



Idealease Safety Bulletin

January 18, 2008

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Do you need a commercial driver's license (CDL) to operate a straight truck less than 26,001 pounds GVWR with air brakes?

This is a question that I receive a lot during the seminars and from our lease and rental managers. The definition of a Commercial Motor Vehicle for the purpose of requiring a CDL as described in CFR 383.5 is as follows:

Commercial motor vehicle (CMV) means a motor vehicle or a combination of motor vehicles used in commerce to transport passengers or property if the motor vehicle:

- (a) Has a gross combination weight rating of 11,794 kilograms or more (26,001 pounds or more) inclusive of the towed unit(s) with a gross weight rating of more than 4,536 kilograms (10,000 pounds).
- (b) Has a gross vehicle weight rating of 11,794 or more kilograms (26,001 pounds or more).
- (c) Is designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver.
- (d) Is of any size and is used in the transportation of hazardous materials as defined in CFR 383.5.

So the answer is NO. However, your state may require a chauffeur's license for a vehicle with a GVWR 10,000 pounds or more and less than 26,001 pounds, i.e.; Michigan and Illinois.

Also, keep in mind that there is no such thing as an air brake endorsement!!! In reference to a Class A or B CDL there is an air brake restriction only. This means that the license holder either failed the air brake section of their CDL examination or they used a CMV without air brakes for their skills test.

The Deep Freeze is Here!



A large part of North America will be experiencing extremely cold weather conditions this weekend and the following week. Many locations will experience below zero temperatures that have not been seen in the recent years. Drivers need to be conducting a thorough pre-trip inspection to make sure that the truck that they are driving stays operational and will not strand them on the side of the road subject to the extreme weather conditions. All employees that will be exposed to the cold weather need to be aware of the signs of frostbite and hypothermia. Exposed skin can freeze within one minute at wind-chill equivalent temperatures below -25° F. Frostbite affects the extremities, such as fingers and toes. If a body part has been frostbitten once, it is more susceptible to frostbite again, even in milder conditions. Redness and a burning sensation are indications frostbite will occur unless the extremity is warmed. Numbness is an indication that frostbite has already taken place. If frostbite is discovered, hold the affected part tightly against the warm skin or another part of the body; (for example place frozen fingers under arm). When thoroughly warmed, keep covered and make an effort to keep area from freezing again.

Hypothermia - under conditions of prolonged exposure to cold, the body may begin to lose heat faster than it can produce it. A condition called hypothermia begins to develop. The symptoms become very apparent, and include:

- Uncontrollable shivering
- Vague, slow, slurred speech
- Memory lapses
- Incoherence
- Immobile, fumbling hands
- Frequent stumbling
- Lurching gait
- Drowsiness
- Apparent exhaustion

If frostbite or hypothermia is suspected, begin warming the person slowly and seek immediate medical assistance. Warm the person's trunk first. Arms and legs should be warmed last because stimulation of the limbs can drive cold blood toward the heart and lead to heart failure. Put the person in dry clothing and wrap their entire body in a blanket. Never give a frostbite or hypothermia victim something with caffeine in it (like coffee or tea) or alcohol. Caffeine, a stimulant, can cause the heart to beat faster and hasten the effects the cold has on the body. Alcohol, a depressant, can slow the heart and also hasten the ill effects of cold body temperatures.

Upcoming Idealease Safety Seminars in January:
January 31st - Salt Lake City, UT
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