

## **COMMERCIAL DRIVER LICENSE REQUIREMENTS**

**6753**

(No. 145 November 2013)

### **LICENSING REQUIREMENTS**

**6753.1**

(No. 145 November 2013)

A valid government issued driver's license is required to operate CAL FIRE owned and controlled motor vehicles. A Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) issued Commercial Driver License (CDL) is required to operate commercial vehicles or combination of vehicles which require a Class A or B license. The class of license required is based on the type of equipment being operated. The class of driver's license required is determined by the Federal Department of Transportation (D.O.T.) commercial vehicle standard, Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 383. All CAL FIRE engines, dozer transports and emergency crew transports are commercial vehicles under this standard and CAL FIRE requires a CDL to operate.—The "Firefighter Endorsement" with a Class C license is not a CDL and does not meet the CAL FIRE licensing requirement for operating CAL FIRE commercial vehicles. A CDL issued by other states is valid for the operation of CAL FIRE commercial vehicles. The positions or classifications requiring possession of a CDL, include, but are not limited to: Fire Apparatus Engineer, Fire Apparatus Engineer (Paramedic), Fire Captain, Fire Captain (Paramedic), Heavy Fire Equipment Operator, and Heavy Equipment Mechanic.

The basic criteria used to define each CDL class are as follows:

- Any single vehicle with three or more axles weighing more than 6,000 lbs.
- A vehicle or combination of vehicles with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of 26,001 pounds or more.
- A trailer with a GVWR of 10,001 pounds or more.
- A bus/van carrying more than 15 passengers, including the driver (except van pools and vans carrying family members).
- Any size vehicle transporting hazardous material which requires placarding.

A current employee with a Class A or B firefighter restricted license is valid for the operation of CAL FIRE motor vehicles only until it expires. At that time the employee will need to attain a full commercial driver's license, including applicable endorsements (i.e. air brakes, tank, passenger, and/or hazmat).

- *A Firefighter Restricted license issued by other states is not valid within the State of California.*

## **COMMERCIAL DRIVER LICENSE PERMIT**

**6753.2**

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Once a (CDL) permit has been obtained, the employee may drive a department owned commercial vehicle under the following conditions:

- Written approval from the Unit Chief or their designee.
- The employee may only drive in non-code three situations.
- The employee must be accompanied by a CAL FIRE employee with permanent employment status who has the appropriate driver license and endorsements for the type of vehicle being operated.
- The employee must be enrolled in the DMV Pull-Notice Program.
- All driver training must be documented, and recorded in the employees individual training records (ITR) and must include the following:
  - (1) The employee's full name, address, and driver license number.
  - (2) The type of instruction the driver was given during training.
  - (3) The date(s) instruction was given.
  - (4) The subjects covered.
  - (5) The total hours of instruction.
  - (6) The training instructor's full name and address.
  - (7) The results of any driving test conducted in conjunction with training.

## **CDL ENDORSEMENTS**

**6753.3**

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Additional endorsements are required to operate various special vehicles such as a tank vehicle, passenger transportation vehicles, vehicles transporting hazardous materials or wastes, and double trailer combinations. CDL endorsements requiring a special test are for specific vehicle operating systems and combinations such as air brakes, bulk liquids and hazardous materials.

## **SPECIAL PERMITS**

**6753.4**

(No. 145 November 2013)

Permits are required for operation of overweight, over width, and over height loads on vehicles, commonly called "extralegal loads."

## **DRIVER LICENSE MEDICAL EXAMINATION**

**6753.5**

(No. 145 November 2013)

Under standard commercial driver licensing requirements, the licensee must be examined by a licensed doctor of medicine every two years to ensure that they are physically able to drive a commercial vehicle. The doctor provides a medical report on a form approved by the Federal Highway Administration or on DMV Form DL-51, latest revision.

The medical report (or a copy of the report) must be submitted to the DMV with the application for a commercial license. The doctor completes and signs a medical certificate for licensees to carry when they are operating commercial vehicles. If the medical certificate is not in the driver's possession or if it has expired, the CDL reverts to a regular Class C license.

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