



COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE (CDL)

ATTN: ALL DRIVERS HOLDING CDL'S

You could be face-to-face with unemployment. Effective September 30, 2002, drivers with a **Commercial Driver's License (CDL)** can be disqualified and forbidden from operating a Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV), if you receive two speeding tickets.

Disqualifying offenses were revised to show driver violations for Commercial Driver's License (CDL) holders. Seven new provisions in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) of the U. S. Department of Transportation's regulations, include the following:

1. Disqualification for driving while suspended, disqualified, or causing a fatality
2. Emergency disqualification of drivers posing an imminent hazard
3. Expanded definition of serious traffic violations
4. Extended driver record check
5. New notification requirements
6. Masking prohibition (does not prevent a conviction from appearing on a driver's record and requires making conviction information available to all authorized parties.)
7. Disqualification for violations obtained while driving a noncommercial motor vehicle.

The regulations add these serious traffic violations:

- ◆ Driving a Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) without obtaining a Commercial Driver's License (CDL)
- ◆ Driving a CMV without a CDL in the driver's possession
- ◆ Driving a CMV without the proper CDL and/or endorsement.
- ◆ Disqualification can result if a driver is convicted two or more times within a three-year period.

States are connected to the National Driver Register (NDR) to exchange information about CMV drivers and traffic convictions and disqualifications.

Offenses that can disqualify you are separated into “**major offenses**” and “**serious traffic violations**”.

Major offenses in any type of vehicle that disqualify a CDL driver include:

- ◆ Being under the influence of alcohol (as prescribed by State law)
- ◆ Being under the influence of a controlled substance
- ◆ Refusing to take a required alcohol test
- ◆ Leaving the scene of an accident
- ◆ Using a vehicle to commit a felony
- ◆ Using a vehicle in the commission of a felony involving the manufacturing, distributing, or dispensing of a controlled substance
- ◆ Committing two or more serious traffic violations (see below)

In addition, CDL holders will be disqualified for the following offenses, if the offense was committed while operating a CMV:

- ◆ Having an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or greater
- ◆ Driving a CMV when the driver’s CDL is revoked, suspended, or cancelled, or disqualified for other reasons, noted above
- ◆ Causing a fatality through the negligent operation of a CMV

The period of disqualification ranges from one year to life, depending upon the type of violation and the number of times a driver is convicted.

Serious traffic violations, in any type of vehicle, that disqualify a driver include two or more of the following convictions within a three-year period:

- ◆ Speeding - 15 mph or more above the posted speed limit
- ◆ Reckless Driving
- ◆ Improper or erratic lane changes
- ◆ Following a vehicle too closely
- ◆ Violating state or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control (other than parking violations)

Serious traffic violations in a CMV that disqualify a driver include two or more convictions within a three-year period, include:

- ◆ 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

The period of disqualification for serious traffic violations range from 60 to 120 days, depending upon the type of vehicle and violation.