

SPECIAL Report



NATIONAL ROOFING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

April 1, 1992

Dear Member:

It's no April Fools' Day joke that the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Commercial Driver's License (CDL) regulations became effective April 1, 1992. The purpose of the CDL regulations is to reduce truck and bus accidents by requiring drivers to have a single commercial motor vehicle driver's license and by disqualifying drivers who operate commercial motor vehicles in an unsafe manner.

The CDL is required when your drivers operate a vehicle that:

- has a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of more than 26,000 pounds; or
- has a gross combination weight rating (GCWR) of more than 26,000 pounds if the towed vehicle has a GVWR of at least 10,000 pounds; or
- is of any size and transports hazardous materials in an amount requiring placards to be placed on the vehicle;¹ or
- is designed to transport at least 16 people (including the driver).

It is important to realize that the CDL requirements affect *everyone* who drives a vehicle that falls into one of the categories above, regardless of where the vehicle is driven. As of April 1, it is illegal to drive one of these vehicles without the CDL.

In addition to passing the knowledge and skills tests that are required to obtain the CDL, all persons who operate or expect to operate certain types of vehicles are required to take and pass specialized tests to obtain endorsements to the CDL. Following is a list of endorsement types and the tests that must be taken in order to obtain them:

- Double/triple trailer endorsement requires passing a knowledge test.

¹Placards are to be placed on a vehicle that transports 1,000 or more pounds of a hazardous material. This quantity includes any hazardous substances that you are transporting *plus* their containers. For example, if a 20-gallon tank of LP gas weighs 100 pounds, and you transport 10 tanks, the vehicle must be placarded and the driver must have a CDL. Or say you transport 5 LP gas tanks plus 500 pounds of an adhesive that is marked with a hazardous material label, the placarding and CDL requirements apply.