



CDL NEWS

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PENNSYLVANIA BEGINS ISSUING COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSES



On November 13, 1990, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation began issuing commercial driver's licenses.

This license was the result of a program that was established by the United States Congress on October 27, 1986, through the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986. The Act set standards for uniform testing and licensing of commercial motor vehicle drivers. It requires all commercial drivers to pass a knowledge test and certain commercial drivers to pass a skills test.

Through Act 1990-42, the Pennsyl-

vania State Legislature adopted the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986, and made it applicable to holders of Pennsylvania commercial driver's licenses.

Pennsylvania's CDL Program affects all commercial motor vehicle drivers. This program was developed to improve highway safety, reduce fatalities, and get the problem drivers off the road.

All individuals who drive a commercial motor vehicle should be aware of the new licensing and testing standards that must be met to obtain a Commercial Driver's License.

SOME CLASS 1 (NOW CLASS C) OPERATORS MAY REQUIRE A COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE

The Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986 set forth that all drivers who operate vehicles that carry hazardous materials of the type and quantity which requires placarding, transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver, or whose vehicle weight is 26,001 pounds or more are considered commercial motor vehicle drivers. School bus drivers are also included

However, there are holders of a Class 1 (now Class C) license who

operate vehicles that transport hazardous materials requiring placarding, or vehicles weighing between 26,001 and 30,000 pounds. These operators must now obtain a Commercial Drivers License.

If a driver operates a vehicle that falls into one of these categories, he or she must apply for and complete the CDL test. Failure to do this could result in fines and suspension of a person's operating privileges.

Should you need a Commercial Driver's License, go to your nearest State Police CDL Testing Site and obtain an Application For Commercial Learner's Permit And Driver's License (Form DL-31CD and form DL-251CD). For more information on the CDL Program, call 1-800-932-4600, or write to the Commercial Driver Program, P. O. Box 8617, Harrisburg, PA 17105.