You need a CDL if you operate a vehicle or combination of vehicles which requires a Class A or Class B license or Class C license with endorsements.

Formal training is the most reliable way to learn the many special skills required for safely driving a large commercial vehicle.

A commercial motor vehicle is a motor vehicle or combination of vehicles that:

- Has a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 26,001 pounds or more.
- Is a combination vehicle with a gross combination weight rating of 26,001 or more pounds, if the trailer(s) has a GVWR of 10,001 or more pounds.
- Tows any vehicle with a GVWR of 10,001 pounds or more.
- Tows more than one vehicle or a trailer bus.
- Has three or more axles (excludes three axle vehicles weighing 6,000 pounds or less gross).
- Is any vehicle (bus, farm labor vehicle, general public paratransit vehicle, etc.) designed, used, or maintained to carry more than 10 passengers including the driver, for hire or profit, or is used by any nonprofit organization or group.
- Is any size vehicle which requires hazardous material placards or is carrying material listed as a select agent or toxin in 42 CFR part 73.*
- Transports hazardous wastes (Health and Safety Code §§25115 and 25117).*

NOTE: Employees of school districts, private schools, community colleges, and California state universities who operate 15-passenger vans must have a CDL with a passenger transport vehicle (PV) endorsement. A 15-passenger van is a van manufactured to accommodate 15 passengers, including the driver, or a van "designed" to carry 15 passengers, including the driver, even if seats have been removed to accommodate fewer than 15 passengers.

Endorsements

A special endorsement is also required to drive the following types of vehicles. The endorsement shows as a single letter on the driver license.

- Placarded or marked vehicles transporting hazardous materials or wastes—(H).
- Tank vehicles (including a cement truck)—(N).
- Passenger transport vehicles—(P).
- School bus—(S).
- Double trailer combination—(T).
- Tank vehicles transporting hazardous materials or wastes—(X). (Hazardous waste must meet the definition of CVC §§353 and 15278.)
The District encourages staff to identify options in lieu of renting 15-passenger vans. Please refer to AB 626, a legislative bulletin that documents the safety hazards associated with 15-passenger vans. Arrangements can be made for use of the District’s 15 passenger van provided the driver complies with the above requirements for licensing.

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