pounds or more.
- Transporting hazardous materials (HazMat), which require placards.
- Transporting HazMat, as defined in *California Health and Safety Code* (CHSC) §§25115 and 25117.
- Towing any combination of 2 trailers or vehicle and trailer.

Horse trailers with living quarters and a GVWR over 10,000 pounds require a commercial Class A DL. Restriction 88 will be added to the DL if the truck and trailer GCWR is under 26,001 pounds.

