

# Commercial Motor Vehicle Regulations



## What is a Commercial Motor Vehicle?

According to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs), there are two different definitions for a Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV).

**Definition One:** Section 390.5 of the FMCSRs describes a CMV as any vehicle used in INTERSTATE commerce to transport passengers or property with a gross vehicle weight rating, gross combination weight rating, gross vehicle weight, or gross combination weight of 10,001 pounds or more. This definition applies to many types of vehicles, i.e., small package delivery vehicles; pick-up trucks with trailers attached, box trucks, straight trucks, etc. A commercial driver's license (CDL) is not required to operate this size of vehicle, but those operating this type of vehicle are subject to the regulations in Parts 390 through 396, including: marking these vehicles with the USDOT number, driver qualification file, and hours of service, and inspection and maintenance requirements.

**Definition Two:** The second definition of a CMV is found in Sections 382.107 and 383.5. This definition applies to motor vehicles used in commerce to transport passengers or property with a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more, or a gross combination weight of 26,001 pounds or more, including a towed unit with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 10,000 pounds. These are generally tractor/trailer vehicles. A CDL is required to operate vehicles over 26,001 pounds along with the regulations in Parts 390 through 396 noted above.

### Hazardous Material

When transporting a hazardous material that requires placarding, the CDL and drug and alcohol requirements along with the regulations in [Parts 390 through 396 apply](#). If you are involved in intrastate commerce, refer to your state-specific definition of CMV as definitions may vary slightly from state to state for intrastate safety regulations.

## What is Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR)?

- For a single vehicle, it is the value specified by the vehicle manufacturer as the maximum loaded weight of the vehicle.
- For a combination of vehicles, it is the value specified by the vehicle manufacturer as the maximum loaded weight of the towing unit plus the GVWR of the towed unit or units.

*Basic Requirement Guidelines for Commercial Motor Vehicles, Equipment & Drivers Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) Gross Combined Vehicle Weight (GCVW)*

Vehicle Requirements	10,001 - 26000 GVW/ GCVW	26,000 + GVW/GCVW
<b>Vehicle Compliance</b>		
Inspections	✓	✓
Standard Equipment	✓	✓
Repair/Maintenance	✓	✓
Emergency Equipment	✓	✓
<b>Accident Compliance</b>	✓	✓
<b>Driver Requirements</b>		
CDL		✓
MVR	✓	✓
Drug/Alcohol Testing		✓
Pre-employment	✓	✓
Physicals	✓	✓
Road Test	✓	✓
Violations	✓	✓
<b>Hours of Service</b>		
Drivers Logs	✓	✓
<b>Recordkeeping</b>	✓	✓
<b>Audits</b>	✓	✓