

# WISCONSIN FARM SERVICE COMMERCIAL DRIVERS LICENSE (CDL)

BDS 201 09/2008

Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Drivers who operate Commercial Motor Vehicles (CMV's) are required to have a Commercial Driver's License (CDL), if operating such vehicles on public roads.

**Note:** A few exemptions from the CDL requirement exist, for farmers (while in pursuit of farming), fire departments, and a few other special situations (see the Wisconsin Commercial Driver's Manual (CDL 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 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.

A special CDL called a **FARM SERVICE CDL** is available for a person who is employed by a Farm Service Industry for 180 days or less per calendar year.

## Farm Service Industry means:

1. **Farm retail outlet:** A business that engages in the retail sale and delivery of farm supplies to farmers.
2. **Agri-chemical business:** A business that sells and delivers fertilizer, pesticides or other chemical compounds to farmers.
3. **Custom harvester:** A business which is 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.
4. **Livestock feeder:** A business that is 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 Commercial Motor Vehicles (CMV's) **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** operate only 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** operate only CMV'S owned, leased, or rented by your seasonal employer.
- **you may** operate tank vehicles. See Section 8 of the CDL 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.

With a FARM SERVICE CDL,

- **you may NOT** operate Class A CMV's (see page 1 for definition of Class A CMV)
- **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 provided on page 2 of this brochure. See Section 9 in the CDL Manual for hazardous materials information.
- **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).**

To be **eligible** for a FARM SERVICE CDL:

- You must be at least 18.
- You must have a valid Class D (regular) driver's license, and have held the license for at least one year.

- You must have a good driving record for the past two years, as described on Skills Test Waiver Application MV3587 (below). Your record will be checked by DOT 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. Occupational licenses granting FARM SERVICE CDL privileges will not be issued.
- You must meet the same medical standards as for a standard CDL. Call (608) 266-2327 for information on intrastate medical standards, call (608) 662-2010 for information on interstate medical standards; or ask an examiner.
- 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 written test covering FARM SERVICE CDL requirements.
- For the test, study this brochure. You should also be familiar with the information in the CDL Manual.
- You may not hold a standard CDL.

The fee:

- For fee information, go to <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/drivers/driver-fees.htm>.

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.

**Note:** If you wish to drive a CMV for more than 180 days per calendar year, or to drive a CMV not covered by the Farm Service CDL, you will need a standard 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 a standard CDL. Ask a Driver License Examiner for details.**

FARM SERVICE COMMERCIAL DRIVER LICENSE (CDL) SKILL TEST WAIVER APPLICATION		
Wisconsin Department of Transportation MV3587 8/2006 s.343.055(1)(c) Wis. Stats.		
<p><b>NOTE: A person who works for a farm service industry for more than 180 days in a calendar year is NOT eligible for a farm service CDL.</b></p> <p>I, the undersigned driver, certify that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* I am employed in a farm service industry for 180 days or less.</li> <li>* I have held a valid Class D license for the past 12-month period.</li> <li>* In the past two years, from application date, I have not:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Held licenses from more than one state, U.S. territory, or province of Canada at the same time;</li> <li>Had any license revoked, suspended or cancelled for any offense except failure to pay nontraffic forfeiture;</li> <li>Been found at fault in any motor vehicle accident.</li> </ul> </li> <li>* In the past two years, I have not violated and been convicted of any of the following traffic offenses in a motor vehicle in any state, U.S. territory, or province of Canada:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operating under the influence of an intoxicant, controlled substance, or other drug, or combination thereof;</li> <li>Operating a commercial motor vehicle with an alcohol concentration of .04 or more;</li> <li>Leaving the scene of, or failing to report, an accident;</li> <li>Using a motor vehicle while committing a felony;</li> <li>Refusing to submit to chemical testing;</li> <li>Causing injury, great bodily harm, or death while operating under the influence of an intoxicant, controlled substance or any other drug;</li> <li>Violating a traffic control law, other than a parking violation, in connection with any traffic accident;</li> <li>Violating a restriction;</li> <li>Exceeding the speed limit by 15 or more miles per hour;</li> <li>Reckless or careless driving;</li> <li>Following too closely, improper or erratic lane changes or improper passing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
Driver Name – Print		Seasonal Employment Beginning Date
Street Address		Seasonal Employment Ending Date
City	State	ZIP Code
Driver License Number		Social Security Number
The social security number and driver license number are used for identification purposes.		
<p><b>WARNING:</b> Any person who, on applying for an operator's license, presents fraudulent or altered documents or makes a false statement to the issuing officer or agency may be subject to fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than 6 months or both, and cancellation or revocation of operator's license privilege for one year.</p>		
Application Date		_____ (Driver Signature)
Direct questions to 608-266-2353.		
<b>Take this completed application to a DMV Service Center for processing.</b>		