

Department of Motor Vehicles

CDL Skills Test Exemption for Military Applicants

Active duty, recently separated (within 90 days of application), or reservist military personnel may be allowed an exemption from the CDL driving skills test based on their holding of a military license, which authorizes operation of military vehicles that are representative of a commercial motor vehicle of a similar class.

Military personnel described above will be granted an exemption from the CDL skills test provided he or she meets all criteria required under Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSR). This exemption applies only to the CDL skills test and does not include any testing requirements for public transportation, school bus, or hazardous material.

All applicants must pass the required knowledge test(s) based on the type of vehicle to be driven. Knowledge tests will be provided at no fee if the applicant is in active duty status, or meets the current military fee exemption criteria. Applicants must also provide information on all states where they were previously licensed during the past 10-years.

All applicants must present the following:

- Valid Connecticut operator's license
- Valid Form OF-346 (U.S. Government Motor Vehicle Operator Identification Card)
- Military Identification Card or DD-214 if recently separated
- Letter from commanding officer indicating which CMV class (A, B, or C) is representative of the military vehicle the applicant is licensed to operate
- Medical certification dated within 2 years (actual physical or medical certification card)
- Completed DMV Forms B-88 (fee waiver) and R-229A (application for CT license)
- Color Photograph (passport-size)
- Social Security card or proof of SSN
- Certification Form (will be issued at the branch office)

The US Government license must indicate the type of vehicle(s) and the vehicle capacity that the applicant is qualified to operate. In order to qualify for the exemption, the capacity must be at least 26,001 lbs. GVWR.

The applicant must certify the following:

- They have operated a vehicle representative of the commercial motor vehicle that they currently operate or expect to operate for at least two (2) years immediately preceding this application for the CDL. Evidence must be included such as: a letter from the applicant's employer; or test results from another state.

OR

- They are regularly employed in a job requiring operation of a CMV and have either previously taken and passed a skills test given by a State with a classified licensing and testing system and that the test was behind the wheel in a representative vehicle for the applicant's license classification.

AND

- They do not have more than one (1) license; have not had any license suspended, revoked, or cancelled; have not had a conviction in any type of motor vehicle for the **disqualifying offenses*** found in 383.51(b); have not had more than one (1) conviction for **serious traffic violations**** in any type of motor vehicle; have not had any conviction for a violation of State or local law relating to motor vehicle or traffic control (other than a parking violation) arising in connection with any traffic accident and have no record of an accident in which they were at fault.

*** 383.51 – Disqualifying Offenses- Conviction for:**

- being under the influence of alcohol while operating a CMV

- being under the influence of a controlled substance
- having a alcohol concentration of 0.04 or greater while operating a CMV
- refusing to take an alcohol test as required by a State or jurisdiction under its implied consent laws or regulations as defined in 383.72
- leaving the scene of an accident
- using the vehicle to commit a felony
- driving a CMV while the driver's CDL is revoked, suspended, or cancelled or the driver is disqualified from operating a CMV
- causing a fatality through negligent operating of a CMV, including, but not limited to the crimes of motor vehicle manslaughter, homicide by motor vehicle and negligent homicide
- using the vehicle in the commission of a felony involving manufacturing, distributing, or dispensing a controlled substance

****Serious Traffic Violations – Conviction for:**

- speeding in excess of fifteen miles per hour or moreover the posted speed limit
- reckless driving
- following too closely
- improper or erratic lane changes
- driving a CMV without a valid CDL
- failure to carry a CDL
- failure to have proper class of license or endorsement or violation of a license restriction
- in connection with an accident related to operation of a CMV and which resulted in a fatality
- failure to stop at a railroad crossing while operating a CMV

A certification form will be given to the applicant at the branch office for completion. The current CT license must be surrendered and the licensing fee paid, if applicable.

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