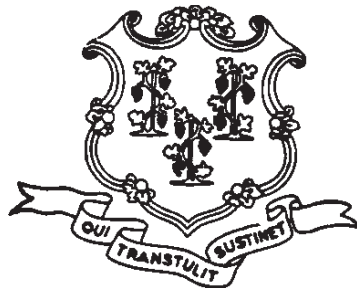


State of Connecticut  
Department of Motor Vehicles

Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program

# Motor Carrier Handbook



**Ned Lamont**  
*Governor*

**Sibongile Magubane**  
*Commissioner*

Department of Motor Vehicles

# Motor Carrier Handbook

Motor Carrier Safety  
Assistance Program



A copy of this manual can be accessed through the CT DMV website at [ct.gov/dmv](http://ct.gov/dmv) under "Publications".

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**Motor Carrier Handbook**

The Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles, Commercial Vehicle Safety Division gratefully acknowledges the cooperation of the following for their contributions:

*The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection*    [www.ct.gov/dep](http://www.ct.gov/dep)

*The Connecticut Department of Public Safety*                    [www.ct.gov/dps](http://www.ct.gov/dps)

*The Connecticut Department of Revenue Services*            [www.ct.gov/drs](http://www.ct.gov/drs)

*The Connecticut Department of Transportation*                [www.ct.gov/dot](http://www.ct.gov/dot)

*The Connecticut General Assembly*                                [www.cga.ct.gov](http://www.cga.ct.gov)

*The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration*                [www.fmcsa.dot.gov](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov)

*The Motor Transport Association of Connecticut*                [www.mtac.com](http://www.mtac.com)

The purpose of this manual is to provide the reader with general references and to familiarize drivers or companies with the applicable Federal and State laws and regulations pertaining to the motor carrier industry.

The contents of this manual are NOT intended to serve as a precise statement of the Connecticut General Statutes or the Code of Federal Regulations. The proper legal reference should be consulted for exact requirements of law. For more information, contact:

DMV-Commercial Vehicle Safety Division  
Room 145, 60 State Street  
Wethersfield, CT 06161-5517  
Phone:(860) 263-5446  
[ct.gov/dmv](http://ct.gov/dmv)

**Safety is Our Business**

This manual is for you, the professional motor-carrier driver. It is important for you to keep up to date on state and federal laws affecting your safety. In addition, you need to be familiar with the safety of commercial motor vehicles, the size and weight of loads that may be carried, and the permits required to operate on our state highways.

Connecticut's major industries are transportation, manufacturing, and fabrication of metals and machinery. Most of these products are transported by truck. Connecticut is the geographical gateway to New England, with a heavy concentration of commercial motor vehicle traffic crossing the state to provide goods and services to other states as well as our own residents.

We count on you, the professional driver, to set the standards for others to follow. We expect you to obey the laws of our State for your own safety, as well as for the safety of the entire motoring public sharing the road with you.

Melody A. Currey  
*Commissioner*  
Department of Motor Vehicles

Revised, March 2011

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**Remember:**  
**Always Buckle Up for Safety**

Since the 1980's, the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles has been the lead state agency for the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP). The primary objective of the program is to reduce the number of accidents and hazardous materials incidents involving commercial motor vehicles. This is done by identifying and removing unsafe vehicles, drivers, and cargo from our highways through roadside inspections, traffic enforcement and audits of a motor carrier's safety practices.

**Applicable Connecticut Laws**

**CGS 14-8 Police Authority of Commissioner and Inspectors**

(a) The commissioner, each deputy commissioner and any salaried inspector of motor vehicles designated by the commissioner, when engaged in the discharge of the duties of his office, shall have, in any part of the state, the same authority to make arrests or issue citations for violation of any statute or regulation relating to motor vehicles and to enforce said statutes and regulations....

**CGS 14-103: Inspection of Motor Vehicles**

“(a) The commissioner, by himself or an Inspector authorized by him, may examine any motor vehicle, its number, equipment and identification.”

“© All State..... officers, whenever they see a motor vehicle being operated in apparent violation of any statute relative to the equipment of a motor vehicle, may stop such vehicle.....”

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**Do the Regulations Apply to Me? CGS 14-163c**

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations apply to the following vehicles that operate in Interstate **or** Intrastate commerce: **This includes Farm vehicles.**

- 1) Vehicles that have a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) or gross combination weight rating (GCWR) of 10,001 or more pounds; (Note: For carriers that operate solely in Intrastate commerce, the regulations apply at 18,001 pounds or more) **or**
- 2) A vehicle designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver; **or**
- 3) A vehicle used in the transportation of hazardous materials in any quantity requiring placarding, **or**
- 4) (A) is designed or used to transport more than eight passengers, including the driver, for compensation, except a student transportation vehicle, as defined in section 14-212, or (B) is designed or used to transport more than fifteen passengers, including the driver and is not used to transport passengers for compensation;

In addition to the general regulations, **all drivers** of CDL vehicles are subject to Controlled Substance (Drug) and Alcohol Testing. A commercial motor vehicle:

- 1) Has a gross combination weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more inclusive of a towed unit with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 10,000 pounds; or
- 2) Has a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more; **or**
- 3) Is designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver; **or**
- 4) Is of any size and is used for the transportation of hazardous materials in a quantity requiring placarding.

Definitions:

**“Interstate commerce”** means trade, traffic, or transportation in the United States which is between a place in a state and a place outside of such state (including a place outside the United States) or is between two places in a state through another state or a place outside the United States.

**“Intrastate commerce”** means any trade, traffic, or transportation which is not described in the term “interstate commerce.”

**“Gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR)”** means the value specified by the manufacturer as the loaded weight of a single motor vehicle.

**“Gross combination weight rating (GCWR)”** means the value specified by the manufacturer as the loaded weight rating of a combination (articulated) motor vehicle. In the absence of a value specified by the manufacturer, GCWR will be determined by adding the GVWR of the power unit and the total weight of the towed unit and any load thereon.

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**Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations**

Connecticut has adopted the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, as amended, that apply to interstate motor carriers. [www.fmsca.dot.gov](http://www.fmsca.dot.gov)  
Intrastate carriers operate under the same rules as interstate carriers with two exceptions:

- 1) The regulations for intrastate vehicles apply when the GVWR or GCWR is 18,001 pounds or greater. Interstate carriers are subject to the regulations at 10,001 pounds GVWR or GCWR.
- 2) Drivers of a subject intrastate vehicle are required to be 18 years of age, not 21 years old as for interstate vehicles.

The following sections of 49 CFR were adopted:

- Part 382, “Controlled Substances and Alcohol Use and Testing”.
- Part 383, “Commercial Driver’s License Standards, Requirements, and Penalties”.
- Part 385, “Safety Fitness Procedures”.
- Part 386, “Rules of Practice for Motor Carrier Safety and Hazardous Materials Proceedings”.
- Part 387, “Minimum Levels of Financial Responsibility for Motor Carriers”.
- Part 390, “Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, General”.
- Part 391, “Qualifications of Drivers”.
- Part 392, “Driving of Motor Vehicles”.
- Part 393, “Parts and Accessories Necessary for Safe Operation”.
- Part 395, “Hours of Service of Drivers”.
- Part 396, “Inspection, Repair, and Maintenance”.
- Part 397, “Transportation of Hazardous Materials, Driving and Parking Rules”.

**US DOT Numbers for Interstate and Intrastate Vehicles, 49CFR 390.21**

All Interstate commercial motor vehicles that are subject to the regulations, are required to display their carrier name **and** their assigned “USDOT” number on both sides of the power unit.

All Intrastate commercial motor vehicles operating in Connecticut, that are subject to the regulations, are required to display their carrier name **and** their “USDOT” number followed by “CT”, on both sides of the power unit.

To apply for your Interstate or Intrastate DOT number, you must complete and submit the MCS-150 form online to: [www.fmcsa.dot.gov](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov)

If your CT DOT number is inactive, you must call the CT DMV at 860.263.5446.

Only one number is issued to a carrier. The same number would be displayed on all power units. The following markings are required to be displayed on each side of a vehicle:

- 1) The name or trade name of the motor carrier operating the vehicle.
- 2) The USDOT number preceded by the letters “USDOT”. Additionally, the number shall have the suffix “CT” if the carrier is an Intrastate only carrier.

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3) If the name of any other person, other than the operating carrier appears on the motor vehicle, either alone or in combination, the information must be preceded by “operated by”.

The size, shape, location and color of the marking must be as follows:

- 1) Appear on both sides of the self-propelled vehicle.
- 2) Be in letters that contrast sharply in color with the background.
- 3) Be readily legible, during daylight hours, from a distance of 50 feet while the vehicle is stationary.

**IRP Section – International Registration Plan, [CGS 14-34a](#)**

Connecticut is a member of the International Registration Plan (IRP) Program. The International Registration Plan Program (IRP) is a method of registering commercial vehicles that are **engaged in interstate operations**. Vehicles used for the transportation of persons for hire or is designed, used, or maintained primarily for the transportation of property **AND**:

- (i) has two Axles and a gross Vehicle weight or registered gross Vehicle weight in excess of 26,000 pounds (11,793.401 kilograms), or
- (ii) has three or more Axles, regardless of weight, or
- (iii) is used in combination, when the gross Vehicle weight of such combination exceeds 26,000 pounds (11,793.401 kilograms).

For further information, click on '[International Registration Plan](#)'.

**Commercial Vehicle Liability Insurance ([CGS 14-163d](#) and [14-213b](#))**

All vehicles described in [CGS 14-163c](#) must have the minimum levels of financial responsibility listed under **49CFR 387**. For further information, click on [commercial insurance](#). Failure to have proper insurance may result in arrest of the vehicle owner.

**Unified Carrier Registration (UCR) [CGS 13b-410a](#)**

Connecticut is a member of this program and it applies to all vehicles operated in interstate commerce and described below:

(e) “Commercial motor vehicle” (as defined under 49 U.S.C. Section 31101) means a self-propelled vehicle used on the highways in commerce principally to transport passengers or cargo, if the vehicle:

- (1) Has a gross vehicle weight rating or gross vehicle weight of at least 10,001 pounds, whichever is greater;
- (2) Is designed to transport more than 10 passengers including the driver; or
- (3) Is used in transporting material found by the Secretary of Transportation to be hazardous under 49 U.S.C. Section 5103 and transported in a quantity requiring placarding under regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

For further information, please go to the **IRP** webpage listed previously.

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**Operating Authority, 49CFR 392.9a**

Operating Authority is required If you operate a commercial vehicle over 10,000 pounds, for-hire, and travel interstate. Please go to the federal website to apply online: [www.fmsca.dot.gov](http://www.fmsca.dot.gov).

**International Fuel Tax Stickers, [CGS 12-487](#)**

What is the international Fuel Tax Agreement?

IFTA is a cooperative agreement among all 48 contiguous states and 10 Canadian provinces to simplify the permitting of, and reporting of fuel use tax by interstate motor carriers. Under IFTA, a carrier can obtain his fuel tax license for all qualified motor vehicles and report to his base jurisdiction his fuel used in all jurisdictions that are IFTA members.

Who Must Comply?

A motor vehicle or combination of vehicles used, designed or maintained for the transportation of persons or property having:

- Two axles and a gross vehicle weight or registered gross vehicle weight over 26,000 pounds; **or**
- Three or more axles regardless of weight; **or**
- A combination gross vehicle weight over 26,000 pounds.

Vehicles such as motor homes, pickup trucks with attached campers when used exclusively for personal pleasure by an individual are exempt from IFTA fuel tax reporting.

Operators of a qualified motor vehicle in Connecticut are required to have an IFTA license and decals. You must register in the IFTA program if you are based in Connecticut and the qualified vehicle travels or anticipates traveling outside of Connecticut. For carriers based in another jurisdiction, their IFTA license and decals will satisfy Connecticut's fuel use tax requirements. If your qualified vehicle stays strictly in the state of Connecticut, you must register the vehicle for a Connecticut only fuel tax sticker.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Specific questions may be addressed to the Excise Division of the Department of Revenue Services at 25 Sigoumey Street, Hartford, CT 06106 or call (860) 541-3222. To apply for IFTA sticker, call (860) 297-4753 or go on-line to [www.ct.gov/drs](http://www.ct.gov/drs).

**Driver Qualifications, 49CFR 391.11**

- 1) Must have a valid driver's license for the class of vehicle you are operating.
- 2) Must be medically examined at least every 24 months and have in your possession the original or legible copy of a medical examiner's certificate. Copies of the physical examination form and the medical examiner's certificate appear in this manual.
- 3) Must be 21 years old (18 if you are operating intrastate).



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- 4) Can speak, read and write English well enough to do your job.
- 5) Can drive your truck safely.
- 6) Can tell if your truck is safely loaded.
- 7) Know how to tie down your cargo.
- 8) Completed a detailed job application form on file with your employer.
- 9) Have a good driving record and have not been disqualified.

**Commercial Driver's License, 49CFR 383.23**

On October 26, 1986, Congress passed the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986. This law requires each State to meet the same minimum standards for commercial driver licensing. The minimum standards require commercial motor vehicle drivers to get a Commercial Driver's License (CDL). You must have a **CDL** to drive a Commercial Motor Vehicle (**CMV**). A commercial motor vehicle is defined as a motor vehicle designed or used to transport passengers or property if the vehicle:

- Has a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 or more pounds or a gross combination weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more, inclusive of a towed unit or units with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 10,000 pounds; **or**
- Is designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver; or is designed to transport more than 10 passengers, including the driver, and used to transport students under the age of twenty-one years to and from school; **or**
- Is transporting hazardous materials and is required to be placarded.

Vehicles Exempt from CDL

- Authorized emergency vehicles, [CGS 14-283](#)
- Fire fighting apparatus, [CGS 14-283](#)
- Military vehicles operated by military personnel, [CGS 14-44a](#)
- Recreational vehicles in private use [CGS 14-1\(15\)](#)
- Vehicles used for farming (within 150 air mile radius) 49CFR 383.3(d)

Legal Age

- You must be at least 18 years of age to apply for a learner's permit.
- You must be at least 18 years of age to get a CDL.
- You must be at least 21 years of age to haul hazardous materials. You must be at least 21 years of age to drive interstate.

Physical Requirements

You must certify, on the application form for a CDL, that you meet all the physical requirements in accordance with CFR Title 49, Part 391.41, as amended. Your certification will be required before you take any knowledge tests for a CDL. Proof that you meet the physical requirements as set forth in CFR Title 49, Part 391.41, as amended, **must** be carried with you when operating a commercial motor vehicle. You will be required to show proof that you meet these physical requirements when you renew your CDL.

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Note: Medical waivers may be available for certain physical conditions. Check with Department of Motor Vehicles, Medical Review Division at (860) 263-5223.

**Disqualifications**

Any person who is disqualified shall not drive a commercial motor vehicle. An employer shall not knowingly allow, require, permit, or authorize any person who is disqualified to drive a commercial motor vehicle.

Disqualifying offenses include: driving a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) while under the influence of alcohol; driving a CMV while under the influence of a controlled substance; leaving the scene of an accident involving a CMV; committing a felony involving the use of a CMV; and the use of a CMV in the commission of a felony involving manufacturing, distributing, or dispensing of a controlled substance.

Excessive speeding, reckless driving and a violation of a state or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control (other than a parking violation) arising in connection with a fatal traffic accident are also disqualifying offenses if committed while operating a CMV.

A CDL will not be issued to any person subject to disqualifications, suspension, revocation, or cancellation actions or who already has a CDL.

**CDL Classifications, [CGS 14-44d](#)**

A commercial driver's license or "CDL" is a license issued with the following classifications:

**A** – Any combination of vehicles with a (gross combined weight rating) GCWR of 26,001 or more pounds provided the (gross vehicle weight rating) GVWR of the vehicle(s) being towed is in excess of 10,000 pounds. (Holders of class A licenses may, with any appropriate endorsements and/or permits, operate all vehicles within classes B and C)

**B** – Any single vehicle with a GVWR of 26,001 or more pounds, or any such vehicle towing a vehicle not in excess of 10,000 pounds GVWR. (Holders of class B licenses may, with any appropriate endorsements and/or permits, operate all vehicles within class C).

**C** – Any single vehicle, or combination of vehicles, that does not meet the definition of class A or class B as contained herein, but that is designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver; or is placarded for hazardous materials; or is designed to transport more than 10 passengers, including the driver, and used to transport students under the age of twenty-one years to and from school.

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**License Endorsements, [CGS 14-36a](#)**

|   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| A = Activity vehicle                            | P = Passenger Transportation |
| F = Taxi, service bus, livery, coach, motor bus | T = Doubles / Triples        |
| H = Hazardous Material                          | V = Student Trans. Vehicle   |
| S = School Bus                                  | X = N and H combined         |
| M = Motorcycle                                  |                              |
| N = Liquid Bulk/Cargo Tank                      |                              |

**Restrictions**

B = Corrective lenses  
C = Mechanical Aid  
D = Prosthetic Aid  
E = Automatic Transmission  
F = Outside Mirror  
K = CDL Intrastate only  
L = Vehicles without air brakes  
W = Medical Waiver Required

**CDL Expiration**

Your commercial driver's license will expire within a period not to exceed four years following the date of your next birthday.

**CDL Renewal**

Before your license is due to expire, you will receive a license renewal application in the mail. Your license must be renewed before your birth date. Your license will not be renewed if it is under suspension. You will not get your renewal application if you have changed your address and did not notify the Department of Motor Vehicles of the new address. See CHANGE OF NAME OR ADDRESS section below. If you do not receive your license renewal application in the mail, please contact any office of the Department of Motor Vehicles.

**Hazardous Materials Endorsement**

Click on this link for special requirements regarding hazardous materials.

**Lost CDL**

If your CDL is lost or destroyed, you must apply for a duplicate. Duplicate CDLs may be obtained at any full-service motor vehicle branch office. You must bring with you three forms of identification, one of which must be a certified copy of your birth certificate.

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**Change of Name or Address, [CGS 14-45](#)**

State law requires you to notify the Department of Motor Vehicles within 48 hours if you change your name or address. Change of name and/or address forms are available at any Motor Vehicle branch office and [online in a downloadable format](#).

**CDL Learners' Permits**

Drivers operating commercial motor vehicles with CDL learner's permits must be accompanied by a qualified CDL operator (instructor) who is properly licensed for the vehicle being operated. Any person instructing another in the use of any motor vehicle shall be responsible for the operation thereof. The instructed person must be in possession of a valid commercial driver's license learner's permit while operating a commercial motor vehicle.

**Controlled Substance (Drug) and Alcohol Testing**  
[CGS 14-261b](#) and [49CFR 382.103](#)

Drivers of commercial motor vehicles requiring a Commercial Drivers License (CDL) are subject to controlled substance and alcohol testing by Federal and State regulation. Companies must conduct controlled substance and alcohol testing. Any driver refusing to take a required test is considered positive for use of controlled substances and/or alcohol.

There are several **types of controlled substance testing** described below:

- **Pre-employment:** No employer shall allow a driver to perform a safety sensitive function until they receive a negative controlled substance test result.
- **Post-Accident:** If a driver is involved in an accident resulting in a fatality, or a DOT recordable accident in which he receives a citation for a moving violation, the employer shall require the driver to be tested for alcohol within 2 to 8 hours and for controlled substances within 32 hours. Note: A DOT recordable accident is defined as an accident in which anybody is injured and immediately medically treated away from the scene or any vehicle is towed due to disabling damage.
- **Random:** Companies are to randomly test 50% of the drivers for controlled substance and 25 percent for alcohol per year. All drivers must have an equal chance of being selected for testing.
- **Reasonable Cause:** If a properly trained company official or supervisor has observed and documented a driver's behavior indicating he may be under the influence of alcohol or controlled substance, testing must be conducted.
- **Return to Duty:** Before a driver who tested positive returns to a safety sensitive position, they must undergo further controlled substance and/or alcohol testing resulting in a negative test result and confirmed by the company's Medical Review Officer.
- **Follow-up:** A substance abuse professional must require testing after a driver has been found positive. At least six tests in the first twelve months must be conducted.

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**Log Books**

**Hours of Service Maximum Driving and On-Duty Time, 49CFR 395.3**

This law applies to all drivers, companies and owner / operators.

Under Federal and State law for **Property Carriers**, you may not drive more than 11 hours following 10 consecutive hours off duty **or** drive for any period after having been on duty 14 hours following 10 consecutive hours off duty.

For **Passenger Carriers**, you may not drive more than 10 hours following 8 consecutive hours off duty **or** drive for any period after having been on duty 15 hours following 8 consecutive hours off duty.

Unless you are exempt, you **must** complete **and** carry a Record of Duty Status (Log Book) in duplicate for each day, whether or not work is done. Management and drivers are equally responsible for the maintenance and retention of the driver's Record of Duty Status in accordance with Federal and State Law.

You are exempt under the 100-air mile radius rule only if **all 5** of the following conditions are met:

1. The driver operates within a 100 air-mile radius of the normal reporting location for CDL vehicles, or within 150 air-mile radius for non-CDL vehicles, **and**
2. The driver, except a driver-salesperson, returns to the work reporting location and is released from work within 12 hours, **and**
3. At least 10 consecutive hours off duty separate each 12 hours on duty, and
4. The driver does not exceed 11 hours maximum driving time following 10 consecutive hours off duty, **and**
5. The motor carrier that employs the driver maintains and retains for a period of 6 months accurate and true records showing the time the driver reported for work, his total hours on duty and the time released each day.

These records must be available at your place of employment for inspection by DMV Inspectors. Supporting documents such as toll receipts, fueling records, and delivery documents must also be kept on file and identified by the driver.

**When You get Stopped for Inspection**

Your truck may be stopped and inspected by a Motor Carrier Inspector who has been certified by the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA). You will be asked to produce certain documents during the inspection which includes:

- Your driver's license
- Your medical examiner's certificate
- Your medical waiver, if applicable
- Your record of duty status (logbook)
- Your trip receipts
- Your shipping/delivery papers or manifest
- A vehicle registration for each unit
- Current annual inspections for each unit

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Additional documents will be needed if your shipment contains hazardous materials. The Motor Carrier Inspector will prepare an inspection report listing any violations. The driver and / or carrier may be issued fines for any violations found. You will be asked to sign a copy of the report indicating that you received a copy. The seven different types (levels) of motor carrier inspections are described in detail at: [www.cvsa.org/programs/nas\\_levels](http://www.cvsa.org/programs/nas_levels).

Your vehicle may be weighed using either portable or fixed scales. The diesel fuel in the fuel tanks may be checked to ensure compliance with IRS dyed fuel requirements. The exhaust may be sampled to ensure the vehicle's exhaust discharge is within allowable standards. [CGS 14-164i](#)

Vehicles subjected to a level 1 or 5 inspection and found to be without substantial defect will be given a CVSA sticker. CSVA stickers are honored nationwide for ninety days. Inspectors will generally not inspect a vehicle bearing a valid CVSA decal unless noted violations are detected or other problems exist.

If defects were reported, your company must, prior to re-dispatch, ensure repairs have been made, have the mechanic and a company official sign, and return the report within 15 days. Failure to sign and return the report may result in suspension of the operating privilege of the vehicle or company. The Inspector may also issue fines (a summons or mail in infraction). The case must be settled with the proper court by the date indicated on the summons or infraction notice.

Questions about inspections should be directed to:

Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles  
Commercial Vehicle Safety Division  
Room 145, 60 State Street  
Wethersfield, CT 06161-5517  
Phone: (860) 263-5446

**Connecticut Size and Weight Laws**  
**CGS 14-262 thru 14-270**

**Length - (Including Load)** - Single unit vehicle 45 feet: tractor semitrailer combination, no overall length limit, semitrailer limited to 48 feet:

The following vehicles are restricted to the designated highway:

**System:** Tractor multi-trailer (doubles) combinations, no overall length limit, trailers limited to 28 feet in length. Tractor semitrailer combination, no overall length limit, semitrailer limited to 53 feet, a maximum distance between the kingpin and the center of the rear-most axle of 43 feet.

**Width** - 102.37 Inches

**Height** - 13 Feet 6 Inches

**Maximum Weight Practicable** - 80,000 pounds on 5 axles with a 51 foot wheelbase.

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**Axle Weights** - Axles spaced less than 6 feet apart, 18,000 pounds per axle or axles spaced 6 feet or greater, 22,400 pounds per axle.

Tires - Load per inch width of tire 600 pounds maximum.

**Single Unit** - 2 axle vehicle 32,000 pounds, 36,000 pounds when axle weight does not exceed 18,000 pounds or 40,000 pounds when the wheelbase is 10 feet or more; 3 axle vehicle 53,800 pounds; 4 axle vehicle 67,400 pounds or 73,000 pounds permitted when the distance between the first and last axle is 28 feet or more; 5 axle vehicle 73,000 pounds.

**Tractor Semi-Trailer** - 3 axle combination 58,400 pounds: 4 axle combination 67,400 pounds, if wheelbase is 28 feet or more 73,000 pounds: 5 or more axle combination 73,000 pounds.

**Gross Vehicle Weights Over 73,000 Pounds** - A maximum gross weight of 80,000 pounds is allowed when all the requirements of the Federal Bridge Formulas are met.

**Oversize and/or Overweight Permits**

Oversize and Overweight Permits are issued by the Motor Transport Services Section of the Department of Transportation. With a few exceptions, permits in Connecticut are issued on a per trip basis for three-day periods and only for non-divisible loads. Applications are available by telephone, mail or online at [www.ct.gov/dot](http://www.ct.gov/dot). All applications must provide the following information:

- Date
- Origin
- Destination
- Routes to be traveled
- Overall height, length and width
- Gross Weight
- Number of Axles
- Description of Load
- Registration Number of Tractor and Trailer

**Permit inquiries and information:**

Connecticut Department of Transportation  
Motor Transport Services  
Oversize/Overweight Permit Unit  
2800 Berlin Turnpike  
P.O. Box 317546  
Newington, CT 06131-7546  
Phone (860) 594-2880 Fax (860) 665-8334  
or online at [www.ct.gov/dot](http://www.ct.gov/dot).

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**Hazardous Materials Transportation**

A hazardous material is any product that the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation has named as being a risk to health, safety or property. A permit is required by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection for the transportation of hazardous wastes and certain non-hazardous, Connecticut regulated wastes. You may not transport waste oil, petroleum or chemical liquids or hazardous waste without a permit from the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Also, you may not transport hazardous wastes in or through Connecticut without having received a permit from the Commissioner of the DEP.

Therefore, a permit is required to transport:

1. Radioactive Material as described in CGS 16a-106
  2. Hazardous waste as identified in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 261;
  3. Certain non-hazardous, Connecticut regulated wastes, such as waste oil, waste water soluble oil, waste PCBs and waste chemical liquids.
- Additional information concerning the permit requirements or a permit application package may be obtained by contacting the DEP, Waste Engineering and Enforcement Division at (860) 424-3372 or at [www.ct.gov/dep](http://www.ct.gov/dep). There are both civil and criminal penalties for violation of these requirements.

When you are hauling hazardous materials:

1. Be sure you have shipping papers listing the proper name of the hazardous material, the numerical class of material, the identification number, the assigned packaging group and the amount of the material. Also, the emergency response phone number, and an MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet) or an emergency response guidebook are required.
2. Be sure your truck is placarded properly if placards are required.
3. Be sure to check your tires every 100 miles or two (2) hours. If one is leaking, flat or overheated, it must be changed.
4. Be sure that the load is secure and free of leaks.
5. If you are hauling explosives, flammables or oxidizers, no smoking is permitted on or within 25 feet of the truck and that includes while you are driving.
6. If you are hauling explosives, you can't leave your truck unattended unless you park the truck at one of these locations:
  - a) On your employer's property.
  - b) On the shipper's or receiver's property.
  - c) In a safe haven, or
  - d) On a construction or survey site, if the truck is loaded with 50 pounds or less of explosives.
7. If you are hauling explosives, don't park your truck where there is a possible danger to people or property. Don't park:
  - a) On the roadway or within five (5) feet of it.



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- b) On private property without permission of the person in charge.
- c) Within 300 feet of a bridge, tunnel, house, or any place where people work or gather unless absolutely needed.

If you are hauling any other kind of hazardous material and you need to stop, park at least five (5) feet from the highway, if possible. Choose your routes carefully, no matter what kind of hazardous materials you're hauling. Avoid routes that go through or near areas where people live or work, any place where crowds gather, tunnels and narrow streets or alleys.

If you're hauling explosives, you must have a written route plan before leaving. Your supervisor should write the plan. You can write the route plan if the trip does not begin in the terminal.

If there is an incident involving a hazardous material, you must immediately report all the facts to:

CT Department of Environmental Protection  
Oil and Chemical Spill Section  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106  
24-hour Phone: (860) 424-3338  
and Contact Nearest Emergency Service at 911