

COMMERCIAL VEHICLE INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED THROUGH THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES:

Weight Questions & Port of Entry Information

Department of Revenue, Port of Entry Section
(303) 205-5691
www.state.co.us/gov_dir/revenue_dir/MCS_dir/poe.htm

Commercial Driver's License Information

Department of Revenue
(303) 227-3221
www.state.co.us/gov_dir/revenue_dir/MV_dir/mv.html

Extra Legal Loads, LVC Permits

Colorado Department of Transportation
(303) 757-9539 / (800) 350-3765
www.dot.state.co.us

Colorado Regulated Carriers

Public Utilities Commission
(303) 894-2000
www.dora.state.co.us/PUC

U.S. DOT Information

Federal Highway Administration
(303) 969-6748 extension 388
www.fhwa.dot.gov/omc/omchome.html

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

www.fmcsa.dot.gov

Colorado Hazardous Materials Information

Colorado State Patrol Hazardous Materials Section
(303) 239-4546
www.hazmatrans.state.co.us/public/default.htm

Colorado Motor Carrier Safety Regulations Information

Colorado State Patrol Motor Carrier Safety Section
(303) 273-1875
www.csp.state.co.us/mcsap.html

THE FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY REGULATIONS AND OTHER REQUIRED FORMS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM:

Colorado Motor Carrier's Association

(303) 433-3375
www.cmca.com

J.J. Keller & Associates, Inc.

(800) 558-5011
www.jjkeller.com

Label Master

(800) 723-4327
www.labelmaster.com

Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance

(301) 564-1623
www.cvsa.org

This pamphlet provided as a public service by:
COLORADO STATE PATROL,
MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY SECTION
15200 South Golden Road, Golden, COLORADO 80401



Colorado's Small Truck and Combination Owner's Guide for Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Regulations



This pamphlet is intended only as an informational guide to assist the small truck and combination with understanding some of the State Laws and Federal Regulations. It does not cover all the laws required to maintain compliance. All reference to the State and Federal Regulations should be confirmed using the Colorado Revised Statutes and Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations

Definitions: Please refer to these definitions when seen in **BOLD** print throughout this pamphlet:

Commercial Motor Vehicle is defined as any self propelled or towed vehicle bearing an apportioned plate or having a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (**GVWR**) or Gross Combination Weight Rating (**GCWR**) of 10,001 pounds or more, which is used in commerce on a public highway. (§42-4-235 C.R.S.)

GVWR (Gross vehicle weight rating) is the value specified by the manufacture as the loaded weight of a single vehicle. Usually found on the VIN label. (49 CFR Part 390.5)

GCWR (Gross combination weight rating) is the value specified by the manufacturer as the loaded weight 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. (49 CFR Part 390.5)

Small truck and combination vehicle (vehicles with a **GVWR** or **GCWR**, between 10,001 and 26,000 pounds) drivers are not exempt from complying with the safety requirements contained in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSR) as adopted by the State of Colorado, when operating vehicles that meet the definitions shown in this guide.

Colorado Revised Statute (C.R.S.) §42-4-235 requires motor carrier to be knowledgeable of the safety regulations for commercial motor vehicles.

THE FOLLOWING ARE CONDENSED VERSIONS OF SAFETY REGULATIONS THAT ARE SOMETIMES OVERLOOKED.

MARKINGS: (Company name and DOT number)

Part §390.21 requires that all CMV's must be marked on both sides with the company name. Interstate and intrastate carriers are required to display their DOT number. The FHWA issues numbers to interstate and intrastate carriers. Intrastate carrier operating combination vehicles may meet the requirements of this section by marking the trailer if the power unit's GVWR is 10,000 pounds or less.

EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT:

Part §393.95 requires a CMV to have a fire extinguisher with at least a 5 B:C rating and either three bi-directional reflective triangles or six fuses.

SAFETY CHAINS ON TRAILERS:

§42-4-506(3) says; "Whenever one vehicle is towing another, in addition to the drawbar or other connection, except a fifth wheel connection meeting the requirements of the department of transportation, safety chains or cables arranged in such a way that it will be impossible for the vehicle being towed to break loose from the vehicle towing in the event the drawbar or other connection were to be broken, loosened, or otherwise damaged shall be used. This subsection (3) shall apply to all motor vehicles, to all trailers*, except semitrailers connected by a proper fifth wheel, and to any dolly used to convert a semitrailer to a full trailer."

**This includes all ball and socket connections.*

TRAILER BRAKES:

Part §393.42 requires brakes on all wheels of allowed vehicles weighing more than 3,000 pounds. This part also requires those towed vehicles that are required to have brakes to have a breakaway brake system to apply the service brakes of the towed vehicle in the event of the towed vehicle becoming detached from the towing vehicle. Colorado Revised Statute §42-4-223 has the same requirement.

RETROFLECTIVE SHEETING AND REFLEX REFLECTORS:

As of June 1, 2001 the retroflective sheeting and reflex reflectors will be required on all trailers and semitrailers with a GVWR of 10,001 pounds or more. Refer to Part §393.13 for specific requirements.

ANNUAL INSPECTIONS:

Part §396.17 requires every CMV to be inspected annually and proof of that inspection to be carried with the CMV. A copy of the annual inspection is required to be kept in the CMV's maintenance file. Part §396.19 provides the requirements for becoming an inspector.

HOURS OF SERVICE REQUIREMENTS:

Part §395.8 requires all commercial vehicle drivers to prepare records of duty status (RODS).Part §395.1(e) provides an exemption from §395.8,if the driver does not go more than

100 air miles from the point where he or she was dispatched, and the driver returns to the point of dispatch and is totally released from duty within 12 hours and the company keeps time records. The company must maintain those time records for 180 days. The time records must contain the time reporting for work, the time leaving work and the total amount of time on duty for every day of the week.

DRIVER, VEHICLE INSPECTION REPORTS:

If you own more than one CMV*, Part §396.11 requires the driver to prepare a report in writing at the completion of each day's work listing any defect or deficiency discovered. There are eleven specific items the driver must inspect.

**Companies owning one truck and two or more trailers would have more than one CMV.*

I.D. , CLEARANCE LIGHTS, AND REFLECTORS:

Part §393.11 requires a CMV that is 80 inches or more in width, to have lights marking the extreme width and height of the vehicle. I.D. and clearance lights are required on the front and rear of the vehicle. Reflectors are required on each side, front and rear, of all CMV's regardless of the vehicle's width. These light and reflector requirements are also covered under state statutes.

LOAD SECUREMENT REQUIREMENTS:

Part §393.100 through §393.136 contain the requirements for securing loads, and the specifications of the load securing devices and front-end structures. A load must be secured to prevent it from shifting or falling off of the vehicle. In addition, each cargo carrying motor vehicle must conform to the applicable rules in §393.102, §393.104 and §393.106.

REAR END PROTECTION:

Part §393.86 requires a CMV that has a clearance at the rear end of more than 30 inches from the ground when empty, and the measurement from the rear tires to the rear of the bed is 24 inches or more, must have a device substantially constructed and firmly attached to the frame, to prevent a vehicle from going under the rear of the CMV. Rear impact guards are also required on trailers with a GVWR of 10,001 pounds or more.

CFR 49 §392.16 - Seat Belt Usage

A motor vehicle which has a seat belt assembly installed at the driver's seat shall not be driven unless the driver has properly restrained himself within the seat belt assembly.

C.R.S. §42-4-236 and §42-4-237 – Seat Belt Usage

Every driver and every front seat passenger and every person under the age of 16, in a motor vehicle shall wear a fastened safety belt while the motor vehicle is being operated on a street or highway in this state. Additionally, every child under 4 years of age, and who weighs under 40 pounds, must be in a child restraint system that is securely fastened.

CFR 49 §392.80 - Texting

Drivers of commercial motor vehicles are prohibited against texting while driving a commercial motor vehicle.

There are many additional safety regulations that must be complied with, such as tires, suspension, steering etc. that this informational pamphlet due to space limitations, cannot cover. All motor carriers should obtain a copy of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSR) to refer to, for all the safety regulations.