

GLOSSARY OF TRUCKING TERMS

ABS (Anti-lock Braking System)

Computer, sensors and solenoid valves which together monitor wheel speed and modulate braking force if wheel lockup is sensed during braking. Helps the driver retain control of the vehicle during heavy braking on slippery roads.

Air Ride Suspension

Suspension which supports the load on air-filled rubber bags rather than steel springs. Compressed air is supplied by the same engine-driven air compressor and reservoir tanks which provide air to the air brake system.

Bill of Lading

Itemized list of goods contained in a shipment.

Blind Spot

Areas around a vehicle that are not visible to the driver either through the windshield, side windows or mirrors.

Bobtail

Tractor operating without a trailer. Also refers to straight truck.

Cargo Weight

Combined weight of all loads, gear and supplies on a vehicle.

Cartage Company

Company that provides local (within a town, city or municipality) pick-up and delivery.

CDL (Commercial Driver's License)

License which authorizes an individual to operate commercial motor vehicles and buses over 26,000 pounds gross vehicle weight.

CMV (Commercial Motor Vehicle)

CDL Required:

Vehicle used in commerce to transport passengers or property. A single vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 26,001 pounds or more. A combination of vehicles with a gross combination weight rating (GCWR) of 26,001 pounds or more if the vehicle(s) being towed has a GVWR of more than 10,000 pounds.

CMV (Commercial Motor Vehicle)

Non-CDL required

Vehicle used in commerce to transport passengers or property. A single vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) or gross combination weight rating (GCWR) of 10,000 pounds or more.

Container

Standard-sized rectangular box used to transport freight by ship, rail and highway.

Converter Dolly

Auxiliary axle assembly equipped with a fifth wheel (coupling device), towed by a semitrailer and supporting the front of, and towing, another semitrailer.

Compliance, Safety and Accountability (CSA)

FMCSA safety compliance and enforcement program.

Doubles (Twins, Twin Trailers)

Combination of a tractor and two semitrailers connected in tandem by a converter dolly.

DVIR (Driver Vehicle Inspection Report)

The form required for post-trip inspection of the driver's vehicle if defects are found, can also be used for the pre-trip inspection.

ELD (Electronic Logging Device)

The most recent term to define an electronic device that automatically records a driver's hours and duty status

EOBR (Electronic On-board Recorder)

Cab-mounted device which electronically records data such as truck speed, engine RPM, idle time and other information useful to trucking management.

FMCSA (Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration)

An agency in the United States Department of Transportation that regulates the U.S. trucking industry. The primary mission of the FMCSA is to reduce crashes, injuries and fatalities involving large trucks and buses.

For-Hire Carrier

Company in the business of transporting freight belonging to others.

Hazmat

Hazardous materials, as classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Transport of hazardous materials is strictly regulated by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Hours-of-Service

U.S. Department of Transportation safety regulations which govern the hours of service of commercial vehicle drivers engaged in interstate trucking operations.

Intermodal Transportation

The transportation movement involving more than one mode (e.g., rail/motor, motor/air, rail/water).

JIT (Just-In-Time)

Manufacturing and distribution system which depends on frequent, small deliveries of parts and supplies to keep on-site inventory to a minimum.

Landing Gear

Retractable legs which support the front of a semitrailer when it's not coupled to a tractor.

LCV (Long Combination Vehicle)

In general, vehicles longer than a standard doubles rig of two 28' trailers. Examples of LCVs which are permitted in some U.S. western states and eastern toll roads: Twin 48-foot trailers; triple 28-foot trailers.

Logbook

Book carried by truck drivers in which they record their hours of service and duty status for each 24-hour period. Once required for interstate commercial trucking by the U.S. Department of Transportation, paper logbooks will be mostly obsolete with the new electronic logging devices rules that only allows drivers who travel short distances or fewer than 8 days each month to continue recording hours in paper logbooks.

Line-haul Driver

Truck driver who travels a set route from city to city and typically returns home after each shift. May also be known as a regional driver.

Local Driver

Truck driver who picks up and delivers packages along a city route. Drivers typically run the same route every day, returning home after each shift. Also known as a city or P&D driver.

LTL (Less-Than-Truckload)

A quantity of freight less than that required for the application of truckload (TL) rate; usually less than 10,000 pounds.

LTL Carrier

Trucking company which consolidates less-than-truckload cargo for multiple destinations on one vehicle.

Owner-Operator

Truck driver who owns and operates his own truck.

Over-the-Road Driver

Truck driver who travels cross-country to deliver freight and usually sleeps within a berth in the truck cab. Typically averages over 100,000 miles per year.

P&D

Pickup and delivery. May also be referred to as city operations.

Payload

Weight of the cargo being hauled.

Peddle Run

Truck route with frequent delivery stops.

Private Carrier

Business which operates trucks primarily for the purpose of transporting its own products and raw materials. The principle business activity of a private carrier is not transportation.

Reefer

Refrigerated trailer with insulated walls and a self-powered refrigeration unit, most commonly used for transporting food.

Safety Measurement System (SMS)

Methodology developed to support the Compliance, Safety, Accountability (CSA) program for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).

Semitrailer

Truck trailer supported at the rear by its own wheels and at the front by a fifth wheel mounted to a tractor or a converter dolly.

Sleeper

Sleeping compartment mounted behind a truck cab, sometimes attached to the cab or even designed to be an integral part of it.

Sliding Fifth Wheel

Fifth wheel mounted to a mechanism that allows it to be moved back and forth for the purpose of adjusting the distribution of weight on the tractor's axles.

Straight Truck

Vehicle which carries cargo in a body mounted to its chassis, rather than on a trailer towed by a vehicle.

TL (Truckload)

The quantity of freight required to fill a trailer; usually more than 10,000 pounds.

TL Carrier

Trucking company which dedicates trailers to a single shipper's cargo, as opposed to an LTL (Less Than Truckload) carrier which transports the consolidated cargo of several shippers and makes multiple deliveries.

Tractor

Truck designed primarily to pull a semitrailer by means of a fifth wheel mounted over the rear axle.

Tractor Trailer

Tractor and semitrailer combination.

Tri-Axle

Truck, tractor or trailer with three axles grouped together at the rear.

Trip Leasing

Leasing a company's vehicle to another transportation provider for a single trip.

Weight Distance Tax

A tax that bases the fee per mile on the registered gross weight of the vehicle. The total tax liability is calculated by multiplying this rate times the miles traveled.