

Sec. 14-1. Definitions. (a) Terms used in this chapter shall be construed as follows, unless another construction is clearly apparent from the language or context in which the term is used or unless the construction is inconsistent with the manifest intention of the General Assembly:

- (1) “Agricultural tractor” means a tractor or other form of nonmuscular motive power used for transporting, hauling, plowing, cultivating, planting, harvesting, reaping, or other agricultural purposes on any farm or other private property, or used for the purpose of transporting, from one farm to another, agricultural implements and farm products, provided the agricultural tractor is not used on any highway for transporting a pay load or for some other commercial purpose;
- (2) “Antique, rare or special interest motor vehicle” means a motor vehicle twenty five years old or older which is being preserved because of historic interest and which is not altered or modified from the original manufacturer’s specifications;
- (3) “Apparent candle power” means an illumination equal to the normal illumination in foot candles produced by any lamp or lamps, divided by the square of the distance in feet between the lamp or lamps and the point at which the measurement is made;
- (4) “Authorized emergency vehicle” means (A) a fire department vehicle, (B) a police vehicle or (C) a public service company or municipal department ambulance or emergency vehicle designated or authorized for use as an authorized emergency vehicle by the commissioner;
- (5) “Auxiliary driving lamp” means an additional lighting device on a motor vehicle used primarily to supplement the general illumination in front of a motor vehicle provided by the motor vehicle’s head lamps;
- (6) “Bulb” means a light source consisting of a glass bulb containing a filament or substance capable of being electrically maintained at incandescence;
- (7) “Camp trailer” includes any trailer designed and used exclusively for camping or recreational purposes;
- (8) “Camper” means any motor vehicle designed or permanently altered in such a way as to provide temporary living quarters for travel, camping or recreational purposes;
- (9) “Combination registration” means the type of registration issued to a motor vehicle used for both private passenger and commercial purposes if such vehicle does not have a gross vehicle weight in excess of ten thousand pounds;
- (10) “Commercial driver’s license” or “CDL” means a license issued to an individual in accordance with the provisions of sections 14-44a to 14-44m, inclusive, which authorizes such individual to drive a commercial motor vehicle;

- (11) “Commercial motor vehicle” means a vehicle designed or used to transport passengers or property, except a vehicle used within one hundred fifty miles of a farm in connection with the operation of such farm, fire fighting apparatus or other authorized emergency vehicles, or a recreational vehicle in private use, which (A) has a gross vehicle weight rating of twenty-six thousand and one pounds or more; (B) is designed to transport sixteen or more passengers, including the driver, or is designed to transport more than ten passengers, including the driver, or is used to transport students under the age of twenty-one years to and from school; or (C) is transporting hazardous materials and is required to be placarded in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations Title 49, Part 172, Subpart F, as amended;
- (12) “Commercial registration” means the type of registration required for any motor vehicle designed or used to transport merchandise, freight or persons in connection with any business enterprise, unless a more specific type of registration is authorized and issued by the commissioner for such class of vehicle;
- (13) “Commercial trailer” means a trailer used in the conduct of a business to transport freight, materials or equipment whether or not permanently affixed to the bed of the trailer;
- (14) “Commissioner” includes the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles and any assistant to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles who is designated and authorized by, and who is acting for, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles under a designation; except that the Deputy Commissioners of Motor Vehicles and the Attorney General are deemed, unless the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles otherwise provides, to be designated and authorized by, and acting for, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles under a designation;
- (15) “Controller substance” has the same meaning as in section 21a-240 and the federal laws and regulations incorporated in chapter 420b;
- (16) “Conviction” means an unvacated adjudication of guilt, or a determination that a person has violated or failed to comply with the law in a court of original jurisdiction or an authorized administrative tribunal, an unvacated forfeiture of bail or collateral deposited to secure the person’s appearance in court, the payment of a fine or court cost, or violation of a condition of release without bail, regardless of whether or not the penalty is rebated, suspended or probated;
- (17) “Dealer” includes any person actively engaged in buying, selling or exchanging motor vehicles or trailers who has an established place of business in this state and who may, incidental to such business, repair motor vehicles or trailers, or cause them to be repaired by persons in his employ;
- (18) “Disqualification” means a withdrawal of the privilege to drive a commercial motor vehicle, which occurs as a result of (A) any suspension or revocation by the commissioner of the privilege to operate a motor vehicle; (B) a determination by the

Federal Highway Administration, under the rules of practice for motor carrier safety contained in the Code of Federal Regulations Title 49, Part 386, as amended, that a person is no longer qualified to operate a commercial motor vehicle under the standards of the Code of Federal Regulations Title 49, Part 391, as amended; or (C) the loss of qualification which automatically follows any of the convictions specified in section 14-44k;

- (19) “Drive” means to drive, operate or be in physical control of a motor vehicle, including a motor vehicle being towed by another;
- (20) “Driver” means any person who drives, operates or is in physical control of a commercial motor vehicle, or who is required to hold a commercial driver’s license;
- (21) “Driver’s license” or “operator’s license” means a valid Connecticut motor vehicle operator’s license or a license issued by another state or foreign jurisdiction authorizing the holder thereof to operate a motor vehicle on the highways;
- (22) “Employee” means any operator of a commercial motor vehicle, including full-time, regularly employed drivers, casual, intermittent or occasional drivers, drivers under contract and independent, owner-operator contractors, who, while in the course of operating a commercial motor vehicle, are either directly employed by, or are under contract to, an employer;
- (23) “Employer” means any person, including the United States, a state or any political subdivision thereof, who owns or leases a commercial motor vehicle, or assigns a person to drive a commercial motor vehicle;
- (24) “Farm implement” means a vehicle designed and adapted exclusively for agriculture, horticulture or livestock-raising operations and which is not operated on a highway for transporting a pay load or for any other commercial purpose;
- (25) “Felony” means any offense as defined in section 53a-25 and includes any offense designated as a felony under federal law;
- (26) “Foreign jurisdiction” means any jurisdiction other than a state of the United States;
- (27) “Fuels” means (A) all products commonly or commercially known or sold as gasoline, including casinghead and absorption or natural gasoline, regardless of their classification of uses, (B) any liquid prepared, advertised, offered for sale or sold for use, or commonly and commercially used, as a fuel in internal combustion engines, which, when subjected to distillation in accordance with the standard method of test for distillation of gasoline, naphtha, kerosene and similar petroleum products by “American Society for Testing Materials Method D-86”, shows not less than ten percent distilled(recovered) below 347 Fahrenheit (175 Centigrade) and not less than ninety-five percent distilled(recovered) below 464 Fahrenheit (240 Centigrade); provided the term “fuels” shall not include commercial solvents or naphthas which

distill, by “American Society for Testing Materials Method D-86”, not more than nine per cent at 176 Fahrenheit and which have a distillation range of 150 Fahrenheit, or less, or liquefied gases which would not exist as liquids at a temperature of 60 Fahrenheit and a pressure of 14.7 pounds per square inch absolute, and (C) any liquid commonly referred to as “gasohol” which is prepared, advertised, offered for sale or sold for use, or commonly and commercially used, as a fuel in internal combustion engines, consisting of a blend of gasoline and a minimum of ten per cent by volume of ethyl or methyl alcohol;

- (28) “Garage” includes every place of business where motor vehicles are, for compensation, received for housing, storage or repair;
- (29) “Gross vehicle weight rating” or “GVWR” means the value specified by the manufacturer as the maximum loaded weight of a single or combination (articulated) vehicle, or its registered gross weight, whichever is greater. The GVWR of a combination (articulated) vehicle commonly referred to as the “gross combination weight rating” or GCWR is the GVWR of the power unit plus the GVWR of the towed unit or units;
- (30) “Gross weight” means the light weight of a vehicle plus the weight of any load on the vehicle, provided, in the case of a tractor-trailer unit, “gross weight” means the light weight of the tractor plus the light weight of the trailer or semitrailer plus the weight of the load on the vehicle;
- (31) “Hazardous materials” has the same meaning as in section 103 of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, Section 1801 et seq., Title 49, United States Code;
- (32) “Head lamp” means a lighting device affixed to the front of a motor vehicle projecting a high intensity beam which lights the road in front of the vehicle so that it can proceed safely during the hours of darkness;
- (33) “High-mileage vehicle” means a motor vehicle having the following characteristics: (A) Not less than three wheels in contact with the ground; (B) a completely enclosed seat on which the driver sits; (C) a single or two cylinder, gasoline or diesel engine or an electric-powered engine; and (D) efficient fuel consumption;
- (34) “Highway” includes any state or other public highway, road, street, avenue, alley, driveway, parkway or place, under the control of the state or any political subdivision of the state, dedicated, appropriated or opened to public travel or other use;
- (35) “Intersecting highway” includes any public highway which joins another at an angle whether or not it crosses the other;
- (36) “Light weight” means the weight of an unloaded motor vehicle as ordinarily equipped and ready for use, exclusive of the weight of the operator of the motor vehicle;

- (37) “Limited access highway” means a state highway so designated under the provisions of section 13b-27;
- (38) “Local authorities” includes the board of aldermen, common council, chief of police, warden and burgesses, board of selectmen or other officials having authority for the enactment or enforcement of traffic regulations within their respective towns, cities or boroughs;
- (39) “Maintenance vehicle” means any vehicle in use by the state or by any town, city, borough or district, any state bridge or parkway authority or any public service company, as defined in section 16-1, in the maintenance of public highways or bridges and facilities located within the limits of public highways or bridges;
- (40) “Manufacturer” means (A) a person, whether a resident or a nonresident, engaged in the business of constructing or assembling motor vehicles of a type required to be registered under section 14-12, who offers the motor vehicles for sale in this state or (B) a person who distributes new motor vehicles to licensed new car dealers in this state;
- (41) “Median divider” means an intervening space or physical barrier or clearly indicated dividing section separating traffic lanes provided for vehicles proceeding in opposite directions;
- (42) “Minibike” or “minicycle” means any two or three wheel motorcycle having one or more of the following characteristics: (A) Ten inches (254mm) or less nominal wheel rim diameter. (B) forty inches or less wheel base. (C) twenty-five inches or less seat height measured at the lowest point on the top of the seat cushion without rider; (D) a propelling engine having a piston displacement of 50 c.c. or less;
- (43) “Modified antique motor vehicle” means a motor vehicle twenty-five years old or older which has been modified for safe road use, including but not limited to, modifications to the drive train, suspension, braking system and safety or comfort apparatus;
- (44) “Motor bus” includes any motor vehicle, except a taxicab, as defined in section 13b-95, operated in whole or in part on any street or highway in a manner affording a means of transportation by indiscriminately receiving or discharging passengers, or running on a regular route or over any portion of a regular route or between fixed termini;
- (45) “Motor home” means a vehicular unit designed to provide living quarters and necessary amenities which are built into an integral part of, or permanently attached to, a truck or van chassis;

- (46) “Motorcycle” means a motor vehicle, with or without a side car, having not more than three wheels in contact with the ground and a saddle or seat on which the rider sits or a platform on which the rider stands and includes bicycles having a motor attached, except bicycles propelled by means of a helper motor as defined in section 14-286, but does not include a vehicle having a completely or partially enclosed driver’s seat and a motor which is not in the enclosed area;
- (47) “Motor vehicle” means any vehicle propelled or drawn by any nonmuscular power, except aircraft, motor boats, road rollers, baggage trucks used about railroad stations or other mass transit facilities, electric battery-operated wheel chairs when operated by physically handicapped persons at speeds not exceeding fifteen miles per hour, golf carts operated on highways solely for the purpose of crossing from one part of the golf course to another, golf cart type vehicles operated on roads or highways on the grounds of state institutions by state employees, agricultural tractors, farm implements, such vehicles as run only on rails or tracks, self-propelled snow plows, snow blowers and lawn mowers, when used for the purposes for which they were designed and operated at speeds not exceeding four miles per hour, whether or not the operator rides on or walks behind such equipment, bicycles with helper motors as defined in section 14-286, special mobile equipment as defined in subsection (1) of section 14-165 and any other vehicle not suitable for operation on a highway;
- (48) “New motor vehicle” means a motor vehicle, the equitable or legal title to which has never transferred by a manufacturer, distributor or dealer to an ultimate consumer;
- (49) “Nonresident” means any person whose legal residence is in a state other than Connecticut or in a foreign country;
- (50) “Nonresident commercial driver’s license” or “nonresident CDL” means a commercial driver’s license issued by a state to an individual who resides in a foreign jurisdiction;
- (51) “Nonskid device” means any device applied to the tires, wheels, axles or frame of a motor vehicle for the purpose of increasing the traction of the motor vehicle;
- (52) “Number plate” means any sign or marker furnished by the commissioner on which is displayed the registration number assigned to a motor vehicle by the commissioner;
- (53) “Officer” includes any constable, sheriff, deputy sheriff, inspector of motor vehicles, state policeman or other official authorized to make arrests or to serve process, provided the officer is in uniform or displays his badge of office in a conspicuous place when making an arrest;
- (54) “Operator” means any person who operates a motor vehicle or who steers or directs the course of a motor vehicle being towed by another motor vehicle and includes a driver as defined in subdivision (20) of this section;

- (55) “Out-of-service order” means a temporary prohibition against driving a commercial motor vehicle or any other vehicle subject to the federal motor carrier safety regulations enforced by the commissioner pursuant to his authority under section 14-8;
- (56) “Owner” means any person holding title to a motor vehicle, or having the legal right to register the same, including purchasers under conditional bills of sale;
- (57) “Parked vehicle” means a motor vehicle in a stationary position within the limits of a public highway;
- (58) “Passenger and commercial motor vehicle” means a motor vehicle used for private passenger and commercial purposes which is eligible for combination registration;
- (59) “Passenger motor vehicle” means a motor vehicle used for the private transportation of persons and their personal belongings, designed to carry occupants in comfort and safety, with not less than fifty per cent of the total area enclosed by the outermost body contour lines, excluding the area enclosing the engine, as seen in a plan view, utilized for designated seating positions and necessary legroom with a capacity of carrying not more than ten passengers including the operator thereof;
- (60) “Passenger registration” means the type of registration issued to a passenger motor vehicle unless a more specific type of registration is authorized and issued by the commissioner for such class of vehicle;
- (61) “Person” includes any individual, corporation, limited liability company, association, copartnership, company, firm or other aggregation of individuals but does not include the state or any political subdivision thereof, unless the context clearly states or requires;
- (62) “Pneumatic tires” means tires inflated or inflatable with air;
- (63) “Pole trailer” means a trailer which is (A) intended for transporting long or irregularly shaped loads such as poles, logs, pipes or structural members, which loads are capable of sustaining themselves as beams between supporting connections, and (B) designed to be drawn by a motor vehicle and attached or secured directly to the motor vehicle by any means including a reach, pole or boom;
- (64) “Recreational vehicle” includes the camper, camp trailer and motor home classes of vehicles;
- (65) “Registration” includes the certificate of motor vehicle registration and the number plate or plates used in connection with such registration;

- (66) “Registration number” means the identifying number or letters, or both, assigned by the commissioner to a motor vehicle;
- (67) “Resident”, for the purpose of registering motor vehicles, includes any person having a legal residence in this state, or any person, firm or corporation owning or leasing a motor vehicle used or operated in intrastate business in this state, or a firm or corporation having its principal office or place of business in this state;
- (68) “School bus” means any school bus, as defined in section 14-275;
- (69) “Second” violation or “subsequent” violation means an offense committed not more than three years after the date of an arrest which resulted in a previous conviction for a violation of the same statutory provision, except in the case of a violation of section 14-215 or 14-224 or subsection (a) of section 14-227a, “second” violation or “subsequent” violation means an offense committed not more than ten years after the date of an arrest which resulted in a previous conviction for a violation of the same statutory provision;
- (70) “Semitrailer” means any trailer type vehicle designed and used in conjunction with a motor vehicle so that some part of its own weight and load rests on or is carried by another vehicle;
- (71) “Serious traffic violation” means a conviction, when operating a commercial motor vehicle, or any violation (A) of section 14-218a or 14-219, if the speed was fifteen miles per hour or more over the posted speed limit, (B) of section 14-222, (C) of section 14-240 or 14-240a, (D) of sections 14-230 to 14-237, inclusive, or (E) arising in connection with an accident related to the operation of a commercial motor vehicle and which resulted in the death of any person;
- (72) “Service bus” includes any vehicle except a vanpool vehicle or a school bus designed and regularly used to carry eight or more persons when used in private service for the transportation of persons without charge to the individual;
- (73) “Service car” means any motor vehicle used by a manufacturer, dealer or repairer for emergency motor vehicle repairs on the highways of this state, for towing or for the transportation of necessary persons, tools and materials to and from the scene of such emergency repairs or towing;
- (74) “Shoulder” means that portion of a highway immediately adjacent and contiguous to the travel lanes or main traveled portion of the roadway;
- (75) “Solid tires” means tires of rubber, or other elastic material approved by the Commissioner of Transportation, which do not depend on confined air for the support of the load;

- (76) “Spot lamp” or “spot light” means a lighting device projecting a high intensity beam, the direction of which can be readily controlled for special or emergency lighting as distinguished from ordinary road illumination;
- (77) “State” means any state of the United States and the District of Columbia unless the context indicates a more specific reference to the state of Connecticut;
- (78) “Stop” means complete cessation of movement;
- (79) “Tail lamp” means a lighting device affixed to the rear of a motor vehicle showing a red light to the rear and indicating the presence of the motor vehicle when viewed from behind;
- (80) “Tank vehicle” means any commercial motor vehicle designed to transport any liquid or gaseous material within a tank that is either permanently or temporarily attached to the vehicle or its chassis which shall include, but not be limited to, a cargo tank and portable tank, as defined in the Code of Federal Regulations Title 49, Section 383.5, as amended, provided it shall not include a portable tank with a rated capacity not to exceed one thousand gallons;
- (81) “Tractor” or “truck tractor” means a motor vehicle designed and used for drawing a semitrailer;
- (82) “Tractor-trailer unit” means a combination of a tractor and a trailer or a combination of a tractor and a semitrailer;
- (83) “Trailer” means any rubber-tired vehicle without motive power drawn or propelled by a motor vehicle;
- (84) “Truck” means a motor vehicle designed, used or maintained primarily for the transportation of property;
- (85) “Ultimate consumer” means, with respect to a motor vehicle, the first person, other than a dealer, who in good faith purchases the motor vehicle for purposes other than resale;
- (86) “United States” means the fifty states and the District of Columbia;
- (87) “Used motor vehicle” includes any motor vehicle which has been previously separately registered by an ultimate consumer;
- (88) “Utility trailer” means a trailer designed and used to transport personal property, materials or equipment, whether or not permanently affixed to the bed of the trailer, with a manufacturer’s GVWR of ten thousand pounds or less;

(89) "Vanpool vehicle" includes all motor vehicles, the primary purpose of which is the daily transportation, on a prearranged nonprofit basis, of individuals between home and work, and which: (A) If owned by or leased to a person, or to an employee of the person, or to an employee of a local, state or federal government unit or agency located in Connecticut, are manufactured and equipped in such manner as to provide a seating capacity of at least seven but not more than fifteen individuals, or (B) if owned by or leased to a regional ride-sharing organization in the state recognized by the Commissioner of Transportation, are manufactured and equipped in such manner as to provide a seating capacity of at least six but not more than nineteen individuals;

(90) "Vehicle" includes any device suitable for the conveyance, drawing or other transportation of persons or property, whether operated on wheels, runners, a cushion of air or by any other means. The term does not include devices propelled or drawn by human power or devices used exclusively on tracks;

(91) "Wrecker" means a vehicle which is registered, designed, equipped and used exclusively for the purposes of towing or transporting wrecked or disabled motor vehicles for compensation.

(b) For the purposes of sections 14-39, 14-41, 14-44, 14-50, 14-273, 14-274, 14-275c, 14-276, 14-276a and 14-281b, "public passenger transportation permit" shall mean, until July 1, 1991, public service motor vehicle operator's license.