



Idealease Safety Bulletin

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April 4, 2008

Question of the Week?

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

Answer: 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 -

- 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); or
- Has a gross vehicle weight rating of 11,794 or more kilograms (26,001 pounds or more); or
- Is designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver; or
- 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. 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.

Ninth Annual National Work Zone Awareness Week April 7 - 11

How Significant is the Work Zone Problem?

Over the last 10 years, the annual number of persons killed in motor vehicle crashes in work zones has increased 45% (up to 1,010 in 2006). Eighty-five percent of those killed in a work zone are drivers or occupants. On average, from 2002 to 2006, about 15% of the fatalities resulting from crashes in work zones were non-motorists (pedestrians – including workers and bicyclists).

- More than 40,000 people are injured each year as a result of motor vehicle crashes in work zones.
- Of the 1,010 work zone fatalities in 2006, an estimated 235 occurred in crashes involving large trucks.

In addition:

- Approximately half of all fatal work zone crashes occurred during the day.
- More than twice as many fatal work zone crashes occurred on weekdays as on weekends.
- Fatal work zone crashes occurred most often in the summer and the fall.

Work Zone Accident Frequency:

- One work zone fatality every 8.7 hours (almost 3 a day)
- One work zone injury every 9 minutes (160 a day)
- More than 60 million vehicles per hour of capacity lost to work zones each day during the peak construction period

UPCOMING IDEALEASE/NPTC SAFETY SEMINARS

April 8 Toronto, ON
Western Toronto Idealease
Contact: Joanne Hofinger
Phone (905) 671-7600 x 3311

April 9 Kamloops, BC
IRL Idealease
Contact: Alanna Wiens
Phone: (250) 374-7238

April 10 Seattle, WA
Husky Idealease
Contact: Bill McJannet
206-433-2800

May 6 Denver, CO
McCandless Idealease
Contact: Jim McClellan
303-739-9900

May 8 Birmingham, AL
Southland Idealease
Contact: Matt Markus
205-254-1823

10 Tips for Driving in Work Zones

- **EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED!** Normal speed limits may be reduced, traffic lanes may be changed, and people may be working on or near the road.
- **SLOW DOWN!** Speeding is one of the major causes of work zone crashes; obey posted speed limits.
- **DON'T TAILGATE! KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE BETWEEN YOU AND THE CAR OR TRUCK AHEAD OF YOU.** The most common crash in a highway work zone is the rear end collision. So, don't tailgate.
- **KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE BETWEEN YOUR TRUCK AND THE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS AND THEIR EQUIPMENT.**
- **PAY ATTENTION TO THE SIGNS!** The warning signs are there to help you and other drivers move safely through the work zone. Observe the posted signs until you see the one that says you've left the work zone.
- **OBEY ROAD CREW FLAGGERS!** The flagger knows what is best for moving traffic safely in the work zone. A flagger has the same authority as a regulatory sign, so you can be cited for disobeying his or her directions.
- **STAY ALERT AND MINIMIZE DISTRACTIONS!** Dedicate your full attention to the roadway and avoid changing radio stations or using cell phones while driving in a work zone.
- **KEEP UP WITH THE TRAFFIC FLOW.** Motorists can help maintain traffic flow and posted speeds by merging smoothly, and not slowing to "gawk" at road work equipment and crews.
- **SCHEDULE ENOUGH TIME TO DRIVE SAFELY AND CHECK RADIO, TV AND WEBSITES FOR TRAFFIC INFORMATION.** Expect delays and leave early so you can reach your destination on time. Check the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse - www.workzonesafety.org - for information on work zone delays throughout the country.
- **BE PATIENT AND STAY CALM.** Work zones aren't there to personally inconvenience you. Remember, the work zone crew members are working to improve the road and make your future drive better.