

**Think a commercial  
vehicle looks like this?**



**Think again.**





Certain federal and state safety rules, regulations and laws may apply, if you:

- Use or operate any type of truck—including a pickup—in your business
- Transport passengers
- Haul any kind of hazardous materials (including gasoline, fertilizer, oxygen, acetylene or other chemicals)

If you have been told these laws don't apply to you, guess again. Most companies become aware of the rules and regulations after their vehicles have been stopped on the road.

The Michigan Center for Truck Safety has developed this brochure to bring general safety awareness to small truck owners and operators.



# What is a commercial motor vehicle (CMV)?

**Y**ou are operating a commercial motor vehicle if you transport passengers or property in a vehicle that:

- Has an actual gross vehicle weight (GVW) or gross combination vehicle weight (GCW) of 10,001 pounds or more
  - GVW means the weight of a vehicle and its load
  - GCW means the weight of a combination vehicle and its load
- Has a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) or gross combination weight rating (GCWR) of 10,001 pounds or more
  - GVWR is the value specified by the manufacturer as a safe loaded weight of a single vehicle (the GVWR is located on the manufacturer's tag, usually found inside the driver's side door)
  - GCWR is the value specified by the manufacturer as the loaded weight of a combination of vehicles
  - As used here, a combination vehicle means a truck pulling another vehicle or trailer
- Is designed or used to carry 16 or more passengers, including the driver
- Is transporting hazardous materials (in amounts that require placarding)

It does not matter if you:

- Are not for-hire
- Only transport company property
- Are the owner or only driver

If your vehicle meets the criteria for a commercial motor vehicle, the following rules, regulations and laws may apply to the company, the vehicle and all drivers:

- Chauffeur Driver License (Michigan)
- Commercial Driver License (CDL)
- Driver Qualifications (i.e., medical cards, driver files, state driving record)
- Driver Drug and Alcohol Testing
- Hours of Service
- Log Books
- Hazardous Material Regulations (applies to gasoline, oxygen, acetylene, fertilizer or other hazardous materials, regardless of the amount you carry)
- Vehicle Equipment Compliance (required equipment, daily and annual inspection reports, cargo securement)
- Size and Weight (pertains to all vehicles)
- Fuel Tax and IRP Registration
- Minimum Amounts of Insurance
- UCR Registration
- EGW Registration
- Displaying a USDOT Number
- Displaying company identification
- State and/or Federal Operating Authority





## Take this simple compliance indicator quiz!

Do you use a small truck (box van, step van), a pickup towing a trailer or a small bus in your business?  Yes  No

Is your vehicle used to transport:

- A product
- Passengers
- Tools and/or supplies used in your trade
- Any amount of a hazardous material (gasoline, oxygen, acetylene, propane, paint, solvents, glues, fertilizer, etc.)  Yes  No

Do you personally own, lease or use your employee's vehicles in your business?  Yes  No

If you answered yes to one or more of these questions, some or all of the federal and state safety regulations may apply to your company, your vehicles and the people who drive them.

State and local enforcement agencies understand and enforce these regulations. It is important that you understand them as well. Violations are subject to both civil and criminal penalties.

## **How can we help?**

The Michigan Center for Truck Safety can provide, **free of charge**, the information you need to be in compliance. Just call us at **(800) 682-4682**; in the Upper Peninsula, **(800) 469-7364**; in Southeast Michigan, **(989) 891-2565**; or e-mail us at **info@truckingsafety.org**.

### **What is the Michigan Center for Truck Safety?**

The Center is a grant-funded organization dedicated to highway safety through safer truck travel. The Center accomplishes this by educating both truck and car drivers on how to safely share the road.

### **What does the Center charge for its services?**

The majority of the Center's programs are free of charge for Michigan trucking companies and drivers.

### **When does the Center hold these courses?**

Many of our courses may be tailored to fit your schedule. Call us at (800) 682-4682, e-mail us at [info@truckingsafety.org](mailto:info@truckingsafety.org) or check our available courses at [www.truckingsafety.org](http://www.truckingsafety.org) to see what we can do to meet your scheduling needs.



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