

Version 2.0

C
D
L

ommercial
river's
icense Manual



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Registry of Motor Vehicles
PO Box 55889
Boston, MA 02205

Copyright

The body of this document is copyrighted by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA), and is reprinted herein with their permission. Sections specific to Massachusetts are property of the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles.

Preface: Massachusetts CDL Information

On October 26, 1986, Congress passed the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986. This law required each State to meet the same minimum standards for commercial driver licensing. The standards required commercial motor vehicle drivers to get a Commercial Driver's License (CDL). You must have a CDL to operate any of the following Commercial Motor Vehicles (CMVs):

- a) A single vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of more than 26,000 pounds.
- b) A trailer with a GVWR of more than 10,000 pounds if the gross combination weight rating is more than 26,000 pounds.
- c) A vehicle designed to transport 16 or more persons (including the operator).
- d) Any size vehicle which requires hazardous materials placards.

To get a CDL, you must pass knowledge and skills tests. This manual will help you pass the tests.

Commercial Driver's License Tests

Knowledge Tests




You will have to take one or more knowledge tests to obtain your CDL permit, depending on what class of license and what endorsements you need. The CDL knowledge tests include:

- the General Knowledge Test, taken by all applicants (One hour - 50 questions)
- the Passenger Transport Test, taken by all bus driver applicants (20 minutes - 20 questions)
- the Air Brakes Test, which you must take if your vehicle has air brakes (25 minutes - 25 questions)
- the Combination Vehicles Test, which is required if you want to drive combination vehicles (20 minutes - 20 questions)
- the Hazardous Materials Test, required if you want to haul hazardous material or waste (30 minutes - 30 questions)
- the Tanker Test, required if you want to haul liquids in bulk (20 minutes - 20 questions)
- the Doubles/Triples Test, required if you want to pull double or triple trailers (20 minutes - 20 questions)
- the School Bus Test, required if you want to transport pre-primary, primary, and secondary school students in a full-sized "School Bus" (i.e., Big Yellow Bus)

CDL Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must meet the eligibility requirements listed in Federal Regulations 49 CFR Part 391 (Qualifications of Drivers) or State Regulations 540 CMR 2.06 (Operator's Licensing Requirements) and 14.00 (Motor Carrier Safety and Hazmat Transportation) .

MASSACHUSETTS COMMERCIAL DRIVERS LICENSE CLASSIFICATION

WITH THIS CLASS LICENSE	YOU MAY DRIVE	RELATED ENDORSEMENTS
A	<p>Any combination of vehicles with a GVWR of 26,001 or more pounds provided the GVWR of the vehicle(s) being towed is in excess of 10,000 pounds. (Holders of a Class A license may, with any appropriate endorsements, operate all vehicles within Classes B, C, and D).</p> <p>Examples include, but are not limited to:</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>Double/Triple Trailers</p> <p>Tank Vehicles</p> <p>Tank Vehicles with HAZMAT</p> <p>HAZMAT</p> <p>Passenger Transport Vehicles</p> <p>School Bus</p>
B	<p>Any single vehicle with a GVWR of 26,001 or more pounds, or any such vehicle towing a vehicle not in excess of 10,000 pounds GVWR. (Holders of a Class B license may, with any appropriate endorsements, operate all vehicles within Classes B, C, and D)</p> <p>Examples include, but are not limited to:</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>Tank Vehicles</p> <p>Tank Vehicles with HAZMAT</p> <p>HAZMAT</p> <p>Passenger Transport Vehicles</p> <p>School Bus</p>
C	<p>Any single vehicle, or combination of vehicles, that does not meet the definition of Class A or Class B, but is either designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver, or is placarded for hazardous materials. (Holders of a Class C license may, with any appropriate endorsements, operate all vehicles within Classes C and D.).</p> <p>Example includes, but is not limited to:</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>Tank Vehicles</p> <p>Tank Vehicles with HAZMAT</p> <p>HAZMAT</p> <p>Passenger Transport Vehicles</p> <p>School Bus</p>

The vehicle in which you will take the road skills test must meet the written description for that class. The above vehicle silhouettes typify, but do not fully cover, the types of vehicles falling within each class.

If you wish to be licensed to drive a vehicle with air brakes, the vehicle in which you will be tested must be equipped with air brakes.

To operate a school bus, drivers are required to obtain a specific certification from the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (see p. viii), in addition to the appropriate class and endorsement of CDL license.

Beginning the CDL Application Process

You can get an application for a Commercial Driver's License at any RMV branch office or online at [mass.gov/rmv](https://www.mass.gov/rmv).

Also, you can take the knowledge test for a CDL permit at most RMV branch offices from 9:00am to 3:00pm, Monday through Friday (see notes below about Thursday hours and other exceptions).

Currently, the Branch Offices that offer the CDL knowledge test include:

Boston*	Nantucket**
Braintree*	New Bedford*
Brockton*	North Adams**
Chicopee	Pittsfield
Easthampton	Plymouth
Fall River*	Revere*
Greenfield	South Yarmouth*
Haverhill**	Springfield*
Lawrence*	Taunton
Leominster*	Watertown*
Lowell*	Wilmington*
Martha's Vineyard**	Worcester*
Milford	

Hours and locations are subject to change without notice. Check [mass.gov/rmv](https://www.mass.gov/rmv) for the most up-to-date list.

*These branches offer CDL knowledge tests from 10:00am until 4:00pm on Thursdays.

****Haverhill** offers CDL knowledge tests from 8:00am until 2:00pm.

Martha's Vineyard and **Nantucket** offer CDL knowledge tests from 8:00am until 2:00pm, but are closed between 12:00pm and 1:00pm.

North Adams offers CDL knowledge tests from 9:00am until 3:00pm, but is closed between 1:00pm and 2:00pm.

Note: Depending on the number of endorsement tests you are taking, you may not have time to take all of them if you arrive late in the day. Please allot your time accordingly.

If You Apply for a CDL as Your First License

If you apply for a CDL as your first license and have never held a private passenger vehicle license, the Massachusetts RMV requires you to take the knowledge test for a class D (passenger vehicle) permit before taking the CDL knowledge tests. This is needed to show that you understand the rules of the road. CDL knowledge tests cover the Federal CDL requirements; they do not test applicants on the rules of the road.

Federal Regulations 49 CFR section 383.23 (c)(2): CDL learner's permit issuance requirements state in part that the CDL learner's permit holder must have a valid automobile driver's license, or have passed all vision, sign/symbol, and knowledge tests as the State issuing the learner's permit ordinarily administers.

Questions About CDL

If you have any further questions about Commercial Driver's Licenses, call the RMV Phone Center at (617) 351-4500.

Also, see the Registry website at [mass.gov/rmv](https://www.mass.gov/rmv)

The CDL Application

The CDL Application is used in all facets of applying for a CDL License from the Registry of Motor Vehicles Division, except for the Road Test, which requires the CDL Road Test Application. There are a few items on the CDL Application that may cause questions, and this section will guide you through the reasons and explanations for these questions, in particular about the requirements under the Code of Federal Regulations (CFRs) that govern how Massachusetts can issue a CDL.

Identification Requirements

Age

Applicants may apply for a CDL beginning at age 18. However, Federal Regulations found at 49 CFR 391.11, state that a license holder, including CDL holders, must be 21 years of age to drive a commercial motor vehicle in interstate commerce. Therefore, CDL holders in Massachusetts under the age of 21 will be issued a K restriction, limiting them to travel within Massachusetts.

Social Security Number

All CDL holders are required to provide a Social Security Number (SSN) under 49 CFR 383.153 to the Registry of Motor Vehicles when applying for a CDL. This SSN will be verified through the Social Security Administration and processed as part of an information package through the National Driver Register (NDR) and Commercial Driver License Information System (CDLIS) to ensure that your current driving privileges are not under revocation or suspension elsewhere in the United States.

General Information

Residential Address

All applicants for a Massachusetts CDL must live and reside in Massachusetts as defined in 49 CFR 383.5. Your state of domicile is defined as “that State where a person has his/her true, fixed, and permanent home and principal residence and to which he/she has the intention of returning whenever he/she is absent”.

Required Information

Questions 3,4,5, and 6

Massachusetts is required to check for your previous states of licensure. This is to ensure that Massachusetts may receive your complete driving record over your previous 10 years of licensure. Where you have listed your previous states of licensure, Massachusetts will inquire against those state’s databases to obtain your driving history. This is required under 49 CFR 383.73.

Question 7

Massachusetts drivers must be medically qualified to operate a motor vehicle. For a commercial motor vehicle, these qualifications may be found under 49 CFR 391. For your convenience, the CDL Manual has a section on medical qualifications and the DOT Medical Card found on page xii of this CDL Manual.

Questions 12 and 13

Massachusetts drivers must certify under 49 CFR 383.71 that they are either qualified to operate in interstate commercial driving (between states), or that they are only qualified to operate in intrastate commercial driving (exclusively within Massachusetts). If you answer “No” to question 12, then you agree that you are not qualified under federal regulation to operate a commercial motor vehicle. If you then answer yes to question 13, that you are qualified under state regulation to operate a commercial motor vehicle, then you will be issued a CDL with an intrastate restriction. If you are under 21, you will be issued a CDL with the K restriction, limiting you to intrastate commerce. If you are not medically qualified, you must receive a medical waiver from the Medical Affairs Branch and you will be issued a CDL with the W restriction, limiting you to intrastate commerce. If you answer no to both questions, you will not be granted a CDL. Those who wish to operate in interstate commerce, or hold an unrestricted license, must answer “Yes” to question #12.



Please read the following information before scheduling your road test.

To book a road test, call 617-351-4500

Applicant Requirements

Applicants must meet all of the following requirements for a Class A, B, or C road test in order to be tested:

- Have a current driver's license, if you are seeking additional endorsements.
- Have a valid CDL permit, with proper endorsements for the vehicle used.
- Have a valid Department of Transportation (DOT) medical card or medical waiver.*
- Have a completed road test application. (If you answered **YES** to question 7, 8, or 10 on the road test application, the application must be approved by an RMV branch manager or an authorized RMV employee before the road test.)
- Be on time for the skills test. If you are late, you will not be examined. If you must cancel or reschedule your appointment with less than 24 hours notice, you will be responsible for the skills test fee.
- Be accompanied by a sponsor who:
 - Is at least 21 years old.
 - Has a valid U.S. Commercial Driver's License with proper endorsements for the class of vehicle that you are using.
 - Has a current DOT medical card. (If the sponsor does not have a current DOT medical card, he/she will be subject to a fine.* The test, however, will still proceed.)

Vehicle Requirements

Vehicles used for a Class A, B, or C road test must meet the following requirements. Vehicles not meeting the following requirements will be refused/rejected.

- Represent the type and class of vehicle you will be driving when you receive your CDL. For a Passenger Endorsement, the applicant must have the appropriate class vehicle designed to carry 16 or more passengers, including the driver.
- Be able to pass a safety check. Vehicles with unstable, dangerous, or HAZMAT loads will be rejected. The vehicle must be completely free of hazardous material.
- Have a valid registration and current inspection sticker.
- Have adequate seating next to the operator for the use of the examiner.
- Have a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) on the vehicle, appropriate for the class of license for which you are applying. If there is no GVWR on the vehicle, you must have a document from the manufacturer or a motor vehicle dealer proving the GVWR.

*A DOT medical card is not required for a state or municipal employee using a state or municipal vehicle.

Out-of-state Registered vehicles, trailers, and semi trailers

- Carry proof of insurance coverage in the form of a policy or letter from the insurance company specifying the limits of coverage. The insurance coverage *MUST* be equal to Massachusetts minimum requirements of \$20,000/\$40,000 bodily injury and \$5,000 property damage coverage for the vehicle's use in Massachusetts. (No faxes or photo copies.)

Rental vehicles

- Have the rental agreement and written permission on the rental company's letterhead authorizing use of the vehicle for the road test.

The CDL Skills Test has three parts:

1. The **Pre-Trip Inspection** is described in Part 3, Section 10 of the *CDL Manual*. It is important that you can demonstrate this inspection to the examiner by pointing out and naming the parts of the vehicle.

Note: If the vehicle has air brakes, you are also required to demonstrate the air brake test described in Part 3, Section 10 of the *CDL Manual*. If you are testing a combination vehicle, you must be familiar with Part 2, Section 6 of the *CDL Manual*.

2. The **Off-Street Skills Test** involves the following maneuvers described in Part 3, Section 11 of the *CDL Manual*.

- Forward and back through an offset alley
- Parallel parking (conventional)
- Parallel parking (sight-side)
- Alley dock

3. The **On the Road** portion of the test, described in Part 3, Section 12 of the *CDL Manual*, begins immediately following the successful completion of the pre-trip inspection and all parts of the off-street skills testing maneuvers. This portion involves driving through various traffic and road conditions to evaluate your judgment, control, and safe operation on the street, as well as your ability to start, stop, shift, turn competently, and obey all relevant rules of the road.

All parts of the test must be successfully completed to pass the CDL Skills Test and obtain a CDL license.

Note: Removing the air brake restriction, adding a passenger endorsement, or changing a CDL license class requires a skills test, in addition to the appropriate knowledge tests.

Canceled Road Tests

Road tests may be canceled due to weather, road, or other emergency conditions, such as:

- Public school cancellations or delays in the city/town where your test is scheduled.
- A state of emergency has been declared by the Governor throughout the state or in the region where your road test is scheduled.
- The Road Test Examiner cancels road tests due to scheduling or safety reasons.

If you think that your road test may be canceled, please call the RMV Phone Center at 617-351-4500.

You are responsible for the skills test fee for each failure, rejection, late arrival, or no show.

The Registrar reserves the right to cancel and recall any license if it is later determined that the licensee did not meet the minimum legal requirements for the road test.

Directions to CDL Road Test Sites

This list is subject to change. Please call the Phone Center at (617) 351-4500 for a list of road test sites. The Phone Center is open weekdays from 9 am to 5 pm.

Dartmouth DPW (1111)

The test site is on Faunce Corner Road in North Dartmouth across from the State Police Barracks. Take Route I-195 to the North Dartmouth exit. As you come off the exit, the DPW is on the left, just before the railroad tracks.

Deerfield (South) (1106)

From exit 4 off the Mass Pike, follow route 91 North to exit 24 (Deerfield, Routes 5 & 10N). Take the first right at the Citgo station onto Route 116. The test site is approximately 3/4 miles on your left, hidden by trees.

Everett MBTA Repair Station (1167)

Route 99 traveling south just beyond Route 16 or traveling north prior to Route 16, at lights turn onto Bowdoin Street. Left on Charlton Street follow to end.

Newbury DPW (1109)

Take I-95 North to the Scotland Road exit. Follow Scotland Road approximately one half mile past the State Police Barracks. The test site will be on your left.

Otis AFB (1154)

Cross the Bourne Bridge onto Cape Cod. Follow Route 28 South to the Route 151 exit. Turn right onto Route 151. Turn Left onto Sandwich Road to the Falmouth Gate. Go left through the gate onto the Base. Turn left onto Kitteredge Road, then right onto Generals Boulevard. Turn left into the transfer station to the test site.

Sterling DPW (1157)

From I-190, take exit 6. Turn left onto Route 12S. Turn left onto Chocksett Road. The test site is approximately a quarter of a mile on your left.

Stoughton DPW (1163)

From Route 24, exit 18B, go approximately one quarter mile. At the split, turn right onto Route 27. The test site will be approximately one mile on the left, across from the Blue Hills Alzheimers Research Center.

Sturbridge DPW (1161)

From exit 9 off the Mass Pike, the test site is at the intersection of Routes 20 and 131 just south of the Mass Turnpike interchange.

Winchendon (1120)

From exit 19 off Route 2, take route 202 North for approximately ten miles towards Baldwinville/Winchendon. The test site will be on the left, past Lake Dennison State Park, on Baldwin Road.

Motor Bus/School Bus License

For more information on obtaining a motor bus driver certificate or a school bus driver certificate, contact the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, 1 South Station, Boston, MA 02110 or call (617) 305-3559.

Motor Bus Requirements

To operate a motor bus in Massachusetts, you need a CDL and a Passenger (P) endorsement. You also need a Motor Bus Driver Certificate from the Department of Public Utilities.

School Bus Requirements

To operate a **full-sized school bus** in Massachusetts, you must have a CDL with a Passenger (P) endorsement and a School Bus (S) endorsement. You also need a School Bus Driver Certificate from the Department of Public Utilities.

To operate a **restricted school bus** (a school bus with a maximum seating capacity of fourteen passengers), you need a Class D (Passenger Vehicle) license and a "Restricted School Bus Driver" certificate from the Department of Public Utilities.

Note: To operate a school bus with air brakes, you must, in addition, pass an air-brakes written exam at the RMV and pass an air-brakes road test.

SCHOOL BUS DRIVER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for a full-sized or restricted School Bus Certificate you must meet the following requirements:

- Have three (3) continuous years of driving experience
- Pass a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) check
- Pass a Sex Offender Record Information (SORI) check
- Pass a Department of Transportation (DOT) physical exam
- Have a clean driving record
- Pass all required RMV written exams
- Pass a Department of Public Utilities road test

STUDY MATERIALS FOR FULL-SIZED SCHOOL BUS WRITTEN EXAM

You need BOTH the *Commercial Driver's License Manual* (this document) to study for the CDL general knowledge test, the Passenger endorsement test, and the Air Brakes endorsement test, and *Section 10 of the 2004 Model Commercial Driver's License Manual (version 080904)* to study for the S-Endorsement test. *Section 10 of the 2004 Model Commercial Driver's License Manual* has been included in this manual as *Appendix A*.

Converting a CDL

You may convert an active CDL from another state or the District of Columbia to a Massachusetts CDL, subject to the provisions of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. During the application process, you will be required to demonstrate that you have at least two years of commercial driving experience. You may demonstrate that by providing the following....

- Your out-of-state CDL, indicating that it was issued at least two years prior to your transfer request date
- A copy of your driving record from your previous state(s) of licensure, indicating that you have the minimum requirement of two years of experience from the date of issuance of the CDL
- Verification of employment on company letterhead, which must contain dates of employment and class of vehicle operated

Additionally, you must be able to read, write, and speak the English language sufficiently to converse with the general public, to understand highway traffic signs and signals, to respond to official inquiries, to make entries on reports and records, and to meet the general driver requirements per 49 CFR 391.11.

If you are unable to meet these requirements, yet qualify as a Massachusetts resident and qualify for initial issuance, you may take and pass the CDL knowledge and road tests to receive a Massachusetts CDL.

Important Notes

A hazardous materials endorsement is not transferable. To be eligible to receive a hazardous materials endorsement on your Massachusetts CDL, you must apply for and pass a background check and the hazardous materials written exam. Please see next page for further information.

Massachusetts Residents

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations require that you obtain your CDL in your state of domicile (49 CFR 383.23). If you are a Massachusetts resident and you have obtained a CDL in another state, you may not be able to transfer that license. If you have any questions regarding this process, please feel free to contact the CDL Unit at 617-351-9931.

Expired CDLs

An expired out-of-state CDL cannot be converted to a Massachusetts CDL, regardless of how long the CDL has been expired. To get a Massachusetts CDL, you will need to take and pass the CDL knowledge and road tests.

An expired out-of-state CDL can be converted to a Massachusetts Class D license.

Hazardous Materials Endorsement

Due to the federal Patriot Act, the rules for obtaining a Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Endorsement have changed as follows:

1. Massachusetts Commercial Learner's Permits will no longer be issued with a Hazardous Materials Endorsement.
2. A Commercial License with a Hazardous Materials Endorsement cannot be issued, renewed, or transferred until the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) notifies the RMV that the applicant has passed a Background Check.

Applying for or Adding a Hazardous Materials Endorsement

The RMV recommends that you do not apply for a Hazardous Materials Endorsement until you have already obtained a Commercial Driver's License.

1. Go to an RMV branch office and do the following:
 - Complete a *CDL Application*.
 - Present required identification documentation.
 - Pay permit fees.
 - Take the Hazardous Materials Knowledge Exam.

If you pass the Hazardous Materials Knowledge Exam, you will receive a Hazardous Materials Pass Certificate. Exam results are valid for two (2) years.

2. Contact IBT, the Transportation Security Administration's vendor, at 1-877-429-7746 or visit <https://hazprints.tsa.dhs.gov> to apply for the Background Check, pay the application fee, and identify locations nationwide where you can be fingerprinted. You will need to visit the vendor's location and do the following:
 - Present 2 forms of ID to verify your identity.
 - Allow yourself to be fingerprinted.

It could take approximately 30 days to receive the results of your Background Check. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will notify you of your results by mail.

3. Upon being notified that you passed the background check, do the following:
 - Return to an RMV branch office.
 - Complete a *CDL Application*
 - Pass a road test (for a 1st time Commercial Driver's License applicant)
 - Pay the fees for a Commercial Driver's License with the Hazardous Materials Endorsement.

Renewing a Hazardous Materials Endorsement

1. Approximately ninety (90) days prior to your license expiration, contact IBT, the Transportation Security Administration's vendor, at 1-877-429-7746 or visit <https://hazprints.tsa.dhs.gov> to apply for the Background Check, pay the application fee, and identify locations nationwide where you can be fingerprinted. You will need to visit the vendor's location and do the following:
 - Present 2 forms of ID to verify your identity.
 - Allow yourself to be fingerprinted.

It could take approximately 30 days to receive the results of your Background Check. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will notify you of your results by mail.

2. Upon being notified that you passed the background check, do the following:

- Go to an RMV branch office.
- Complete a *CDL Application*.
- Pay applicable fees.
- Take the Hazardous Materials Knowledge Exam.

If you pass the Hazardous Materials Knowledge Exam, you can renew your license with the Hazmat Endorsement.

If you fail the Background Check or the Knowledge Exam, you will still be able to renew your Commercial Driver's License, but without the Hazardous Materials Endorsement.

Transferring a Hazardous Materials Endorsement from Out-of-State

Massachusetts does not transfer Hazardous Materials Endorsements. This means that you will be required to take the Hazardous Materials Knowledge Exam and pass a Background Check.

1. Go to an RMV branch office and do the following:

- Complete a *CDL Application*.
- Pay applicable fees.
- Take the Hazardous Materials Knowledge Exam.

If you pass the Hazardous Materials Knowledge Exam, you will receive a Hazardous Materials Pass Certificate. Exam results are valid for two (2) years.

2. Contact IBT, the Transportation Security Administration's vendor, at 1-877-429-7746 or visit <https://hazprints.tsa.dhs.gov> to apply for the Background Check, pay the application fee, and identify locations nationwide where you can be fingerprinted. You will need to visit the vendor's location and do the following:

- Present 2 forms of ID to verify your identity.
- Allow yourself to be fingerprinted.

It could take approximately 30 days to receive the results of your Background Check. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will notify you of your results by mail.

3. Upon being notified that you passed the Background Check, do the following:

- Go to an RMV branch office.
- Complete a *CDL Application*.
- Pay the fees for a Commercial Driver's License with Hazardous Materials Endorsement.

DOT Medical Cards

Requirements

To qualify for a Commercial Driver's License (CDL), you must pass a Department of Transportation (DOT) medical examination performed in accordance with CFR 49 [§391.41](#) and CFR 49 [§391.43](#).

DOT medical examinations are conducted by a licensed medical examiner as defined in CFR 49 [§390.5](#). To find a medical examiner, you may contact your primary care provider to inquire if they will conduct a "DOT medical exam." You may also find a medical examiner in the yellow pages of your telephone book, or on the Internet by using an Internet directory or search engine.

The examiner will provide you with a medical examiner's certificate that you must carry with you whenever you operate a Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV). A medical examiner's certificate will also be required, even if you don't have a CDL, if you operate a CMV, in interstate commerce, with a gross vehicle rating in excess of 10,000 pounds.

Required Forms

If your medical examiner does not have the required forms, they may be obtained from any of the following:

- The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration website (www.fmcsa.dot.gov), free of charge
- J.J. Keller (item WW-015-MP) by calling 1-877-564-2333 or via the Internet using the "Medical Examinations and Reports" link at: www.jjkeller.com
- The Massachusetts Motor Truck Association, by calling 617-695-3512 (Free for members only.)

Alternatively, your examiner may print a copy of the forms directly from the FMCSA website.

Expiration

Medical examiner's certificates are valid for no more than two years. Some medical conditions may require you to have a physical examination more frequently and others may disqualify you from driving a commercial motor vehicle (CMV).

Physical Qualifications

Physical qualifications are listed in CFR 49 [§391.41](#).

If you do not meet the vision or diabetes physical qualification standards, or have a loss or impairment of limbs (arms, hands, fingers, legs, or feet) and want to operate an interstate commercial motor vehicle (CMV), you may be able to satisfy alternative physical qualifications or qualify for an exemption. Contact the Massachusetts State office of FMCSA at 617-494-2770 for additional details. Information is also available on the [FMCSA website](#).

If you cannot meet the medical qualifications for CMV interstate commercial operation, you may qualify for an Intrastate Medical Waiver. This waiver, available from the RMV, would permit operation of a CMV used in Massachusetts intrastate commerce only. Call 617-351-9222 for specific details or see www.mass.gov/rmv/forms/21156.pdf for the Intrastate Medical Waiver Application.

Obtaining a CDL is not Easy. Losing it is.

You can be legally disqualified from driving a Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) for one or more of the violations listed below. Note that some of the major offenses involving alcohol or drugs do not require the offense to be committed in a CMV. Only you can help to protect your right to operate a CMV.

Major Offenses

For any of the following offenses, you will be disqualified from operating a CMV for at least one (1) year for a conviction of a first offense and life for a conviction of a second offense arising from two (2) or more separate incidents. If any of the offenses below occurred while transporting a hazardous material required to be placarded, you will be disqualified for a period of at least three years. You must not operate a CMV while disqualified.

- If you operate a CMV or a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- If you operate a CMV while your Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) is 0.04% or more.
- If you refuse to submit to a chemical test or analysis of your breath or blood as required by law after operating a CMV or a motor vehicle.
- If you leave the scene of an accident while operating a CMV or a motor vehicle.
- If you use a CMV or a motor vehicle in the commission of a felony.
- If you cause a fatality through the negligent operation of a CMV.
- If you were operating a CMV when, as a result of a prior violation committed operating a CMV, your CDL was suspended, revoked, or cancelled, or you were disqualified from operating a CMV.

You will have a lifetime disqualification if you use the vehicle to commit a felony involving the manufacturing, distributing, or dispensing of controlled substances.

Serious Traffic Violations

You will be disqualified from operating a CMV:

- For at least sixty (60) days if you are convicted of committing two serious traffic violations while operating a CMV arising from separate incidents within a three-year period.
- For at least one hundred twenty (120) days if you are convicted of committing three serious traffic violations while operating a CMV arising from separate incidents within a three-year period.

Serious traffic violations consist of the following:

- Excessive speeding (15 mph or more above posted limit)
- Operating to endanger
- Reckless driving
- Improper or erratic traffic lane changes
- Following a vehicle too closely

- Traffic offenses committed in connection with a fatal traffic accident
- Driving a CMV without obtaining a CDL
- Driving a CMV without a CDL in the driver's possession
- Driving a CMV without the proper class of CDL and/or endorsements for the specific vehicle group being operated or for the passengers or type of cargo being transported

Serious traffic violations include any and all major disqualifying offenses under 49 CFR 383.51.

Railroad-Highway Grade Crossing

You will be disqualified from operating a CMV if you are convicted of violating the railroad-highway grade crossing provisions of 49 CFR 383.51. You will be disqualified for any combination of the following violations while operating a CMV:

- The driver is not required to always stop, but fails to slow down and check that the tracks are clear of an approaching train.
- The driver is not required to always stop, but fails to stop before reaching the crossing, if the tracks are not clear.
- The driver is always required to stop, but fails to stop before driving onto the crossing.
- The driver fails to have sufficient space to drive completely through the crossing without stopping.
- The driver fails to obey a traffic control device or the directions of an enforcement official at the crossing.
- The driver fails to negotiate a crossing because of insufficient undercarriage clearance.

The length of the disqualification will be as follows:

- Not less than sixty (60) days for a first conviction
- Not less than one hundred and twenty (120) days for a second conviction arising from separate incidents within a three (3) year period.
- Not less than one (1) year for a third or subsequent conviction arising from separate incidents within a three (3) year period.

Violating Out-Of-Service Orders

You will be disqualified from operating a CMV if you violate an out-of-service order for the following length of time:

- Not less than one hundred and eighty (180) days for a first violation
- Not less than two (2) years for a second violation arising from separate incidents within a ten (10) period
- Not less than three (3) years for a third or subsequent violation arising from separate incidents within a ten (10) period

You will be disqualified from operating a CMV if you violate an out-of-service order while transporting hazardous materials required to be placarded or while operating a motor vehicle designed to transport sixteen (16) or more passengers, including the driver, for the following length of time:

- Not less than one hundred and eighty (180) days for a first violation
- Not less than three (3) years for a second or subsequent violation of an out-of-service order arising from separate incidents within a ten (10) year period.

OUI Offenses for CDL Operators

Use of alcohol or drugs while holding a Commercial Driver’s License has serious consequences. Under 49 CFR 383.72, “any person who holds a CDL is considered to have consented to such testing as is required by any state or jurisdiction in the enforcement of 383.51(b)(2)(i) and 392.5(a)(2) of this chapter. Consent is implied by driving a commercial motor vehicle.” Below is a table of the offenses and the periods for which a driver must be disqualified. The table below is a partial list of the major offenses taken from 49 CFR 383.51(b). Your license will be revoked for the disqualification period listed, and under 540 CMR 2.06 (9)c(5), you may only regain a CDL by passing the CDL knowledge and road test(s).

If a driver operates a motor vehicle and is convicted of:	For a first conviction or refusal to be tested while operating a CMV, a person required to have a CDL holder must be disqualified from operating a CMV for	For a first conviction or refusal to be tested while operating a non-CMV, a CDL holder must be disqualified from operating a CMV for	For a first conviction or refusal to be tested while operating a CMV transporting hazardous materials required to be placarded under the Hazardous Materials Regulations (49 CFR part 172, subpart F), a person required to have a CDL and CDL holder must be disqualified from operating a CMV for	For a second conviction or refusal to be tested in a separate incident of any combination of offenses in this Table while operating a CMV, a person required to have a CDL and a CDL holder must be disqualified from operating a CMV for	For a second conviction or refusal to be tested in a separate incident of any combination of offenses in this Table while operating a non-CMV, a CDL holder must be disqualified from operating a CMV for
Being under the influence of alcohol as prescribed by State law.	1 year	1 year	3 years	Life	Life
Being under the influence of a controlled substance.	1 year	1 year	3 years	Life	Life
Having an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or greater while operating a CMV	1 year	Not applicable	3 years	Life	Not applicable
Refusing to take an alcohol test as required by a State or jurisdiction under its implied consent laws or regulations as defined in §383.72 of this part.	1 year	1 year	3 years	Life	Life
Using the vehicle in the commission of a felony involving manufacturing, distributing, or dispensing a controlled substance.	Life-not eligible for 10-year reinstatement.	Life-not eligible for 10-year reinstatement.	Life-not eligible for 10-year reinstatement.	Life-not eligible for 10-year reinstatement.	Life-not eligible for 10-year reinstatement.

Table of Contents

PART ONE

Section 1:	Introduction	1-1
1.1	Commercial Driver License Tests	1-1
1.2	Other CDL Rules	1-2
Section 2:	Driving Safely	2-1
2.1	Vehicle Inspection	2-1
2.2	Basic Control of Your Vehicle	2-15
2.3	Shifting Gears	2-17
2.4	Seeing	2-19
2.5	Communicating	2-22
2.6	Controlling Speed	2-24
2.7	Managing Space	2-27
2.8	Driving at Night	2-31
2.9	Driving in Fog	2-34
2.10	Driving in Winter	2-34
2.11	Driving in Very Hot Weather	2-37
2.12	Railroad Crossings	2-38
2.13	Mountain Driving	2-39
2.14	Seeing Hazards	2-41
2.15	Emergencies	2-45
2.16	Skid Control and Recovery	2-49
2.17	Accident Procedures	2-51
2.18	Fires	2-52
2.19	Staying Alert and Fit to Drive	2-54
2.20	Hazardous Materials Rules For All Commercial Drivers	2-57
Section 3:	Transporting Cargo Safely	3-1
3.1	Inspecting Cargo	3-1
3.2	Weight and Balance	3-2
3.3	Securing Cargo	3-4
3.4	Other Cargo Needing Special Attention	3-5

PART TWO

Section 4:	Transporting Passengers	4-1
4.1	Pre-trip Inspection	4-1
4.2	Loading and Trip Start	4-2
4.3	On the Road	4-4
4.4	After-trip Vehicle Inspection	4-5
4.5	Prohibited Practices	4-5
4.6	Use of Brake-door Interlocks	4-6
Section 5:	Air Brakes	5-1
5.1	The Parts of an Air Brake System	5-1
5.2	Dual Air Brake	5-6
5.3	Inspecting Air Brake Systems	5-6
5.4	Using Air Brakes	5-8
Section 6:	Combination Vehicles	6-1
6.1	Driving Combination Vehicles Safely	6-1
6.2	Combination Vehicle Air Brakes	6-5
6.3	Coupling and Uncoupling	6-8
6.4	Inspecting a Combination Vehicle	6-14
Section 7:	Doubles and Triples	7-1

7.1	Pulling Double/Triple Trailers.....	7-1
7.2	Coupling and Uncoupling.....	7-2
7.3	Inspecting Doubles and Triples.....	7-5
7.4	Doubles/Triples Air Brake Check.....	7-6
Section 8:	Tank Vehicles.....	8-1
8.1	Inspecting Tank Vehicles.....	8-1
8.2	Driving Tank Vehicles.....	8-2
8.3	Safe Driving Rules.....	8-3
Section 9:	Hazardous Materials.....	9-1
9.1	The Intent of the Regulations.....	9-2
9.2	Hazardous Materials Transportation--Who Does What.....	9-3
9.3	Communication Rules.....	9-4
9.4	Loading and Unloading.....	9-16
9.5	Bulk Packaging Marking, Loading and Unloading.....	9-20
9.6	Hazardous Materials--Driving and Parking Rules.....	9-21
9.7	Hazardous Materials--Emergencies.....	9-25
Table A	Radioactive Separation Table.....	9-30
Table B	Table of Hazard Class Definitions.....	9-30
	Hazardous Materials Glossary.....	9-31

PART THREE

Section 10:	Pre-trip Vehicle Inspection Test.....	10-1
10.1	All Vehicles.....	10-1
10.2	External Inspection (School Bus/Truck/Tractor).....	10-6
10.3	School Bus Only.....	10-10
10.4	Trailer.....	10-12
10-5	Coach/Transit Bus.....	10-14
Section 11:	Basic Vehicle Control Skills Test.....	11-1
11.1	Exercises.....	11-2
11.2	Scoring.....	11-2
Section 12:	On-road Driving Test.....	12-1
12.1	How You Will Be Tested.....	12-1

APPENDIX A: Section 10 of the 2004 Model Commercial Driver's License Manual Appendix A-1