

General Information

Driver Qualification Requirements

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration regulations, and the matching state regulations, establish the minimum qualifications a passenger-carrying driver must meet. These include:

- Be at least 21 years old.
- Be able to read and speak English.
- Complete a road test.
- Be able to safely operate the vehicle by virtue of training and/or experience.
- Be physically qualified.
- Possess a valid driver's license of the correct class and endorsement for the vehicle being operated.
- Do not be "disqualified."

What would disqualify a driver? In general, a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) driver (including a passenger-carrying driver) will be disqualified for:

- Loss of commercial driving privileges.
- Conviction for a disqualifying criminal offense involving a CMV.
- Operating a CMV while under the influence of alcohol ("under the influence" for a commercial driver in a commercial vehicle is a BAC of 0.04).

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- Refusing an alcohol test.
- Operating a CMV while under the influence of a controlled substance.
- Transporting a controlled substance.
- Leaving the scene of an accident.
- A felony involving the use of a CMV.
- Jumping an out-of-service order.
- A second conviction within three years for texting while driving.
- A second conviction within three years for using a hand-held cell phone while driving.

If the driver has a CDL, there are additional disqualifications. These include:

- Operating any vehicle when over the allowable BAC for that type of vehicle or under the influence of a controlled substance.
- Causing a fatality through the negligent operation of a CMV.
- Using a vehicle in the commission of a drug-related crime.
- Not slowing and checking a railroad crossing for approaching trains when operating a CMV.
- Stopping too close to the tracks when a train is approaching when operating a CMV.
- Failing to stop at a railroad crossing, when required to stop, when operating a CMV.

