

PART ONE

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***THIS PART IS FOR ALL
COMMERCIAL DRIVERS***

SECTION 1

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**THIS SECTION IS FOR
ALL
COMMERCIAL DRIVERS**

SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

This Section Covers

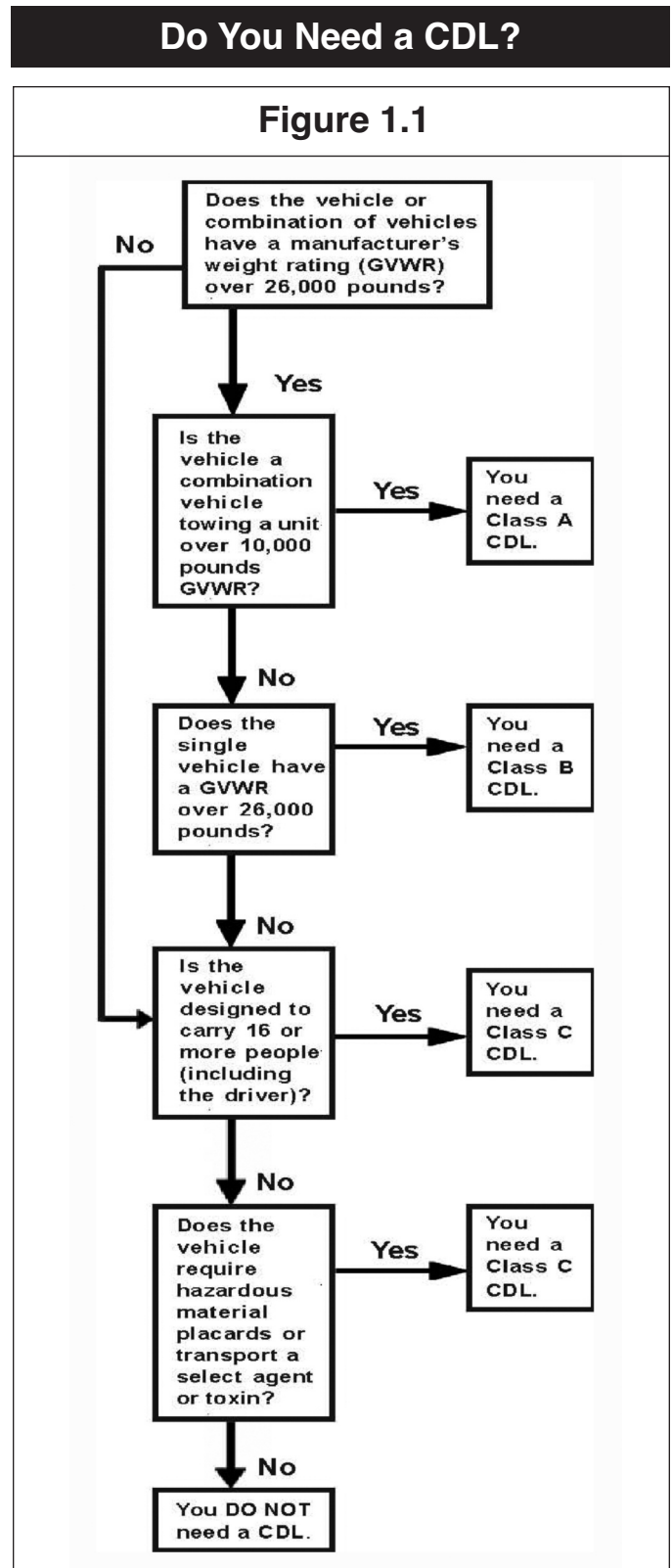
- Commercial Driver's License Tests
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As a result of the Federal Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986, Pennsylvania established a Commercial Driver Licensing Program. This program has been developed to improve driver quality, ensure commercial drivers have the skills needed to operate commercial vehicles and to prevent drivers from having more than one driver's license. The program requires you to have a CDL if you operate or plan to operate any of the following Commercial Motor Vehicles (CMVs):

- A combination of vehicles with a gross combination weight rating (GCWR) of 26,001 pounds or more, provided the vehicle being towed is in excess of 10,000 pounds.
- A single vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 26,001 or more pounds.
- A vehicle designed to transport 16 or more persons, including the driver.
- A school bus designed to carry 11 passengers or more, including the driver.
- Any size vehicle, which transports hazardous materials and is required to be placarded in accordance with federal regulations.
- Any size vehicle used in the transportation of any material that requires hazardous materials placards or any quantity of a material listed as a select agent or toxin in 42 CFR 73. Federal regulations through the Department of Homeland Security require a background check and fingerprinting for the Hazardous Materials endorsement.

To get a CDL, you must pass knowledge and skills tests. This manual will help you pass the tests. This manual is not a substitute for a truck driver training class or program. Formal training is the most reliable way to learn the many special skills required for safely driving a large commercial vehicle and becoming a professional driver in the trucking industry.

Figure 1.1 helps you determine if you need a CDL



Exemptions: You do not need a CDL to drive military equipment while in military uniform; certain fire and emergency equipment owned by a fire company; or recreational vehicles; implements of husbandry; or certain motorized construction equipment.

This section examines the requirements of the CDL and how you can get your CDL.

As part of the Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) amended the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) to require interstate commercial driver's license (CDL) holders, subject to the physical qualification requirements of the FMCSRs, to provide a current copy of their Medical Examiner's Certificate to their State Driver Licensing Agency.

Interstate is defined as trade, traffic or transportation in the United States:

- Between a place in a State and place outside of such State (including a place outside of the United States); or
- Between two places in a State through another State or a place outside of the United States; or
- Between two places in a State as part of trade, traffic, or transportation originating or terminating outside the State or the United States.

In addition, Pennsylvania regulations (Title 67, Chapter 231: http://www.pacode.com/secure/date/067_0231.pdf) relating to CDL holders who operate in intrastate commerce incorporate the FMCSRs by reference, therefore requiring, with limited exception, nearly all commercial drivers to submit a copy of their Medical Examiner's Certificate to PennDOT.

These regulations will ensure that accurate and up-to-date information about the CDL holder's Medical Examiner's Certificate will be contained in the electronic driving record.

For information on CDL's, please call:

1-800-932-4600

Out-of-State: (717) 412-5300

TDD: 1-800-228-0676

Monday through Friday

8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

or write:

PennDOT

Bureau of Driver Licensing

CDL Program

P.O. Box 68679

Harrisburg, PA 17106-8679

CLASSIFICATIONS

With the implementation of the Commercial Driver Licensing Program, Pennsylvania adopted a new classification system. CDL classifications include:

CLASS A

A Class A license is issued to those persons 18 years of age or older who have demonstrated their qualifications to operate any combination of vehicles with a GVWR of 26,001 pounds or more, provided the GVWR of the vehicle or vehicles being towed is in excess of 10,000 pounds. The holder of a Class A license is qualified to operate vehicles for which a Class B or Class C license is issued. Where required, appropriate endorsements must be obtained.

CLASS B

A Class B license is issued to those persons 18 years of age or older who have demonstrated their qualifications to operate any single vehicle with a GVWR of 26,001 pounds or more or any such vehicle towing a vehicle having a GVWR of not more than 10,000 pounds. The holder of a Class B license is qualified to operate vehicles for which a Class C license is issued. Where required, appropriate endorsements must be obtained.

CLASS C

A Class C license is issued to those persons 18 years of age or older who have demonstrated their qualifications to operate any single vehicle with a GVWR of not more than 26,000 pounds or any combination of vehicles, except combination vehicles involving motorcycles, not meeting the definition of a Class A or Class B vehicle. Where required, appropriate endorsements must be obtained.

NOTE: You must be 21 years of age or older to operate a Commercial Motor Vehicle interstate. This applies to ALL classes.

In addition to the CDL classes, there are also special endorsements and restrictions you must have to drive certain types of commercial vehicles. They are:

ENDORSEMENTS/RESTRICTIONS

ENDORSEMENTS

- L - Restricts the driver to vehicles not equipped with air brakes.
- H - Required to drive a vehicle with hazardous materials placards (*you must be 21 years of age*).
- N - Required to drive a tank vehicle.
- T - Required to drive double and triple trailers.
- P - Required to drive a vehicle designed to carry 16 passengers or more, including the driver (*buses*).
- S - Required to drive a school bus. Designed to carry 11 passengers or more, including the driver.
- X - Represents a combination of the hazardous materials and tank vehicle endorsements (*you must be 21 years of age*).

RESTRICTIONS

- L - Restricts the driver to vehicles not equipped with air brakes.
- B - Passenger endorsement restriction – cannot drive Class A buses.
- C - Passenger endorsement restriction – cannot drive Class A or B buses.
- Q - Requires the driver to wear corrective lenses while driving a commercial motor vehicle.
- Y - Requires the driver to wear a hearing aid(s) while driving a commercial motor vehicle.
- A - Restricts the driver to only drive within an exempt intracity zone (49 CFR § 391.62).
- G - Indicates the driver is qualified medically by operation of 49 CFR § 391.62.
- V - Indicates the driver is qualified and has been issued a medical variance. (Medical variance documentation must be carried at all times when operating a commercial motor vehicle.)

1.1 – COMMERCIAL DRIVER LICENSE TESTS

1.1.1 – Knowledge Tests

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

General Knowledge Test:

Commercial Driver's License applicants must pass a written test to demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the laws, rules and regulations regarding the operation of Commercial Motor Vehicle(s) you intend to drive.

A Commercial Motor Vehicle is defined as follows:

- a) Has a gross combination weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more providing the GVWR of the vehicle being towed is in excess of 10,000 pounds or
- b) Has a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more or
- c) Is designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver; or
- d) A school bus designed to carry 11 passengers or more, including the driver; or
- e) Is of any size and is used in the transportation of materials found to be hazardous for the purpose of the Hazardous Material Transportation Act, which require the motor vehicle to be placarded under the Hazardous Materials Regulations.

Passenger Knowledge Test:

Required by all bus drivers, including the operation of a School Bus as defined in Title 75 (PA Vehicle Code) Chapter 1508 and, Chapter 1509.

Air Brakes Knowledge Test:

You must take the Air Brake Knowledge Test if your vehicle has air brakes, including air over hydraulic brakes.

Combination Vehicle Knowledge Test:

The combination vehicles test is required if you want to drive combination vehicles (Class A).

Hazardous Materials Knowledge Test:

The hazardous materials test is required if you want to haul hazardous materials or waste in amounts that require placarding or any quantity of a material listed as a select agent or toxin in 42 CFR 73. In addition, to comply with federal requirements, you will need to provide proof of U.S. citizenship or appropriate immigration status; (refer to PUB 195NC) complete a Federal Security Threat Assessment (DL-288); pay additional federal fees; have your fingerprints taken; and successfully complete a federal criminal history background check. The Hazardous Materials endorsement must be recertified every four years. To recertify, you must take and pass the Hazardous Materials Knowledge Test. You must pass your knowledge test before receiving your permit to take the skills testing and successfully complete the Security Threat Assessment.

Tanker Knowledge Test:

The tanker test is required if you want to haul a liquid or liquid gas in a permanently mounted cargo tank rated at 119 gallons or more or a portable tank rated at 1,000 gallons or more.

Double / Triples Knowledge Test:

The doubles/triples test is required if you want to pull double or triple trailers.

School Bus Knowledge Test:

The School Bus test is required if you want to drive a school bus. A School Bus endorsement must be recertified every four years. To recertify, the applicant must take and pass the School Bus Knowledge Test, skills evaluation and must complete required 10 hours of training.

1.1.2 – Skills Tests

If you pass the required knowledge test(s), you can take the CDL skills tests. There are three types of general skills that will be tested: pre-trip inspection, basic vehicle control and on-road driving. You must take these tests in the type of vehicle for which you want to be licensed. After receiving your learner's permit, **Pennsylvania law requires you wait 15 days before you may take your Class A, B or C skills testing. Any vehicle that has components marked or labeled cannot be used for the "Pre-Trip Inspection Test"**.

Pre-trip Vehicle Inspection: You will be tested to see if you know whether your vehicle is safe to drive. You will be asked to do a pre-trip inspection of your vehicle and explain to the examiner what you would inspect and why. You and the examiner will perform a walk around safety inspection of the test vehicle. The vehicle safety inspection shall consist of checking all exterior lights and reflectors, tires, exterior mirrors and any major leaks. The examiner will instruct the examinee to enter the vehicle and operate the following controls: headlights, marker lights, wiper/washer, turn signals, hazard warning lights, tail lights, brake lights, horn(s), emergency safety equipment and air brakes. If the vehicle is air brake equipped you will be required to complete an air brake test on the vehicle.

Basic Vehicle Control: You will be tested on your skill to control the vehicle. A test course will be set up consisting of six (6) various exercises. You will be asked to move your vehicle forward, backward and turn it within a defined area. These areas may be marked with traffic lanes, cones, barriers or something similar. The examiner will tell you how each control test is to be done. You will be required to perform at least two (2) of the six (6) exercises. You will be scored on how well you stay within the exercise boundaries, how many times you move forward and final vehicle position. The basic control skills will be administered based on the layout of the test site.

On the Road Skills Test: You will be taken over a route specified by the examiner. You will be tested on your skill to safely drive your vehicle in a variety of traffic situations. The situations may include: left and right turns; intersections; railroad crossings; curves; up and down grades; single or multi-lane roads; streets or highways. The examiner will score specific tasks: such as turns; merging into traffic; lane changes and speed control at specific places along the route. The examiner will also score whether you correctly do tasks such as signaling, searching for hazards, controlling speed and lane positioning.

This manual will help you pass the CDL test. Figure 1.2 details which sections of this manual you should study for each particular class of license and for each endorsement. If you need the School Bus "S" endorsement, you need to also study the School Bus Driver's Manual (PUB 117) and passenger vehicle information in Section 4 of this manual.

When you have successfully completed all of your required CDL knowledge and/or skills tests, you will be issued a CDL Driving Document (camera card or photo license). Upon receipt of your camera card, you should go to a Photo License Center, have your picture taken and receive your CDL. You will need to take acceptable proof of identification to the photo license technician.

Note: There are questions and answers for specific tests that are found in other sections besides those specified in the “study sections” below.

Figure 1.2

IF YOU WANT TO DRIVE	TYPE OF CDL YOU NEED	STUDY SECTION(S)*
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	CLASS A	Section 2: Driving Safely Section 3: Transporting Cargo Safely Section 6: Combination Vehicles
• With Double or Triple Trailers	T Endorsement	Section 7: Double or Triple Trailers
• Tank Vehicle	N Endorsement	Section 8: Tank Vehicles
• Hazardous Materials	H Endorsement	Section 9: Hazardous Materials
• With Air Brakes		Section 5: Air Brakes
• Without Air Brakes	L Restriction	
Any single vehicle with a GVWR of 26,001 or more pounds, or any bus or school bus, or any such vehicle towing a vehicle not in excess of 10,000 pounds	CLASS B	Section 2: Driving Safely Section 3: Transporting Cargo Safely
• Tank Vehicle	N Endorsement	Section 8: Tank Vehicles
• Carrying Passengers	P Endorsement	Section 4: Transporting Passengers
• School Bus	P & S Endorsement	Section 4: Transporting Passengers and the Pennsylvania School Bus Driver's Manual (PUB 117)
• Hazardous Materials	H Endorsement	Section 9: Hazardous Materials
• With Air Brakes		Section 5: Air Brakes
• Without Air Brakes	L Restriction	
Any single vehicle with a GVWR of less than 26,001 pounds or any such vehicle towing a vehicle not in excess of 10,000 pounds, including any bus designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver or a school bus designed to transport 11 or more passengers, including the driver.	CLASS C	Section 2: Driving Safely Section 3: Transporting Cargo Safely
• Carrying Passengers	P Endorsement	Section 4: Transporting Passengers
• A School Bus	P & S Endorsement	Section 4: Transporting Passengers and the Pennsylvania School Bus Driver's Manual (PUB 117)
• Hazardous Materials	H Endorsement	Section 9: Hazardous Materials
• With Air Brakes		Section 5: Air Brakes
• Without Air Brakes	L Restriction	

* Study sections provided as a guide. Questions may be drawn from other related sections of the CDL Manual.

1.1.3 Applying for a CDL When You are Already Licensed in Pennsylvania

If you are licensed as a non-commercial driver in Pennsylvania and want to obtain a CDL, you would apply for your permit(s) using form DL-31CD, Application for Commercial Learner's Permit. In addition, you must also self-certify the type of driving in which you intend to engage using a DL-11CD. The most current version of these forms can be found on our website at www.dmv.state.pa.us. Forms are also available at our Driver License Centers and at most messenger services and auto clubs in Pennsylvania. The DL-31CD is also used by licensed PA CDL drivers to upgrade or add endorsements to current CDL privileges.

When completing an application for the permits needed to upgrade your non-commercial driver's license to a CDL, you will need to pay an increased annual license fee and a photo fee, in addition to the permit fees for any privileges requested. The increase fee required as part of your higher annual fee will be prorated based on how many years, full or partial, are remaining on your current non-commercial drivers license.

The actual license for a Commercial driver must always contain the correct information. While you may have received an endorsement card when information changed on your non-commercial driver's license, once you pass your testing for your CDL, you will receive a new photo driver's license to reflect your new CDL status. (This requirement also means that if you hold a CDL and have a change of name or address, you will need to apply for a duplicate driver's license to record your change.)

The fee for your CDL permit(s) will be based on how many privileges you apply for as part of your application. There are fees for each class, endorsement and restriction removal.

Any knowledge testing required must be completed prior to you being eligible for skills testing. When your application is processed, you will be issued a knowledge test authorization if any privileges applied for require a knowledge test. Once you successfully complete your knowledge test, the Driver License Center will issue you the skill permit(s) for your skills testing.

1.1.4 Applying for a PA CDL When Licensed in Another State

If you are a new resident and wish to apply for a Pennsylvania CDL, you must surrender all valid driver's licenses issued to you by any other state(s). The Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act requires that no person shall have more than one valid driver's license at any time. Pennsylvania can prohibit issuance of driver license products to an out-of-state address.

To surrender your out-of-state driver's license and to apply for a Pennsylvania Driver's License, you should go to a PennDOT Driver License Center and take the following documents with you:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| (1) Your valid out-of-state driver's license, | (3) Proof of identity, and |
| (2) Your Social Security Card, | (4) Two proofs of residency |

(Non-U.S. citizens will have additional requirements.)

Acceptable proof of identity includes:

- Birth Certificate with raised seal (*U.S. issued by an authorized government agency, including U.S. Territories or Puerto Rico. Non-U.S. birth certificates will not be accepted.*) Please note effective 10/31/10 PennDOT no longer accepts Puerto Rico birth certificates issued before July1, 2010.
- Certificate of U.S. Citizenship (**BCIS/INS Form N-560**)
- Certificate of Naturalization (**BCIS/INS Form N-550 or N-570**)
- Valid U.S. Passport

NOTE: Only valid passports and original documents will be accepted.

Acceptable documents for proof of residency include:

- Current Utility Bills (*water, gas, electric, cable, phone, etc.*)
- Tax Records
- Lease Agreements
- Mortgage Documents
- W-2 Form
- Current Weapons Permit

NOTE: If you reside with someone, and have no bills in your name, you will still need to provide two proofs of residency. One proof is to bring the person with whom you reside along with their drivers license or photo ID to the Driver License Center. You will also need to provide a second proof of residency such as official mail (bank statement, tax notice, etc.) that has your name and address on it. The address must match that of the person with whom you reside.

If the driver's license you surrender is a valid CDL, you will then be required to undergo a vision screening. Additional testing will be required to be licensed to transport hazardous material(s) or drive a school bus.

If the driver's license you surrender is not a CDL, you will be issued a non-commercial driver's license and you will have to apply for the proper learner's permit before you will be permitted to operate a commercial motor vehicle in Pennsylvania. The learner's permit entitles you to drive only the type of vehicle for which you have applied. To drive with a commercial learner's permit, you must be accompanied by a person who has a valid driver's license for the type of vehicle you are driving. This person must occupy the seat beside you and be at least 21 years of age.

1.1.5 How to Obtain a CDL Permit When Not Licensed in PA or Another State

If you were never licensed before, you can apply for a CDL permit. You must pass a physical examination, a vision screening, and a knowledge test.

The vision screening and knowledge tests are given at PennDOT Driver License Centers. The vision screening will measure your vision with or without glasses. The knowledge test will measure your knowledge of traffic signs and the operation of your commercial motor vehicle. Study this manual and the "Pennsylvania Driver's Manual" carefully before taking the test.

To apply for a Pennsylvania driver's license, you should go to a PennDOT Driver License Center and take the following documents with you:

- (1) Acceptable Proof of identity,
- (2) Your Social Security Card,
- (3) Two proofs of residency
(*Non-U.S. citizens will have additional requirements.*)

Refer to PUB 195NC available at all driver license centers or refer to the website www.state.pa.us

Acceptable proof of identity includes:

- Birth Certificate with raised seal (*U.S. issued by an authorized government agency, including U.S. Territories or Puerto Rico. Non-U.S. birth certificates will not be accepted.*) Please note effective 10/31/10 PennDOT no longer accepts Puerto Rico birth certificates issued before July1, 2010.
- Certificate of U.S. Citizenship (**BCIS/INS Form N-560**)
- Certificate of Naturalization (**BCIS/INS Form N-550 or N-570**)
- Valid U.S. Passport

NOTE: Only valid passports and original documents will be accepted.

Acceptable documents for proof of residency include:

- Current Utility Bills (*water, gas, electric, cable, phone, etc.*)
- Tax Records
- Lease Agreements
- Mortgage Documents
- W-2 Form
- Current Weapons Permit

NOTE: If you reside with someone, and have no bills in your name, you will still need to provide two proofs of residency. One proof is to bring the person with whom you reside along with their drivers license or photo ID to the Driver License Center. You will also need to provide a second proof of residency such as official mail (bank statement, tax notice, etc.) that has your name and address on it. The address must match that of the person with whom you reside.

The examiner will complete part of the application form and give you a vision screening and knowledge test. The

other part of the form must be filled out by you and your physician and presented along with all required fees to PennDOT.

You should receive your Knowledge Test Authorization (KTA) at the PennDOT site when they process your application. The KTA will be valid for one (1) year from the date issued.

When you arrive for the knowledge test, make sure you have the following items:

- Acceptable proof of identity
- Signed KTA
- Signed Social Security Card (Not Laminated)

Once you successfully complete your knowledge testing, the Driver License Center will issue you the skills permit(s) for any skills testing that may be required. You must wait 15 days before you may take your skills testing.

When you are ready, you may schedule an appointment for your skills test online at PennDOT's Driver and Vehicle Services website: www.dmv.state.pa.us, or contact 1-800-423-5542. Most centers are closed on Sundays, Mondays and on all legal holidays in Pennsylvania. For the days and hours of operation of a Driver License Center near you, please call 1-800-932-4600 or visit the Location Info Center on the Driver and Vehicle Services website.

Learner's permits cannot be laminated (*covered in plastic*). The driver license examiner cannot stamp a laminated permit when you successfully pass the skills test.

When you arrive for the skills test, make sure you have the following four items:

- Your valid learner's permit; and acceptable proof of identity,
- The registration card for the vehicle you plan to drive for the skills test;
- Proof that the vehicle is insured; and,
- The driver's license of the person accompanying you. The accompanying person's driver's license must be for the class of vehicle you are going to drive any endorsements required and all restrictions removed for the type of vehicle you are testing in and the accompanying driver must be at least 21 years of age.

Photocopies are not acceptable

You may also take the skills test through a third party tester.

When you have successfully completed all of your testing, PennDOT will issue you a new driver's license.

If you fail any part of the CDL skills test, you must make an appointment to be retested. You only need to be retested on the part(s) you fail.

If you fail the test three times or if your learner's permit expires, you can obtain an application (*Form DL-31CD*) for an extension of your learner's permit privileges from a Driver License Center or on our website at www.dmv.state.pa.us. Send this form, along with the appropriate fee, to the Bureau of Driver Licensing, P.O. Box 68272, Harrisburg, PA 17106-8272.

If you pass the knowledge tests but fail the skills tests and your learner's permit expires, you will need to retake the knowledge test. If the one (1) year time period has passed and your CDL learner's permit has expired, you will need to reapply for a learner's permit by completing the Commercial Learner's Permit Application (DL-31CD). Another KTA will be issued by PennDOT, requiring knowledge testing when results are more than one (1) year old.

1.2 – DRIVER DISQUALIFICATIONS

1.2.1 – General

You may not drive a commercial motor vehicle (CMV), if you are disqualified for any reason.

1.2.2 – Alcohol, Leaving the Scene of an Accident and Commission of a Felony

It is illegal to operate a CMV if your blood alcohol concentration (BAC) is .04% or more. If you operate a CMV, you shall be deemed to have given your consent to alcohol testing.

You will lose your CDL for at least one (1) year for a first offense for:

- Driving a CMV if your blood alcohol concentration is .04% or higher.
- Driving a CMV under the influence of alcohol.
- Refusing to undergo blood alcohol testing.
- Driving a CMV while under the influence of a controlled substance.
- Leaving the scene of an accident involving a CMV.
- Committing a felony involving the use of a CMV.
- Crashes involving death or personal injury while driving a CMV.
- Crashes involving damage to unattended vehicle or property while driving a CMV.
- Driving a CMV while your driving privilege is suspended, revoked, cancelled or recalled or while subject to disqualification of an out-of-state service order.
- Using a CMV to commit a felony.

You will lose your CDL for at least three (3) years if the offense occurs while you are operating a CMV that is placarded for hazardous materials.

You will lose your CDL for life for a second offense.

You will lose your CDL for life if you use a CMV to commit a felony involving controlled substances.

You will be put out-of-service for 24 hours if you have any detectable amount of alcohol under .04%.

If you drive a school vehicle or school bus when your blood alcohol concentration (BAC) is 0.02% or more, you are driving under the influence of alcohol. If you drive any other type of commercial vehicle and your BAC is 0.04% or more, you are driving under the influence of alcohol. You will lose your CDL for one year for your first offense. If your blood alcohol concentration is less than 0.02% for school bus and school vehicle drivers, or less than 0.04% for other commercial motor vehicle drivers, but you have any detectable amount, you can be placed out-of-service for up to 30 days.

Pennsylvania's Implied Consent Law

As a commercial driver, it is very important that you understand PA's "Implied Consent" law. If a police officer has reasonable ground to believe that you were driving a CMV while having any alcohol in your system and you refuse to take one or more chemical tests of breath, blood or urine, your driving privilege will be suspended for one (1) year (12 months), or 18 months if you have a prior refusal or DUI conviction on your driving record. A single refusal violation, combined with a DUI conviction would cause your driving privilege to be suspended for at least two (2) years (longer, if you have a prior refusal or DUI convictions).

The law covering chemical testing says you have agreed to take such a test just by being licensed to drive in Pennsylvania. Even if you are found not guilty of driving while under the influence, your driving privilege will be suspended for at least one (1) year if you refuse to take a blood, breath or urine test. In addition, if you are involved in a crash involving a motor carrier vehicle or CMV, and a police officer is required to investigate, you will be required to submit to testing for alcohol or controlled substances, with the cost for testing to be paid by your employer. If you refuse to submit to alcohol or controlled substance testing, and are convicted under Section 3756, you will be subject to fines of up to \$200 (plus costs).

These rules will improve highway safety for you and all highway users.

NOTE: The penalties identified in this publication may be revised, in whole or in part, by the General Assembly at any time. Please refer to Title 75 PA Vehicle Code, or the PA Bulletin for specific regulations and updates.

1.2.3 – Serious Traffic Violations

Serious traffic violations are excessive speeding (15 mph or more above the posted limit), reckless driving, improper or erratic lane changes, following a vehicle too closely and traffic offenses committed in a CMV in connection with fatal traffic accidents.

You will lose your CDL:

- For at least 60 days if you have committed two serious traffic violations within a three-year period involving a CMV.
- For at least 120 days for three serious traffic violations within a three-year period involving a CMV. “Serious traffic violations” include but are not limited to: traffic offenses committed in a CMV in connection with fatal traffic accidents, excessive speeding, reckless driving or eluding the police.

1.2.4 – Violation of Out-of-Service Orders

You will lose your CDL:

- For at least 90 days if you have committed your first violation of an out-of-service violation order.
- For at least one (1) year if you have committed two (2) out-of-service violation orders in a (10) year period.
- For at least three (3) years if you have committed three or more out-of-service violation orders in a (10) year period.

1.2.5 – Railroad-highway Grade Crossing Violations

You will lose your CDL:

- For at least 60 days for your first violation.
- For at least 120 days for your second violation within any three-year period.
- For at least one year for your third violation within any three-year period.

These violations include violation of a federal, state or local law or regulation pertaining to one of the following six offenses at a railroad-highway grade crossing:

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

1.2.6 – Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Endorsement Background Check and Disqualifications

If you require a hazardous materials endorsement you will be required to submit your fingerprints and be subject to a background check.

You will be denied or you will lose your HAZMAT endorsement if you:

- Are not a lawful permanent resident of the United States.
- Renounce your United States citizenship.
- Are wanted or under indictment for certain felonies.
- Have a conviction in military or civilian court for certain felonies.
- Have been adjudicated as a mental defective or committed to a mental institution.
- Are considered to pose a security threat as determined by the Transportation Security Administration.

The background check procedures vary from state to state. (Jurisdiction to Jurisdiction)

1.2.7 – Traffic Violations in Your Personal Vehicle

The Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act (MCSIA) of 1999 requires a CDL holder to be disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle if the CDL holder has been convicted of certain types of moving violations in their personal vehicle.

If your driving privilege to operate your personal vehicle is revoked, cancelled or suspended due to violations of traffic (other than parking violations) you will lose your CDL driving privilege.

If your driving privilege to operate your personal vehicle is revoked, cancelled or suspended due to alcohol violations, controlled substance or felony you will lose your CDL for one (1) year. If you are convicted of a second alcohol conviction in your personal vehicle you will lose your CDL for life.

If your license to operate your personal vehicle is revoked, cancelled, or suspended you may not obtain a “hardship” license to operate a CMV.

1.3 – Other Safety Rules

There are other federal and state rules that affect drivers operating CMVs in all states. Among them are:

- You cannot have more than one (1) license. If you break this law, a court may fine you up to \$5,000 or put you in jail and keep your home state license and return any others.
- You must notify your employer within 30 days of conviction for any traffic violations (except parking). This is true no matter what type of vehicle you were driving.
- You must notify PennDOT within 30 days if you are convicted in any other jurisdiction of any traffic violation (except parking). This is true no matter what type of vehicle you were driving.
- You must notify your employer if your driver's license is suspended, revoked, or canceled or if you are disqualified from driving.
- You must give your employer information on all driving jobs you have held for the past 10 years. You must do this when you apply for a commercial driving job.
- No one can drive a CMV in Pennsylvania without a CDL. A court may fine you up to \$5,000 or put you in jail for breaking this law.
- If you have a hazardous materials endorsement you must notify and surrender your hazardous materials endorsement to the state that issued your CDL within 24 hours of any conviction or indictment in any jurisdiction, civilian or military, or found not guilty by reason of insanity of a disqualifying crime listed in 49 CFR 1572.103; who is adjudicated as a mental defective or committed to a mental institution as specified in 49 CFR 1572.109; or who renounces his or her U. S. citizenship.
- Your employer may not let you drive a CMV if you have more than one (1) license or if your CDL is suspended or revoked. A court may fine the employer up to \$5,000 or put him/her in jail for breaking this rule.
- All states are connected to one (1) computerized system to share information about CDL drivers. PennDOT will check on your driving records to be sure that you do not have more than one CDL.
- Commercial drivers engaged in certain types of driving are required to also submit a valid Medical Examiner's Certificate in order to maintain commercial licensure.
 - NI - Non-Excepted Interstate Transportation: Interstate drivers who are subject to the Federal Physical Qualifications and Examination regulations. A Medical Examiner's Certificate must accompany the Self-Certification Form (DL-11CD).
 - NA - Non-Excepted Intrastate Transportation: Intrastate drivers who are subject to the Federal Physical Qualifications and Examination regulations. A Medical Examiner's Certificate must accompany the Self-Certification Form (DL-11CD).

(Additional information, including examples, is available in the commercial driver information center on our website at www.dmv.state.pa.us.)