HOW TO OBTAIN AN ENTRY-LEVEL COMMERCIAL DRIVER’S LICENSE UNDER FEDERAL LAW

For an 18-20 year old entering the workforce

The trucking industry is facing a massive driver shortage that’s affecting the movement of commerce in our country. Estimates show trucking companies will need to hire an additional 890,000 drivers over the next decade. The DRIVE-Safe Act (S. 659, H.R. 1745) creates a pathway to both qualify more drivers for the trucking profession and instill a culture of safety.

NOW

✅ 18 years old
✅ Pass a written exam
✅ Pass a driver’s test
✅ Driver can make a 744 mile trip from Houston to El Paso, Texas.

❌ Cannot cross state lines. Making a 14 mile trip from Washington D.C. to Springfield, Virginia illegal.

DRIVE-SAFE ACT

✅ 18 years old
✅ Pass a written exam
✅ Pass a driver’s test
✅ Log 400 hours of on-duty training
✅ Log 240 hours of driving time with an experienced driver in the cab
✅ Trucks used for training must be equipped with safety technology:
  ✔️ Active braking collision mitigation systems,
  ✔️ Video event capture, and
  ✔️ Speed governor set at 65 miles per hour or below
✅ Driver can participate in interstate commerce, upon successful completion of the training.
✅ Driver is able to make a 14 mile trip from Washington D.C. to Springfield, Virginia.

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