

# When Do I Need to Comply With DOT and CDL Requirements?

## Interstate Commerce

The DOT regulates interstate commerce through the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSR).<sup>1</sup> A driver is subject to the FMCSRs if they operate a Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) in interstate commerce. A CMV is defined as:

- Having a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) or gross combination (vehicle and trailer) weight rating (GCWR) of 10,001 lbs or more
- Designed to transport nine or more passengers (including the driver) for compensation
- Designed to transport 16 or more passengers (including driver) or
- Used in transporting hazardous materials under 49 U.S.C. 5103 and transported in quantities requiring placarding

If a passenger vehicle is  $\geq 10,001$  it is considered a CMV, regardless of the seating capacity. Check the regulations as to what constitutes compensation.

<sup>1</sup> Interstate commerce (IC) involves conducting business across state lines. Even if your vehicle does not cross state lines it could be involved in IC. If, for example, vehicle/plane/train "A" crosses state lines and transfers cargo/passengers to vehicle "B", which stays within the state, both A and B are involved in IC. Some exceptions apply.

## Intrastate Commerce (Within a State)

Many states have adopted some or all FMCSR regulations into their state regulations. Know your state requirements.

## CDL Required







All states are required to follow general CDL licensing requirements but may have some variations.

- **Class A:** A combination of vehicles with a GCWR of 26,001 or more pounds, provided the vehicle being towed is in excess of 10,000 pounds GVWR;
- **Class B:** A single vehicle with a GVWR of 26,001 or more pounds;
- **Class C (Unless Class A or B applies):**
  - A vehicle designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver.
  - Any vehicle that is transporting hazardous materials and is required to be placarded in accordance with state and federal regulations.






## CDL Endorsements

- T:** Truck with double or triple trailers (knowledge test)
- N:** Truck with a tank (knowledge test)
- H:** Truck carrying hazardous materials (knowledge test)
- X:** Combination of a tank vehicles and hazardous materials (knowledge test)
- P:** Passenger carrying vehicle (knowledge and skills test)
- S:** School bus (knowledge and skills test)

## Regulated Under FMCSR? (All GVWR in lbs.)

 8,500 GVWR	No
 1,501 GVWR + 8,500 GVWR = 10,001 GCWR	Yes
 $\geq 10,001$ GVWR	Yes
 9-15 capacity, including driver ( <b>No</b> compensation)	No
9-15 capacity, including driver ( <b>For</b> compensation)	Yes
 16 or more passengers, including driver	Yes
 Any size vehicle requiring a Hazmat placard	Yes

## CDL Required and Class Needed

 10,001 GVWR trailer, 18,500 GVWR truck GCWR $\geq 26,001$ ; and trailer $\geq 10,001$	Yes, Class A
 9,500 GVWR trailer, 18,500 GVWR truck Truck not $\geq 26,001$ ; and trailer not $\geq 10,001$	No, None
 $\geq 26,001$ GVWR	Yes, Class B
 Any size vehicle requiring Hazmat placarding	Yes, Class A, B, or C
 16 or more passengers, including driver	Yes, Class A, B, or C