

TRUCKING SAFETY GUIDE

Federal and State




J. J. Keller
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TRUCKING SAFETY GUIDE

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J. J. Keller & Associates, Inc.
3003 Breezewood Lane
P.O. Box 368
Neenah, Wisconsin 54957-0368
Phone: (800) 327-6868
Fax: (800) 727-7516
JJKeller.com

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TRUCKING SAFETY GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

The Trucking Safety Guide and its quarterly Update Service provide motor carriers with continuously updated information to assist in understanding and complying with both the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and state-specific requirements as issued and administered by various state agencies.

This Guide is divided into two major sections, Federal and State.

The Federal section contains the FMCSRs, the FMCSA's official interpretations of these regulations, and key FMCSA contacts.

The State section contains a general overview of each state's adoption of the FMCSRs for intrastate operations. It addresses key compliance issues for intrastate operations including hours of service, driver qualification, and vehicle inspection. This section also includes state-specific information addressing how to obtain driving records and accident reports, accident reporting, legal size and weight limits, and other general information to assist the motor carrier in complying with safety-related requirements on the state level.

Revision bars, like the one at the left of this paragraph, are used in this publication to show where significant changes were made on update pages. The revision bar next to text on a page indicates that the text was revised. The date at the bottom of the page tells you when the revised page was issued.

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J. J. Keller & Associates, Inc.

3003 Breezewood Lane, P.O. Box 368

Neenah, Wisconsin 54957-0368

Phone: (800) 327-6868

Fax: (800) 727-7516

JJKeller.com

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SAFETY OVERVIEW

Overview

In Illinois, the regulatory agency with authority for trucking safety regulations is the Department of Transportation. Effective January 8, 2016, the agency incorporated by reference Parts 380, 382, 390, 392, 393, 396, and 397 of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) that were in effect on October 1, 2014.

Effective January 8, 2016, the agency incorporated by reference Part 40 of the FMCSRs in effect on October 1, 2014, as amended April 13, 2015.

Effective January 8, 2016, the agency incorporated Part 383, Part 386 Appendix B, Part 387, of the FMCSRs in effect on October 1, 2014, as amended April 3, 2015.

Effective January 8, 2016, the agency incorporated Part 391 of the FMCSRs in effect on October 1, 2014, as amended April 23, 2015.

Effective March 14, 2018, the agency incorporated Part 395 of the FMCSRs in effect on October 1, 2017.

Applicability

These regulations are applicable to persons employing drivers, drivers, and any self propelled or towed vehicle used on public highways in interstate and intrastate commerce when the vehicle has a gross vehicle weight, a gross vehicle weight rating, a gross combination weight, or a gross combination weight rating of 10,001 or more pounds, or the vehicle is used in the transportation of hazardous materials in a quantity requiring placarding under the Illinois Hazardous Materials Transportation Act.

Agency References

Agency references are listed at the end of the Illinois section.

QUALIFICATION OF DRIVERS

Federal Regulations

Illinois has adopted Part 380 (Special Training Requirements) of the Federal Regulations with the exception of Secs. 380.103, 380.105, 380.501, 380.502, and 380.509(a).

Illinois has adopted Part 391 of the Federal Regulations with the exception of Sec. 391.11(b)(1) for intrastate drivers.

Applicability

Part 380 applies to drivers who possess a commercial driver's license (CDL).

Part 391 applies to persons employing drivers, drivers, and any self-propelled or towed vehicle used on public highways in interstate and intrastate commerce when the vehicle has a gross vehicle weight, a gross vehicle weight rating, a gross combination weight, or a gross combination weight rating of 10,001 or more pounds, or the vehicle is used in the transportation of hazardous materials in a quantity requiring placarding under the Illinois Hazardous Materials Transportation Act.

Age

Sec. 391.11(b)(1) was not adopted for intrastate drivers. A commercial operator must be 18 years old.

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Driver Qualification File

A driver qualification file (Sec. 391.51) is required. There is an exception to the physical qualification requirement. See Physical Qualification for details.

Entry-Level Driver Training

An entry-level driver is defined as a driver with less than one year of experience operating a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) with a commercial driver's license (CDL) in interstate or intrastate commerce. Each employer must ensure that each entry-level driver that began operating a CMV requiring a CDL in interstate or intrastate commerce after July 20, 2003, receives the training required by Sec. 380.503.

Operator's License

The driver's license classes are as follows:

Class	Description
Class A	Any combination of vehicles with a gross combination weight rating (GCWR) of 26,001 pounds or more, if the gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of the vehicle being towed is more than 10,000 pounds.
Class B	Any single vehicle with a GVWR of 26,001 pounds or more. The vehicle may tow another vehicle that is 10,000 pounds or less GVWR.
Class C	Any single vehicle with a GVWR of at least 16,001 pounds but less than 26,001 pounds, or any such vehicle towing a vehicle 10,000 pounds or less GVWR; any vehicle less than 26,001 pounds GVWR designed to transport 16 or more people including the driver, or any vehicle used in the transportation of hazardous materials that requires the vehicle to be placarded.
Class D	Any single vehicle with a GVWR of 16,000 pounds or less, that is not designed to transport 16 or more people or used in the transportation of hazardous materials that require the vehicle to be placarded; or any single vehicle with a GVWR of 16,000 pounds or less towing any vehicle providing the GCWR is less than 26,001 pounds.

Endorsements are required for double/triple trailers, passenger-carrying vehicles, tank vehicles, and vehicles carrying placardable hazardous materials.

A restriction will be placed on the CDL for those who fail to successfully pass the air-brake test(s).

Physical Qualification

Illinois law permits insulin dependent diabetics and drivers with visual acuity problems who were eligible to, licensed to and engaged in the operation of commercial motor vehicles, with a GVWR or GCW of over 12,000 pounds, prior to July 29, 1986, and who would have otherwise been disqualified to drive by Illinois' adoption of Part 391 of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, to continue to drive provided such drivers have individual driving records which indicate their ability to drive safely. Illinois law grants similar relief to insulin dependent diabetics and drivers with visual acuity problems who were eligible to, licensed to and engaged in the operation of certain commercial motor vehicles between 10,000 and 12,000 pounds GVWR or GCWR prior to January 17, 1992, and who would have otherwise been disqualified by Illinois' adoption of Public Act 87-829. If a driver is qualified under these provisions, the medical certificate must say, "Qualified only for intrastate transportation in Illinois."

Exception — The physical qualification requirements in Part 391, Subpart E do not apply to drivers of covered farm vehicles as defined in 92 Ill. Adm. Code 390.1020.

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DRIVING OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Federal Regulations

Illinois has adopted Part 392 of the Federal Regulations.

Applicability

Part 392 applies to persons employing drivers, drivers, and any self-propelled or towed vehicle used on public highways in interstate and intrastate commerce when the vehicle has a gross vehicle weight, a gross vehicle weight rating, a gross combination weight, or a gross combination weight rating of 10,001 or more pounds, or the vehicle is used in the transportation of hazardous materials in a quantity requiring placarding under the Illinois Hazardous Materials Transportation Act.

Speed Limit

The speed limit is 70 mph on rural interstates, 65 mph on 4-lane divided highways, and 55 mph or as posted on other highways.

The speed limit for a second division vehicle designed or used for the carrying of a gross weight of 8,001 pounds or more (including the weight of the vehicle and maximum load) outside an urban area in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties is 60 mph, or as posted.

HOURS OF SERVICE

Federal Regulations

Illinois has adopted Part 395 of the Federal Regulations.

Applicability

Part 395 applies to persons employing drivers, drivers, and any self-propelled or towed vehicle used on public highways in interstate and intrastate commerce when the vehicle has a gross vehicle weight, a gross vehicle weight rating, a gross combination weight, or a gross combination weight rating of 10,001 or more pounds, or the vehicle is used in the transportation of hazardous materials in a quantity requiring placarding under the Illinois Hazardous Materials Transportation Act.

Exception —Section 395.1(e)(1) was revised to a 150 air-mile radius for intrastate drivers.

Exception — Part 395 does not apply to:

- Drivers of utility service vehicles;
- Drivers of covered farm vehicles;
- Intrastate farm to market agricultural transportation; and
- Intrastate grain hauling operations within a 200-air-mile-radius of the normal work reporting location.

Electronic Logging Device (ELD)

Illinois has adopted the electronic logging device (ELD) requirements in Part 395 for intrastate motor carriers and drivers.

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RECORDING AND REPORTING OF ACCIDENTS

Federal Regulations	Illinois has adopted Sec. 390.15, which includes accident recordkeeping requirements.
Applicability	Section 390.15 applies to persons employing drivers, drivers, and any self-propelled or towed vehicle used on public highways in interstate and intrastate commerce when the vehicle has a gross vehicle weight, a gross vehicle weight rating, a gross combination weight, or a gross combination weight rating of 10,001 or more pounds, or the vehicle is used in the transportation of hazardous materials in a quantity requiring placarding under the Illinois Hazardous Materials Transportation Act.
Notification	The driver of a vehicle which is in any manner involved in an accident within the state, resulting in injury to or death of any person or in which damage to the property of any one person, including himself, is in excess of \$1,500 if all drivers are insured and \$500 if any driver does not have insurance, must, as soon as possible but not later than ten days after such accident, forward a written report of such accident to the local police department, sheriff's office, or Illinois State Police.

HOW TO OBTAIN ACCIDENT REPORTS

Procedure	<p>A copy of an official accident report may be obtained by sending a request in writing, accompanied by check or money order to the Illinois State Police. The request must include as much of the following information as possible: agency crash report number, IDOT number, date of the crash, driver's name and/or passenger's name. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.</p> <p>The written request should be mailed to the Illinois State Police, Patrol Records Section, 801 S. 7th St, Suite 700-A, Springfield, IL 62703.</p>
Fee	\$5.00 for each report; \$20.00 for each reconstruction report.

PARTS AND ACCESSORIES

Federal Regulations	Illinois has adopted Part 393 of the Federal Regulations with the exceptions of Sec. 393.93 for intrastate vehicles manufactured before June 30, 1972, and Sec. 393.86 for intrastate vehicles registered as farm trucks under Sec. 3-815(c) of the Illinois Vehicle Code.
Applicability	Part 393 applies to persons employing drivers, drivers, and any self-propelled or towed vehicle used on public highways in interstate and intrastate commerce when the vehicle has a gross vehicle weight, a gross vehicle weight rating, a gross combination weight, or a gross combination weight rating of 10,001 or more pounds, or the vehicle is used in the transportation of hazardous materials in a quantity requiring placarding under the Illinois Hazardous Materials Transportation Act.
Back-up Alarm	An audible alarm is required on each vehicle equipped with a self-compactor for garbage or refuse hauls, or with a roll-off hoist and roll-on container for garbage or refuse hauls. Alarm requirements are covered in Sec. 12-711 of the Illinois Vehicle Code.

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First Aid Kit	No requirements.
Mudflaps	No person may operate a vehicle, except a truck-tractor, unless the vehicle is equipped with rear fender splashguards of either the contour or flap type which are attached to prevent the splashing of mud or water upon the windshields of other motor vehicles.
Studded Tires	No tire may have any block, stud, flange, cleat, ridge, lug, or any projection of metal or wood which projects beyond the tread or traffic surface of the tire.
Tire Chains	Tire chains of reasonable size may be used on any vehicle when required for safety because of snow, ice, or other conditions tending to cause a vehicle to skid.

INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE

Federal Regulations Illinois has adopted Part 396 of the Federal Regulations.

Applicability Part 396 applies to persons employing drivers, drivers, and any self-propelled or towed vehicle used on public highways in interstate and intrastate commerce when the vehicle has a gross vehicle weight, a gross vehicle weight rating, a gross combination weight, or a gross combination weight rating of 10,001 or more pounds, or the vehicle is used in the transportation of hazardous materials in a quantity requiring placarding under the Illinois Hazardous Materials Transportation Act.

Exception — Part 396 does not apply to drivers of covered farm vehicles as defined in 92 Ill. Adm. Code 390.1020.

Mandatory Inspection Program The Illinois Vehicle Inspection Law is administered and regulated by the Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Traffic Safety, Commercial Vehicle Safety Section. Inspections are conducted at Illinois Official Testing Stations which are privately owned businesses that serve as agents of the State of Illinois.

Intrastate vehicles subject to the law include:

- vehicles registered for a gross weight of more than 8,000 pounds;
- vehicles which pull a trailer with a gross weight or registered gross weight of more than 8,000 pounds;
- trailers with a gross weight of more than 5,000 pounds;
- motor buses (includes religious organization buses, buses registered as charitable vehicles, senior citizen transport buses, and school buses);
- medical transport vehicles (includes ambulances, rescue vehicles, and medical carriers);
- tow trucks;
- contract carriers transporting employees in the course of their employment in a vehicle designed to carry 15 or fewer passengers; and
- first division vehicles which are used for a purpose that requires a school bus driver permit.

Vehicles subject to the law must be inspected every six months.

Truck-tractors in combination with a semitrailer must be inspected at least once every 12 months.

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School buses and first division vehicles that are used for a purpose that requires a school bus driver permit, must be inspected every six months or 10,000 miles whichever occurs first.

For trucks, truck tractors, trailers, semi-trailers, and buses (except school buses, religious organization buses, buses registered as charitable vehicles, buses designed to transport 11-15 persons and senior citizen transport buses), the inspection shall be conducted in accordance with Appendix G to Part 396 procedures. Required safety equipment (*e.g.*, emergency warning devices and fire extinguisher) is not subject to inspection during an Appendix G inspection.

For all other vehicles, the safety inspection includes the testing of brakes, lights, horn, reflectors, rear vision mirrors, exhaust system, safety chains, window glass, frame, axles, wheels, tires, steering, and suspension.

Vehicles properly licensed in another state and displaying a valid license plate are exempt from the Illinois Vehicle Inspection Law except vehicles of contract carriers transporting employees in the course of their employment on a highway of this state in a vehicle designed to carry 15 or fewer passengers are only exempted to the extent that the safety testing requirements applicable to such vehicles in the state of registration are no less stringent than the safety testing requirements applicable to contract carriers that are lawfully registered in Illinois.

Interstate carriers of property are exempt from the Illinois Vehicle Inspection Law, provided they display the appropriate U.S. DOT number and meet the annual inspection required in Part 396. Illinois Official Testing Stations are authorized to conduct the Federal annual inspection required by Part 396. Illinois Official Testing Stations are not authorized to conduct the annual inspection of interstate motorcoach buses.

VEHICLE MARKING/IDENTIFICATION

Federal Regulations

Illinois has not adopted Sec. 390.21 of the Federal Regulations for intrastate operations.

Intrastate for-hire carriers operating in Illinois are required to have a sign painted on or affixed to both sides of the vehicle, showing the trade name as it appears on the carrier's Illinois Commerce Commission license or the carrier's recognized logo, the license and registration number of the carrier. The license number of the carrier must be preceded by "ILL.C.C" and followed by the carrier-type designation ("C," "P," "CP," "PR," or "CPR" as appropriate) as it appears on the carrier's license. The letters on the sign must be a minimum of 2 inches high and ½ inch wide and be contrasting in color so it is distinguishable during daylight at a distance of 50 feet while the vehicle is not in motion.

Construction equipment (self-propelled or towed) used by a contractor or subcontractor operating intrastate must display the name of the company for which it is employed on the side of the vehicle or trailer. The name must be in letters at least 2 inches tall and ½ inch wide.

Hazardous material carriers with FMCSA Safety Permit: Intrastate carriers of certain types and quantities of hazardous materials listed in 49 CFR 385.403 requiring an FMCSA Safety Permit are subject to the U.S DOT identification and marking requirements in 49 CFR 390.19 and 390.21.

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Private carriers operating intrastate (except construction equipment and carriers with FMCSA Safety Permit) are not required to display identification on the exterior of their vehicles.

Intrastate and interstate: Interstate household goods carriers with a US DOT number that also operate intrastate in Illinois must have both the US DOT number and the Illinois authority identification number displayed on the vehicle.

LOADS

Federal Regulations

Illinois has adopted Part 393 of the Federal Regulations, including regulations dealing with projecting (Sec. 393.87) and shifting or falling (Sec. 393.100-393.136) loads.

Applicability

Part 393 applies to persons employing drivers, drivers, and any self-propelled or towed vehicle used on public highways in interstate and intrastate commerce when the vehicle has a gross vehicle weight, a gross vehicle weight rating, a gross combination weight, or a gross combination weight rating of 10,001 or more pounds, or the vehicle is used in the transportation of hazardous materials in a quantity requiring placarding under the Illinois Hazardous Materials Transportation Act.

Loose Loads

No person may operate a vehicle loaded with dirt, aggregate, garbage, refuse, or similar material when any portion of the load is falling, sifting, blowing, dropping or in any way escaping from the vehicle. The load and any covering thereon must be securely fastened to prevent the covering or load from becoming loose, detached, or in any manner a hazard to other users of the highway. Covers or tarpaulins are required for certain loads.

Exception — Sand may be dropped for the purpose of securing traction. Water or other substance may be sprinkled on the roadway in cleaning or maintaining the roadway.

Projecting Loads

Rear overhangs extending a distance of four feet or more must be marked with a 12-inch square red cloth or flag at the extreme end of the load during daylight operations; one red light or lantern visible to the sides and rear for a distance of 500 feet is required for night movement.

SIZE/WEIGHT LIMITS

	On Interstate and Designated Federal-aid Highways Class I & II	On Other State and Supplemental Highways Class III & Non-Designated
Width:	8 ft 6 in	8 ft 6 in
Height:	13 ft 6 in	13 ft 6 in
Length:		
Bus	42 ft	42 ft
Straight Trucks	42 ft	42 ft
Straight Trucks and Trailer	60 ft	60 ft
Tractor-semitrailer combinations	Not specified	65 ft
Tractor-semitrailer-trailer or Tractor-semitrailer-semitrailer combinations	Class I & II highways – Overall not specified; Class II highways – 65 ft center of front axle to center of rear axle	60 ft
Semitrailer	53 ft*	53 ft*
Tractor-towed item	60 ft	60 ft
Pickup-5th wheel combination	60 ft	60 ft

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	On Interstate and Designated Federal-aid Highways Class I & II	On Other State and Supplemental Highways Class III & Non-Designated
Trailers of twin-trailer combinations	28 ft 6 in	Not specified
Auto or boat transporter combination	65 ft (plus 3-ft front, 4-ft rear overhang)	60 ft
Auto or boat stinger-steered	80 ft (plus 4-ft front, 6-ft rear overhang for auto only)	60 ft
Saddlemounts	97 ft (3 vehicles)	60 ft
Towaway trailer transporter	82 ft overall	60 ft
Drawbar length	15 ft	15 ft
Overhang	3 ft	N/S
Special limitations or restrictions	*Semitrailers greater than 48 ft, 45 ft 6 in. maximum kingpin to center of rear axle.	*Semitrailers greater than 48 ft, 42 ft 6 in. maximum kingpin to center of rear axle.
	Class I, II, & III	Non-Designated (Other State Highways and Local Roads)
Weight: *		
Single axle	20,000 lb	20,000 lb
2-Axle Tandem	34,000 lb	34,000 lb
3-Axle Tandem (with at least 9 ft of spacing)	42,500 lb	42,500 lb
Steering axle	20,000 lb	20,000 lb
Load per inch width of tire	800 lb/in	800 lb/in
-or-		
Gross wheel weight	N/S	N/S
Gross vehicle weight	80,000 lb	80,000 lb
Tolerances	N/S	N/S

*Vehicles with a fully functional auxiliary power unit (APU, or idle reduction unit) are allowed an additional 550 lb or the certified unit's weight, whichever is less. The additional weight is allowed in gross, axles, or bridge formula weights, except when overweight on an axle or axles of the towed unit(s) in combination. Operators must carry written certification of the APU's weight and must be able to demonstrate that the APU is fully functional at all times.

A vehicle or combination of vehicles that uses natural gas or propane gas as a motor fuel may exceed the above weight limitations by up to 2,000 pounds. The total allowance is calculated by an amount that is equal to the difference between the weight of the vehicle attributable to the natural gas or propane gas tank and fueling system carried by the vehicle, and the weight of a comparable diesel tank and fueling system.

Weight limits apply on all roads within Illinois unless posted otherwise.

Special Hauling Vehicle (SHV) registration allows certain vehicles to be exempted from the federal bridge formula while operating on Illinois highways. The following are exceptions to the bridge formula:

- A 3-axle discharge truck mixer registered as an SHV, used exclusively for the mixing and transportation of concrete in the plastic state, may when laden transmit upon the road surface, except when on part of the Interstates and designate highways, the following maximum weights: 22,000 pounds on a single axle; 40,000 pounds on a tandem axle; 54,000 pounds gross weight on a 3-axle vehicle.
- Except as provided in the item above, tandem axles on a 3-axle truck registered as an SHV, manufactured prior to or in the 2024 model year and first registered in Illinois prior to January 1, 2025, with a distance greater than 72 inches but not more than 96 inches between any two axles, is allowed a combined weight on the axles not to exceed 36,000 pounds and neither axle in the group can exceed 20,000 pounds (any of this vehicle type manufactured after December 31, 2024, may not exceed a combined weight of 34,000 pounds through the two axles and neither axle in the group may exceed 20,000 pounds). A three-axle combination sewer cleaning jetting vacuum truck registered as an SHV, used exclusively for the transportation of non-hazardous solid waste, manufactured before or in the 2014 model year, first registered in Illinois before January 1, 2015, may when laden transmit upon the road surface, except when on part of the Interstates and designated highways, the following weights: 22,000 pounds on a single axle; 40,000 pounds on a tandem axle; 54,000 pounds gross weight on a 3-axle vehicle.

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- A 4-axle truck mixer registered as an SHV, used exclusively for the mixing and transportation of concrete in the plastic state, manufactured before or in the 2024 model year, first registered in Illinois before January 1, 2025, and not operated on Interstates and designated highways, is allowed the following maximum weights: 20,000 pounds single axle; 36,000 pounds on a series of axles greater than 72 inches but not more than 96 inches; and 34,000 pounds on any series of two axles greater than 40 inches but not more than 72 inches. The gross weights of the vehicle may not exceed the weights allowed by the bridge formula for four axles. The bridge formula does not apply to any series of three axles while the vehicle is transporting concrete in the plastic state, but no axle or tandem axle of the series may exceed the maximum weight permitted in this paragraph.
- Combinations of vehicles, registered as SHVs, that include a semitrailer manufactured prior to or in the 2024 model year and registered in Illinois prior to January 1, 2025, having five axles with a distance of 42 feet or less between extreme axles, may not exceed the following weights: 20,000 pounds on a single axle; 34,000 pounds on a tandem axle; and 72,000 pounds gross weight.

The SHV registration is \$125 and can be obtained at the Commercial and Farm Truck Division office in Springfield, IL, and at Level 3 Secretary of State facilities. The office will issue a decal to be placed in the corner of the windshield on the passenger-side of the vehicle.

Call the Illinois State Police at (217) 782-6267 or the Commercial and Farm Truck Division at (217) 782-4815 for more information.

DRIVING RECORDS

Checking Driving Records

Information Required— Driver's license number, driver's full legal name as shown on the driver's license, sex, and date of birth. The company's name and address.

Format — "Driving Record Abstract Request Form" must be used. The form may be accessed via the Secretary of State's website: http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/drivers/drivers_license/purchaseabstract.html.

Fee — \$12.00 per request. Fee must accompany request and be payable to the Secretary of State.

Reading Driving Records

Driving record reports supplied by the state of Illinois indicate violations by code numbers and abbreviations. Written descriptions are also provided.

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AGENCIES

Safety Regulations, Vehicle Inspection

Illinois State Police
Commercial Vehicle Section
(217) 782-6267
www.isp.state.il.us/

Department of Transportation
Division of Traffic Safety
(217) 785-1181
www.idot.illinois.gov/

Driver Licensing

Secretary of State's Office
Driver Services Department
Commercial Drivers Section
(217) 785-1181
www.cyberdriveillinois.com

Driving Records

Secretary of State
Driver Services Department
Abstract Information Unit
(217) 782-2720
www.cyberdriveillinois.com

Accident Reporting

Department of Transportation
Accident Report Office
(217) 782-2575

Accident Reports

Illinois State Police
Traffic Crash Report Unit
(217) 785-0614
www2.illinois.gov/residents/health-safety/ISP/traffic-crash-report

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