

Demystifying CDL Licensing

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) requires that ALL company vehicles over 10,000 lb. GVWR traveling Interstate (only) have a health card, log, flares, emergency supplies etc.

The state of Arizona adopted but has not yet codified into statute a portion of the FMCSA's rule. Arizona set the GVWR at 18,000, not 10,000 lb. GVWR. Anything **UNDER** 18,001 GVWR DOES NOT require any license other than a regular drivers license and there are no log, flare, health card, fire extinguishers etc., requirements as long as it's driven ONLY instate. This is considered intrastate by Arizona & Federal Authorities and as such, as long as the vehicle does not cross state lines (interstate) there is no Federal law applicable regarding CDL licensing anything below 26,000 GVWR.

Both the Federal Government & Arizona authorities require a CDL only when the vehicle OR the combination of vehicle and trailer exceed 26,000 lb. Then the above must be met as well as a CDL licensed driver to operate the vehicle.

In addition but separate from above, both Federal authorities & Arizona require a CDL licensed driver IF THE TRAILER by itself has a registered GVWR of 10,000 or greater. Does not matter what the truck is. If the trailer is registered with the state above 10,000 GVWR then a CDL license is required, even if the trailer is being TOWED EMPTY.

In addition to the above, a truck equipped with air brakes requires an endorsement accompanying a regular CDL just as the trailer would.

The above applies to all trucks in general.

This explanation written for the sole purpose of demystifying CDL requirements and is in no way intended to be relied upon as anything but a GUIDE.

Please check with your Local, State or applicable Federal authorities for further clarification or definition.

Arizona Work Trucks
2761 N. Stone Ave, Tucson, AZ 85705
520-617-0141