This document provides an overview of key terms, definitions, and acronyms used within the National Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) Program Training. The information is updated as of June 2021. Click here to view a list of relevant acronyms.

Glossary

A

Administrative Per Se (Admin Per Se): Refers to convictions and disqualifications determined solely through administrative action (rather than a criminal conviction) based entirely on the results of a breath, blood, or urine test above a determined legal threshold.

Administrative Procedure Act (APA) of 1946: Governs the process by which Federal agencies develop and issue regulations. The APA includes requirements for publishing notices of proposed and final rulemaking in the Federal Register, and provides opportunities for the public to comment on notices of proposed rulemaking.

American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA): Founded in 1933, AAMVA is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization that develops and maintains programs for motor vehicle administration, law enforcement, and highway safety. AAMVA partners with FMCSA to support the shared mission of improving highway safety. AAMVA represents the State, provincial, and territorial officials in the United States and Canada who administer and enforce motor vehicle laws. Its membership includes associations, organizations, and businesses that support motor vehicle administration.

AAMVA Code Dictionary (ACD): A set of codes used Nationwide to standardize communication among States. The uniform codes serve to identify the types of driver convictions and reasons for driver disqualifications used in CDLIS.

Annual Program Review (APR): Conducted annually by FMCSA in each State to confirm compliance with Federal CDL regulations. States determined to be noncompliant are required to submit a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) to achieve compliance.

Broken Pointer: A situation in which a Master Pointer Record (MPR) doesn’t have a matching Driver History Record (DHR). In other words, the pointer exists on the CDLIS Central Site but does not point to the applicable record on the SOR site.

CDL Central Site (CS): An online database that maintains the CDLIS Master Pointer Records, processes a number of transactions between jurisdictions, and reports CDLIS activity to FMCSA.

CMV Group: Vehicles with certain operating characteristics are organized into CMV groups (A, B, or C). The CMV group determines the driver’s CDL class (A, B, or C).

Code of Federal Regulations (CFRs): Codification of the general and permanent rules and regulations (sometimes called administrative law) published in the Federal Register by the executive departments and agencies of the Federal government of the United States. All regulations applicable to transportation-related issues and questions are contained in 49 CFR.

Combination Vehicle–Group A: Any combination of vehicles with a GVWR of 26,001 pounds or more provided the GVWR of the vehicle(s) being towed is in excess of 10,000 pounds.

Commercial Driver’s License (CDL): A type of driver’s license required to operate most large or heavy vehicles. Obtaining a CDL requires a higher level of knowledge, experience, skills, and physical abilities than what is required for a non-commercial license. Thus, CDL holders are held to a higher standard when operating any type of vehicle on public roads.

Cancellation: The termination of driving privileges due to administrative or testing errors, or fraud committed by someone other than the driver.

CDL Class: Indicates which group of CMVs the driver is allowed to operate with that CDL (A, B, or C). In common usage “class” may refer to the vehicle or the license.

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**Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) Holder:**
An individual whose last jurisdiction-issued license was a CDL. This applies even if the driver is disqualified from the use of his or her commercial driving privileges. It also applies if the CDL has expired and no other license has been issued.

**Commercial Driver’s License Information System (CDLIS):**
Developed pursuant to section 12007 of the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986, CDLIS enables each State to ensure that each CMV driver has only one driver’s license and one complete Driver History Record. States use CDLIS to complete various procedures, including:

- Transmitting out-of-State convictions and disqualifications;
- Transferring the driver record when a CDL holder moves to another State; and
- Responding to requests for driver status and history.

CDLIS is currently operated by AAMVA.

**Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) Judiciary Outreach Program:**
A program primarily funded by FMCSA grants that involves multiple partner organizations and provides specialized training and information for judges, prosecutors, court clerks, and court administrators on the importance of commercial motor vehicle enforcement and the adjudication of cases involving CDL holders.

**Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) Program:**
Established in 1986, a United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) program that seeks to reduce the number and severity of commercial motor vehicle (CMV) crashes in the United States by ensuring that only qualified drivers are eligible to receive and retain a CDL. For every one CDL driver, there should be one record and one licensing document. In this training, the CDL Program is referred to as the National CDL Program.

**Commercial Driver’s License Program Implementation (CDLPI) Grant:**
An FMCSA discretionary grant that provides financial assistance to States to achieve compliance with the requirements of 49 CFR Parts 383 and 384 and otherwise improve the National CDL Program. Additionally, the CDLPI Grant program provides financial assistance for any entity capable of executing National projects that aid States in compliance efforts and will improve the National CDL Program.

**Commercial Learner’s Permit (CLP):**
A permit issued to an individual by a State or other jurisdiction of domicile. When carried with a valid driver’s license issued by the same State or jurisdiction, a CLP authorizes the individual to operate a CMV when accompanied by a holder of a valid CDL for purposes of behind-the-wheel training. When issued to an existing CDL holder, a CLP serves as authorization for accompanied behind-the-wheel training in a configuration of CMV for which the holder’s current CDL is not valid.

**Commercial Learner’s Permit (CLP) Holder:**
An individual who held a valid (unexpired) CLP at the time of the citation.

**Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV):**
As defined in 49 CFR § 383.5 (applies only to regulations in 49 CFR Part 383):
A motor vehicle or combination of motor vehicles used in commerce to transport passengers or property if the motor vehicle is a:

- Combination Vehicle (Group A)—having a gross combination weight rating or gross combination weight of 11,794 kilograms or more (26,001 pounds or more), whichever is greater, inclusive of a towed unit(s) with a gross vehicle weight rating or gross vehicle weight of more than 4,536 kilograms (10,000 pounds), whichever is greater; or
- Heavy Straight Vehicle (Group B)—having a gross vehicle weight rating or gross vehicle weight of 11,794 or more kilograms (26,001 pounds or more), whichever is greater; or
- Small Vehicle (Group C) that does not meet Group A or B requirements but that either—
  a. Is designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver; or
  b. Is of any size and is used in the transportation of hazardous materials as defined in this section.

As defined in 49 CFR § 390.5:
Any self-propelled or towed motor vehicle used on a highway in interstate commerce to transport passengers or property when the vehicle:

- Has a gross vehicle weight rating or gross combination weight rating, or gross vehicle weight or gross combination weight of 4,536 kg (10,001 pounds) or more, whichever is greater; or
- Is designed or used to transport more than eight (8) passengers (including the driver) for compensation; or
- Is designed or used to transport more than 15 passengers, including the driver, and is not used to transport passengers for compensation; or
- Is used in transporting material found by the Secretary of Transportation to be hazardous under 49 U.S.C. 5103 and transported in a quantity requiring placarding under regulations prescribed by the Secretary under 49 CFR, subtitle B, chapter I, subchapter C.

**Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA):**
A Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA), Form FS-240 is evidence of United States citizenship, issued to a child born abroad to a U.S. citizen parent or parents who meet the requirements for transmitting citizenship under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).
Conviction:
As defined in 49 CFR § 383.5:
• An unvacated adjudication of guilt;
• A determination that a person has violated or failed to comply with the law in a court of original jurisdiction or by an authorized administrative tribunal;
• An unvacated forfeiture of bail or collateral deposited to secure the person’s appearance in court;
• A plea of guilty or nolo contendere (“no contest”) accepted by the court;
• The payment of a fine or court cost; or
• A violation of a condition of release without bail, regardless of whether or not the penalty is rebated, suspended, or probated.

Deferral: A form of masking in which a court allows a driver (before an adjudication of guilt) to perform or abstain from certain actions that result in the charge being dismissed. Deferral might also be known as Probation Before Judgement (PBJ), Adjournment Pending Dismissal, or classifying a charge as Held in Abeyance.

Disqualification:
As defined in 49 CFR § 383.5:
• The suspension, revocation, or cancellation of a Commercial Learner’s Permit (CLP) or Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) by the State or jurisdiction of issuance;
• Any withdrawal of a person’s privileges to drive a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) by a State or other jurisdiction as the result of a violation of State or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control; or
• A determination by the FMCSA that a person is not qualified to operate a CMV under 49 CFR Part 391.

Disqualification Effective Date:
The date a license is disqualified. There may be a delay between when the State of record (SOR) is notified of a conviction and when it imposes a disqualification, so that it may give mandated notification to the driver and the driver has had an opportunity to request an administrative hearing.

Disqualification Eligibility Date:
The earliest date the driver may satisfy any conditions to end the disqualification, such as paying any fees.

Disqualification Reinstatement Date:
The actual date the driver’s driving privileges are reinstated; this date is typically blank when the disqualification is first posted and must never be a future date.

Division Administrator (DA):
A position in each State that leads the FMCSA Division Office, supported by a multi-disciplinary team. The DA is responsible for the development and administration of a multifaceted transportation safety program, and represents FMCSA in dealings with Federal and State government and local business officials on transportation safety and commercial program issues.

Driver:
Every individual who operates certain CMVs in interstate, foreign, or intrastate commerce; including CDL holders, CLP holders, and drivers operating a vehicle that requires a CDL.

Driver History Record (DHR):
The electronic record of an individual CDL driver’s status and history stored by the State of record (SOR) as part of the Commercial Driver’s License Information System (CDLIS). A DHR includes driver identification information, license information (including information about any permits, endorsements, and restrictions), and a history of accidents, convictions, and disqualifications.

Driving Under the Influence (DUI):
The FMCSA has established 0.04% as the blood alcohol concentration (BAC) level at or above which a CDL driver who is required to have a CDL, and is operating a commercial motor vehicle, is deemed to be driving under the influence of alcohol and subject to the disqualification sanctions under the Federal regulations. Most States have established a BAC level of 0.08% as the level at or above which a person operating a non-commercial motor vehicle is deemed to be driving under the influence of alcohol. Sanctions for alcohol-related driving violations may affect the driver’s qualification and eligibility for both commercial and non-commercial licenses.

Electronic Code of Federal Regulations (eCFR):
An online version of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) that is updated daily to better reflect its current status. The eCFR is an editorial compilation of CFR material and amendments published in the daily Federal Register.

Employers:
All employers of drivers who operate certain CMVs in interstate, foreign, or intrastate commerce.

A one way for an individual to prove that he or she is allowed to work in the United States, regardless of citizenship or national origin.
Endorsement: Drivers who operate special types of CMVs must pass additional tests to obtain any of the following endorsements placed on their CDL:

- T – Double/Triple Trailers
- P – Passenger
- N – Tank Vehicle
- H – Hazardous Materials
- X – Combination of Tank Vehicle and Hazardous Materials Endorsements
- S – School Bus

Entry-Level Driver Training (ELDT): FMCSA’s Entry-Level Driver Training (ELDT) regulations set the baseline for training requirements for entry-level drivers. This includes those applying to:

- Obtain a Class A or Class B CDL for the first time;
- Upgrade an existing Class B CDL to a Class A CDL; or
- Obtain a school bus (S), passenger (P), or hazardous materials (H) endorsement for the first time.

Excepted Interstate (EI) Commerce: A CLP or CDL holder operates in excepted interstate commerce if he or she drives a CMV in interstate commerce only for certain excepted activities, as described in 49 CFR §§ 390.3(f), 391.2, 391.68, and 398.3, which does not require a Federal Medical Examiner’s Certificate.

Excepted Intrastate (EA) Commerce: A CLP or CDL holder operates in excepted intrastate commerce when he or she drives a CMV only in intrastate commerce activities for which his or her State of licensure has determined do not require the CLP or CDL holder to meet the State’s medical certification requirements.

Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act: Passed by Congress and signed into law in 2015, the FAST ACT (Pub. L. No. 114-94) provides long-term funding for surface transportation, allowing State and local governments to move forward with critical transportation projects (new highways, transit lines, etc.) with confidence they will receive Federal support. Additionally, it reforms many Federal transportation programs, including streamlining the approval processes for new transportation projects, providing new safety tools, and establishing new programs to advance critical freight projects.

Foreign Convictions and Withdrawal Database (FCWD): Repository of the U.S. conviction history on Mexican and Canadian commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers. Allows FMCSA to disqualify drivers from operating in the United States if they are convicted of disqualifying offenses listed in the FMCSRs.

Full Trailer: Any motor vehicle other than a pole trailer which is designed to be drawn by another motor vehicle and so constructed that no part of its weight, except for the towing device, rests upon the self-propelled towing motor vehicle. A semitrailer equipped with an auxiliary front axle (converter dolly) shall be considered a full trailer.

Gross Combination Weight (GCW): The actual weight of a combination vehicle at the time of weighing. This may be more than the GCWR if the vehicle is overloaded.

Failure to Appear, Failure to Pay, Failure to Comply (FTA/FTP/FTC): In most States, when a driver receives a citation from an officer, the driver technically offers up his or her driving privileges as collateral to appear in court and comply with subsequent requirements rather than being taken into custody and forced to post bond as is customary in a criminal process. Under the Failure to Appear/Pay/Comply (FTA/FTP/FTC) Program, an SDLA may deny the renewal of a CDL if the driver has failed to appear for a citation or pay a fine. Depending on the State, a CDL may be disqualified or denied renewal until the reported citations or violations are cleared and reported by the court(s) to the SDLA.

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA): An Operating Administration of the USDOT charged with regulation of the motor carrier industry. The primary mission of FMCSA is to reduce crashes, injuries, and fatalities involving large trucks and buses.

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs): Minimum standards for those involved with the operation of commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) in interstate commerce, intended to cover all people and entities involved in the interstate operation of these trucks.

Federal Register (FR): A daily journal of the Federal Government that includes Federal agency regulations, proposed rules and notices of interest to the public, Executive Orders, proclamations, and other presidential documents.

Fifth Wheel: A device mounted on a truck tractor or similar towing vehicle (e.g., converter dolly) that interfaces with and couples to the upper coupler assembly of a semitrailer. For more information on fifth wheel assemblies, see 49 CFR § 393.70.
Gross Combination Weight Rating (GCWR): The value specified by the manufacturer of the power unit, if such value is displayed on the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) certification label required by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, or the sum of the GVWRs or the GVWs of the power unit and the towed unit(s), or any combination thereof, that produces the highest value. Exception: if there is no towed unit, GCWR is not to be used.

Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW): The actual vehicle weight at the time of weighing. This may be more than the GVWR if the vehicle is overloaded. A safety official may exercise FMCSA jurisdiction based on the GVW or GVWR, whichever is greater. For example, if a vehicle with a GVWR of 9,500 pounds was loaded to 10,500 pounds GVW, it would be subject to the FMCSRs if it was operating in interstate commerce.

Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR): The value specified by the manufacturer as the loaded weight of a single vehicle.

Group A Vehicle: See Combination Vehicle – Group A.

Group B Vehicle: See Heavy Straight Vehicle – Group B.

Group C Vehicle: See Small Vehicle – Group C.


Heavy Straight Vehicle – Group B: Any single vehicle with a GVWR or GVW 26,001 pounds or more, or any such vehicle towing a vehicle not in excess of 10,000 pounds GVWR or GVW.

Hours of Service (HOS): Regulations issued by FMCSA and governing the working hours of anyone operating a commercial motor vehicle (CMV). These regulations apply to truck drivers, commercial and city bus drivers, and school bus drivers who operate CMVs. These rules limit the number of daily and weekly hours drivers may spend driving and working, and regulate the minimum amount of time drivers must spend resting between driving shifts. For intrastate commerce, the respective State’s regulations apply.

Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS): The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) was established under the U.S. Department of Labor in 1933 to administer matters related to establishing immigration and naturalization policy. After being transferred to the U.S. Department of Justice in 1940, the INS was subsequently dismantled by the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Pub. L. No. 107-296, 116 Stat. 2135) at which time its various duties were split up and transferred to three new agencies established under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Insulin-Treated Diabetes Mellitus (ITDM) Assessment: As a part of the medical certification process for insulin-treated diabetes mellitus (ITDM) individuals, FMCSA requires that the Insulin-Treated Diabetes Mellitus (ITDM) Assessment, Form MCSA-5870, be completed by the ITDM individual’s treating clinician to confirm that the individual has a stable insulin regimen and properly controlled diabetes.

Interstate Commerce: When a driver operates a CMV in trade, traffic, or transportation:

• From one State to another State or a foreign country;
• Between two places within a State, but during part of the trip the CMV crosses into another State or foreign country; or
• Between two places within a State, but the cargo is part of a trip that began or will end in another State or foreign country.

Intrastate Commerce: When a driver operates a CMV and does not meet any of the descriptions above for interstate commerce.

Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR): A lawful permanent resident (LPR), also known as a “green card” holder, is a non-citizen who is lawfully authorized to live permanently within the United States. Proof of that status, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) grants the individual a permanent resident card, commonly called a “green card.”

Lawful Status: As defined by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) lawful status describes an individual who:

• Is a citizen or national of the United States;
• Is an alien who is lawfully admitted for permanent or temporary residence in the United States; has conditional permanent resident status in the United States;
• Has an approved application for asylum in the United States; has a valid immigrant status in the United States;
• Has a pending application for asylum in the United States;
• Has a pending or approved application for temporary protected status (TPS) in the United States; (continued on Page 6)
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- Has approved deferred action status;
- Has a pending application for lawful permanent residence (LPR) or conditional permanent resident status.

This definition does not affect other definitions or requirements that may be contained in the Immigration and Nationality Act or other laws, as lawful status is not the same as being a lawful permanent resident and having lawful status does not mean that a person is eligible for a CDL or non-domiciled CDL.

**Legal Presence:** While not formally defined in 49 CFR Part 383, legal presence means that an individual is legally authorized to live in the United States. Drivers with legal presence may obtain a CDL. While synonymous with lawful permanent residency in 49 CFR Part 383, this term has no actual meaning per the DHS.

**M**

**Masking:** Any action whereby a State defers, diverts, or in any other way prevents the conviction of a CLP or CDL holder from appearing in a CDLIS driver record.

**Master Pointer Record (MPR):** In CDLIS, the CDLIS Central Site (CS) keeps a Master Pointer Record for each driver. The record contains driver identification information and a pointer to the current State of record (SOR).

**Medical Examination Report (MER):** The Medical Examination Report (MER), Form MCSA-5875, is a long form completed as part of the mandatory physical exam commercial motor vehicle drivers must undergo at least once every two years.

**Medical Examiner’s Certificate (MEC):** A medical examiner’s certificate (MEC), Form MCSA-5876, is completed by a medical examiner and provided to a CLP or CDL holder if the examination results conclude that he or she is physically qualified to drive a commercial motor vehicle in accordance with the physical qualification standards. It is commonly referred to as a medical certificate or DOT card.

**Medical Exemption:** As defined in 49 CFR § 381.300, an exemption is temporary regulatory relief from one or more FMCSR given to a person or class of persons subject to the regulations, or who intend to engage in an activity that would make them subject to the regulations. An exemption provides the person or class of persons with relief from the regulations for up to five years, and may be renewed, upon request, for subsequent five-year periods. Though the regulation allows for a five-year exemption, medical programs only issue an exemption for two years. Therefore, FMCSA grants exemptions for two years to be aligned with the maximum two-year validity of medical examiner’s certificates (MECs).

**Medical Variance:** Medical variance means a driver has received one of the following from FMCSA that allows the driver to be issued a medical certificate:
- An exemption letter permitting operation of a CMV pursuant to 49 CFR §§ 381, Subpart C or 391.64 (vision);
- A Skill Performance Evaluation (SPE) certificate permitting operation of a CMV pursuant to 49 CFR § 391.49;
- An exemption from the physical qualifications for drivers pursuant to 49 CFR § 391.41.

**Missing Pointer:** A situation in which a Driver History Record (DHR) exists but there is no Master Pointer Record (MPR). In other words, the record resides in the SOR but not on the CDLIS Central Site.

**Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act (MCSIA) of 1999:** Established the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) within the Department of Transportation (DOT). Also disqualified commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers from operating with a revoked, suspended, or canceled CDL.

**Motor Vehicle Record (MVR):** A report of an individual’s driving history, as documented by a State’s Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) or similar government entity that issues driver licenses. While this may vary from one State to the next depending on local reporting practices, information reported in MVRs includes driver’s license status and class, violations, convictions, restrictions, and other information related to driving records and credentials.

**Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21):** Passed by Congress and signed into law in 2012, MAP-21 provides funding for transportation programs and implemented a streamlined, performance-based surface transportation program, building on previously established highway, transit, bike, and pedestrian programs and policies.

**N**

**National Driver Registry (NDR):** National repository of information on problem drivers. Maintains the Problem Driver Pointer System (PDPS).

**National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA):** An agency of the USDOT whose mission is to promote safer vehicles and safer driving practices to reduce deaths, injuries, medical costs and other economic losses resulting from motor vehicle crashes.

**National Registry (NR):** See National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (NRCME).
National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (NRCE): A website that helps commercial motor vehicle drivers find trained and qualified medical examiners to perform high-quality physical medical exams that are consistent with Federal regulations and guidelines and issue a paper Medical Examiner’s Certificate (MEC), Form MCSA-5876 to qualified drivers.

Non-Excepted Interstate (NI) Commerce: A CLP or CDL holder operates in non-excepted interstate commerce if none of the excepted activities, as described in 49 CFR §§ 390.3(f), 391.2, 391.68, and 398.3 apply. He or she is required to provide a current MEC, as defined in 49 CFR § 391.45, to his or her SDLA. Most CLP or CDL holders who drive CMVs in interstate commerce are non-excepted interstate commerce drivers.

Non-Excepted Intrastate (NA) Commerce: A CLP or CDL holder operates in non-excepted intrastate commerce when he or she drives a CMV only in intrastate commerce and is required to meet the State of licensure’s medical certification requirements.

Nonresident Violator Compact (NRVC): A voluntary agreement between certain States that standardizes methods to process nonresident violators receiving citations or otherwise failing to comply with outstanding moving traffic summons. If an out-of-State driver violates specific driving laws of an NRVC member State, the State may send a non-compliance notice to the driver’s State of record (SOR).

Notice of Claim (NOC): The initial document issued by FMCSA to assert a civil penalty for alleged violations of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs), Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMRs), or Federal Motor Carrier Commercial Regulations (FMCCRs).

Notice of Violation (NOV): A document alleging a violation of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs), Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMRs), or Federal Motor Carrier Commercial Regulations (FMCCRs), for which corrective action, other than payment of a civil penalty, is recommended.

Part 384: The purpose of 49 CFR Part 384 is to ensure that the States comply with Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) CDL regulations by establishing procedures to measure State compliance and specifying the consequences of noncompliance.

Probation Before Judgement (PBJ): See Deferral.

Problem Driver Pointer System (PDPS): An electronic information system, similar to CDLIS, that allows States and other relevant organizations to search National Driver Register (NDR) data. Based on information received as a result of an NDR search, PDPS directs the inquiry to the State of record (SOR) that stores a driver’s status and history. Based on the information received from the SOR, the issuing jurisdiction decides if the applicant is eligible to receive a new or renewed driver license.

REAL: A REAL ID driver’s license or identification card means a driver’s license or identification card that has been issued by a State that has been certified by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to be in compliance with the requirements of the REAL ID Act and which meets the standards of 6 CFR Part 37, Subparts A - D, including temporary or limited-term driver’s licenses or identification cards issued under 6 CFR § 37.21.

REAL ID Act: An act passed by Congress in 2005 that established minimum security standards for license issuance and production.
Reciprocity: Any individual is allowed to operate a CMV, as defined in 49 CFR § 383.5, in any State provided that he or she holds a CLP or CDL issued to him or her by his or her State or jurisdiction of domicile, is not disqualified from operating a CMV, and the CLP or CDL is valid for the type of vehicle being driven. This also applies to non-domiciled CLP or CDL issued by a State of record (SOR) to a qualifying individual who is not a citizen or lawful permanent resident.

Rulemaking Process: Steps through which Federal executive and independent agencies create, establish, and promote regulations. The rulemaking process is dictated by the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) of 1946.

Social Security Database (SSD): A repository of Social Security Numbers maintained by the Social Security Administration (SSA).

Social Security Online Verification (SSOLV): A process that allows jurisdictions to verify Social Security Numbers in real time against the Social Security Database (SSD). SSOLV allows State Driver Licensing Agencies (SDLAs) to verify drivers’ names and Social Security Numbers.

State Driver Licensing Agency (SDLA): The organization within a State responsible for issuing driver licenses. Sometimes referred to as Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) or Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

State of Conviction (SOC): Any State that convicts a driver of a reportable offense. It maintains the original conviction records and any negations in its own database or on paper records. It is also the authority for conviction on the Driver History Record (DHR).

State of Domicile (SOD): The State where a person has his or her true, fixed, and permanent home and principal residence and to which he or she has the intention of returning whenever he or she is absent.

State of Record (SOR): Issues the CDL to the driver and maintains the Master Point Record (MPR) on the CDLIS Central Site (CS) and the Driver History Record (DHR) on its own database.

State of Withdrawal (SOW): Any State that withdraws a driver’s privileges to operate a motor vehicle. If the SOW is also the State of record (SOR), the withdrawal is effective Nationwide.

State Procedures Manual (SPM): Outlines the standard administrative practices required by each jurisdiction.

State Programs Specialist (SPS): Reporting to the Division Administrator (DA) within each FMCSA Division, the State Programs Specialist (SPS) is responsible for the oversight, promotion, and review of the State’s technical projects and programs, including the Commercial Driver’s License Program and Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program.

Suspension: The temporary withdrawal or disqualification of a driver.

Tank Vehicle: Any CMV that is designed to transport any liquid or gaseous materials within a tank or tanks having an individual rated capacity of more than 119 gallons and an aggregate rated capacity of 1,000 gallons or more that is either permanently or temporarily attached to the vehicle or the chassis. A commercial motor vehicle transporting an empty storage container tank, not designed for transportation, with a rated capacity of 1,000 gallons or more that is temporarily attached to a flatbed trailer is not considered a tank vehicle.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS): Temporary protected status (TPS) is granted to eligible foreign-born individuals of certain countries (or parts of countries), who are already in the United States and unable to return home safely due to conditions or circumstances preventing their country from adequately handling the return. Eligible individuals without nationality who last resided in the designated country may also be granted TPS.

Training Provider Registry (TPR): An FMCSA web system that will contain the official list of all entities that register with FMCSA and self-certify they meet the requirements for being an entry-level driver training provider and retain a record of which drivers have successfully completed entry-level driver training for States to access.

Transportation Security Administration (TSA): A U.S. agency within the Department of Homeland Security that is mandated to develop and implement policies to ensure the safety of the Nation’s transportation systems.

Truck: Any self-propelled CMV except a truck tractor, designed and/or used for the transportation of property.

Truck Tractor: A self-propelled commercial motor vehicle designed and/or used primarily for drawing other vehicles.

USA PATRIOT Act of 2001: Passed by Congress and signed into law in 2011, the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism (USA PATRIOT) Act allows the FMCSA to assist the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) in implementing Section 1012 of the USA PATRIOT Act regarding the issuance of licenses to operate CMVs transporting hazardous materials.


U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT): A Federal Cabinet Department whose mission is to ensure the United States has the safest, most efficient, and modern transportation system in the world, which improves the quality of life for all American people and communities, from rural to urban, and increases the productivity and competitiveness of American workers and businesses.

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<td>CMV</td>
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