



Wisconsin Farm Service Commercial Driver License (CDL)

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A driver who operates a Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) is required to have a Commercial Driver License (CDL) when operating a CMV on public roads.

Limited exemptions exist to the CDL requirement for:

- » Farmers under certain conditions while in pursuit of farming
- » Firefighters while driving fire-fighting vehicles in Wisconsin
- » Certain other situations as described in the [Wisconsin Commercial Driver's Manual](#).
- » Any person specially exempted from the CDL requirement must still have a valid Class D license to operate a CMV. All other drivers must have a standard CDL to operate a CMV.

Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) Classes

- » **Class A:** Any combination of vehicles with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR), actual weight, or registered weight over 26,000 lbs. provided the GVWR, actual weight, or registered weight of the towed vehicle(s) is more than 10,000 lbs.
- » **Class B:** Any single vehicle with a GVWR, actual weight, or registered weight over 26,000 lbs., or such vehicle towing a vehicle with a GVWR, actual weight, or registered weight of 10,000 lbs. or less.
- » **Class C:** Any single vehicle with a GVWR, actual weight, or registered weight of 26,000 lbs. or less (or such vehicle towing a vehicle of less than 10,000 lbs.) transporting hazardous materials requiring placarding, or designed to carry 16 or more persons including the driver.

FARM SERVICE CDL

A special **Farm Service CDL** is available for persons employed by a Farm Service Industry for 180 days or less per calendar year.

Farm Service Industry means

- » **Farm retail outlet:** A business that engages in the retail sale and delivery of farm supplies to farmers.
- » **Agri-chemical business:** A business that sells and delivers fertilizer, pesticides or other chemical compounds to farmers.
- » **Custom harvester:** A business engaged solely in the provision of for-hire harvesting services to farmers, or in the business of canning, freezing, or processing the crops being harvested.
- » **Livestock feeder:** A business licensed as an approved veal lots under s. AG 11.13, Wis. Adm. Code or an approved feed lot under s. AG 11.14, Wis. Adm. Code.

With a FARM SERVICE CDL:

- » **You may** operate a Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) **while employed in a Farm Service Industry.** Employment and operation may not exceed 180 days in a calendar year. You may split the 180 days into two periods but a separate application is required prior to each period.
- » **You may** only operate within 150 miles of your place of seasonal employment or, if you are a custom harvester, within 150 miles of the farm currently being harvested.
- » **You may** only operate a CMV that is owned, leased or rented by your seasonal employer.
- » **You may** operate tank vehicles. See Section 8, Tank Vehicles in the Wisconsin Commercial Driver's Manual.
- » **You may** transport the following hazardous materials (but not in combination or at the same time):
 - liquid fertilizers in vehicles or implements of husbandry with total capacities of 3,000 gallons or less.
 - solid fertilizers that are not transported with any organic substance.
 - 1,000 gallons or less of diesel fuel.
- » **You may NOT** operate a Class A CMV (see definition of Class A CMV above)
- » **You may NOT** work for a Farm Service Industry for more than 180 days per calendar year. If you work for a Farm Service Industry for more than 180 days, you are no longer considered seasonally employed and will need a standard CDL to operate a CMV.
- » **You may NOT** transport hazardous materials in amounts requiring placarding, except as specifically described above. See Section 9, Hazardous Materials in the Wisconsin Commercial Driver's Manual for information about placarding.
- » **You may NOT** operate a school bus or vehicle designed to transport, or actually transporting, 16 or more passengers (including the driver).
- » **You may NOT** operate a CMV for a custom harvester, *unless* such operation is related to the harvest of crops. You may transport harvest equipment to and from the fields where the harvest is conducted and you may transport harvested crops to a storage facility or processing plant. Transportation of harvested crops between storage facilities and processing plants or transportation of finished products is not permitted with a Farm Service CDL.
- » **You may NOT** operate in interstate commerce unless you are at least 21, meet federal motor carrier safety requirements and have a current Federal Medical Card.
- » **You may NOT** consume *any* alcohol within 4 hours before going on duty, nor while on duty, nor transport any alcohol in the driving area

(cab) of a CMV (even if unopened), nor have any measureable alcohol concentration in your body. **ANY of these alcohol-related violations will result in AT LEAST a 24 hour out-of-service order (loss of CDL privileges for 24 hours).**

Eligibility Requirements for a Farm Service CDL:

- » **You must** be 18 years of age or older.
- » **You must** have held a valid Class D (regular) operator's license other than an Instruction Permit, for at least the one-year period preceding the date of application.
- » **You must** have a good driving record for the past two years as described on [MV3587, Farm Service Commercial Driver License \(CDL\) Skill Test Waiver Application](#). Your record will be checked by the DMV before a Farm Service CDL is issued. After a Farm Service CDL is issued to you, you must maintain a good driving record as described on MV3587 in order to maintain Farm Service CDL privileges. The DMV will not issue an occupational license granting Farm Service CDL privileges.
- » **You must** meet the same medical standards as required for a standard CDL. See [Medical requirements for CDL drivers](#), call (608) 266-2327 for information on intrastate medical standards or (608) 662-2010 for information on interstate medical standards.
- » **You must** be a seasonal employee of a Farm Service Industry during the period for which you request the Farm Service CDL.
- » **You must** pass a knowledge test covering Farm Service CDL requirements. Study the information in this handout and in the Wisconsin Commercial Driver's Manual to prepare for the knowledge test.
- » **You must NOT** hold a standard CDL.

Fee Information for a Farm Service CDL:

- » Visit <http://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/dmv/teen-driver/teen-hw-apply/driver-fees.aspx>

Expiration dates:

- » The Farm Service CDL expires on the same date as the Class D privilege and may be renewed at the same time.
- » Each seasonal period expires on the date specified by the driver on the most recent application.

Important considerations:

- » You must obtain a standard CDL if you wish to drive a CMV for more than 180 days per calendar year or a CMV not covered by the Farm Service CDL.
- » A standard CDL includes all Farm Service CDL privileges and eliminates the need to annually specify seasons of employment. The department encourages you to consider obtaining a standard CDL.