Visor Cards for Law Enforcement

As part of this FMCSA sponsored training program, a series of five laminated "visor cards" were created for law enforcement officers. The cards give guidance on FMCSA's selection criteria for completing the commercial vehicle section of a state's crash report, how to identify the correct motor carrier, vehicle configuration and cargo body type, hazardous materials and commercial driver license coding. Hundreds of thousands of these cards have been distributed throughout the country to law enforcement, and the cards are included as handouts for the training class.

If your state would like a supply of any or all of the laminated cards free of charge, please contact Betsy Benkowski of FMCSA at betsy.benkowski@dot.gov

The graphics in this document may be used by your state for the purpose of instruction manual development or to distribute to your law enforcement agencies as guidance.

Truck and Bus Crashes Reportable to FMCSA

REPORT A TRAFFIC CRASH IF IT INVOLVES...

Any truck that has a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of more than 10,000 pounds or a gross combination weight rating (GCWR) of more than 10,000 pounds used on public highways

OR

Any motor vehicle with seating to transport nine (9) or more people, including the driver's seat

OR

Any motor vehicle displaying a hazardous materials placard (regardless of weight)

...AND RESULTS IN

A fatality: any person(s) killed in or outside of any vehicle (truck, bus, car, etc.) involved in the crash or who dies within 30 days of the crash as a result of an injury sustained in the crash

OR

An injury: any person(s) injured as a result of the crash who immediately receives medical treatment away from the crash scene

OR

A tow-away: any motor vehicle (truck, bus, car, etc.) disabled as a result of the crash and transported away from the scene by a tow truck or other vehicle

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Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

U.S. Department of Transportation
www.fmcsa.dot.gov

Crashes involving commercial motor vehicles and some non-commercial motor vehicles must be reported on a State's crash report and to the FMCSA. A commercial motor vehicle is any motor vehicle that is used on a trafficway for the transportation of goods, property, or people in interstate or intrastate commerce.

INCLUDED:

Here are some examples of commercial and non-commercial operations that, when involved in a crash, should be included if they meet the criteria on the front of this card.

Examples:

1. A trucking company or individual owner/operator hauling the goods of a business for a fee.
2. A manufacturing company hauling its own products to retail stores, or a retail store delivering products to its buyers.
3. A farm hauling its produce to market.
4. A motorcoach, airport shuttle, or hotel-owned shuttle bus or limousine service transporting passengers.
5. A government-owned truck or bus.
6. A school bus transporting students to/from school or school-related activities.
7. A rented or leased truck used to transport either commercial or personal goods.
8. A truck or truck tractor owned and operated for commerce being used for a personal trip or to transport personal goods.

EXCLUDED:

Here are some examples of non-commercial operations that, when involved in a crash, should not be included.

Examples:

1. A non-commercial horse owner transporting hay bales from his pasture on one side of the road to his stables on the other side of the road in a truck with a GVWR greater than 10,000 pounds.
2. A homeowner carrying recyclables to a drop-off point in a personally owned pickup truck with a GVWR greater than 10,000 pounds.
3. A family of 10 persons taking a trip in the family's 12-person van.
4. A personally owned pickup truck hauling a boat, horse or utility trailer with a GCWR greater than 10,000 pounds not operating in commerce or as part of a business.
5. A family operating a personally owned and registered recreational vehicle or motor home.

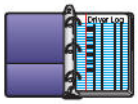
How to Find the Responsible Carrier and Correct U.S. DOT Number

SIDE OF THE VEHICLE
In most cases, this is good for name and number. Look for a number preceded by the letters: USDOT.

DON'T STOP
...keep on looking...
The information on the side of the truck may not be the U.S. DOT number, name, or address of the responsible motor carrier.

DRIVER INTERVIEW
1. Is the vehicle leased or rented?
2. Who is the motor carrier responsible for this load?
3. Who is directing and controlling the movement of this vehicle?
4. Where is the motor carrier's principal place of business?

LEASE AGREEMENT identifies the name of the lessee and their U.S. DOT number.



DRIVER'S LOG contains the name of the motor carrier and the city and State for the carrier's principal place of business.

SHIPPING PAPERS provide the name of the motor carrier responsible for the load, but not the carrier's U.S. DOT number.

NOTE: VEHICLE REGISTRATION
Generally good for identifying owner or registrant.
CAREFUL: This may not be the responsible carrier!

FMCSA WEB SITE: **http://safer.fmcsa.dot.gov/CompanySnapshot.aspx** is an excellent source for verifying a motor carrier's U.S. DOT number, legal name, "doing business as" name, physical address, and phone number.

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How to Find the Responsible Carrier and Correct U.S. DOT Number

EXAMPLE 1: John Smith owns his own truck tractor, operating under John Smith Trucking. He contracts with White Manufacturing to take one of its trailers loaded with its goods from New York to Los Angeles.

Who is the Motor Carrier:
A. John Smith?
B. White Manufacturing?

John Smith is the motor carrier, because he is the entity that has agreed to carry this particular load.

EXAMPLE 2: John Smith, driving his truck tractor, utilizes a cargo broker, K&S Trucking, to obtain goods from Intermodal Inc. shipping company for his return trip back to New York.

Who is the Motor Carrier:
A. John Smith?
B. K&S Trucking?
C. Intermodal Inc.?

John Smith is the motor carrier, because K&S transferred the responsibility of the load to John Smith.

EXAMPLE 3: John Smith, driving his truck tractor, leases his services to Polyester Chemical Company. Polyester directs Smith to deliver a semi-trailer from New York to St. Louis.

Who is the Motor Carrier:
A. John Smith?
B. Polyester?

The lease agreement between Polyester and Mr. Smith makes Polyester the motor carrier responsible for the load.

EXAMPLE 4: John Smith is driving a tractor/semi-trailer owned and operated by ABC Trucking.

Who is the Motor Carrier:
A. John Smith?
B. ABC Trucking?

ABC Trucking is the motor carrier. John Smith is just a driver for ABC Trucking.

EXAMPLE 5: John Smith is driving a tractor owned by ABC Trucking, which has been leased to XYZ Trucking. XYZ uses the tractor to pull XYZ trailers in its regular shipping service.

Who is the Motor Carrier:
A. John Smith?
B. ABC Trucking?
C. XYZ Trucking?

In this case XYZ is the motor carrier, because XYZ is directing the carrying of the load.

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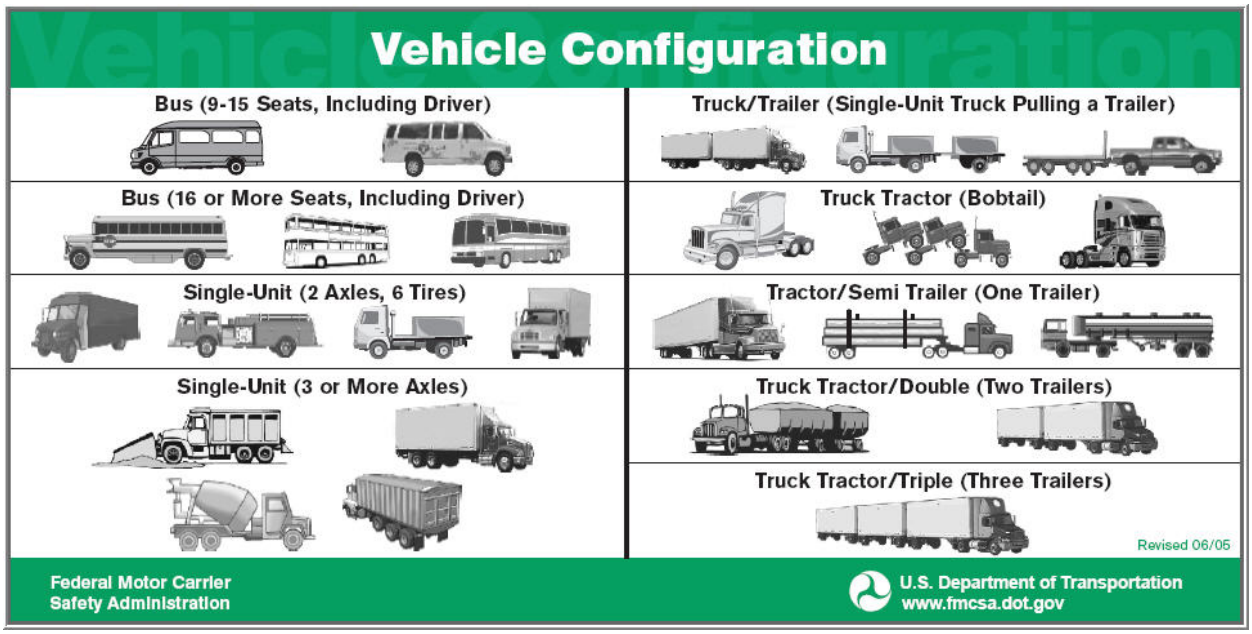
Vehicle Configuration
Bus (9-15 Seats, Including Driver)
Bus (16 or More Seats, Including Driver)
Single-Unit (2 Axles, 6 Tires)
Single-Unit (3 or More Axles)
Truck/Trailer (Single-Unit Truck Pulling a Trailer)
Truck Tractor (Bobtail)
Tractor/Semi Trailer (One Trailer)
Truck Tractor/Double (Two Trailers)
Truck Tractor/Triple (Three Trailers)
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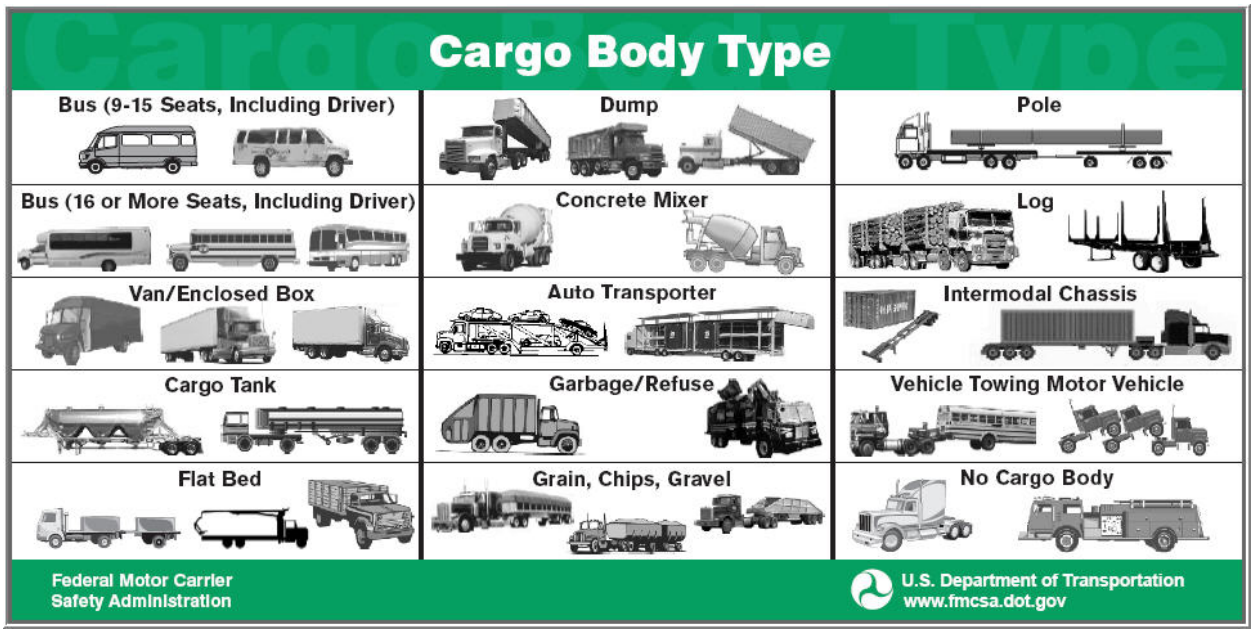
Cargo Body Type
Bus (9-15 Seats, Including Driver)
Bus (16 or More Seats, Including Driver)
Van/Enclosed Box
Cargo Tank
Flat Bed
Dump
Concrete Mixer
Auto Transporter
Garbage/Refuse
Grain, Chips, Gravel
Pole
Log
Intermodal Chassis
Vehicle Towing Motor Vehicle
No Cargo Body
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Nine Classes of Hazardous Materials

Class 1: Explosives
Divisions: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6

Class 2: Gases
Divisions: 2.1, 2.2, 2.3

Class 3: Flammable Liquid and Combustible Liquid

Class 4: Flammable Solid, Spontaneously Combustible, and Dangerous When Wet
Divisions 4.1, 4.2, 4.3

Class 5: Oxidizer and Organic Peroxide
Divisions 5.1, 5.2

Class 6: Poison (Toxic) and Poison Inhalation Hazard

Class 7: Radioactive

Class 8: Corrosive

Class 9: Miscellaneous

Dangerous

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Reporting Hazardous Materials Information

ACCURATE REPORTING SAVES LIVES

Data you collect is used to calculate risk assessment, determine response methods, and develop regulations. Vehicles carrying hazardous materials are required to carry shipping papers containing the HM Class and ID number (or name). Your Accident or Collision Report/Supplement may ask the following hazardous materials questions (exact wording will vary by State):

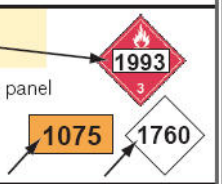
1. DOES THE VEHICLE HAVE A HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PLACARD? YES ● NO ○

Placards should be on all four sides of the vehicle. For containers with bulk packages inside, if the required ID# marking is not visible, the transport vehicle must be marked on each side and each end.

Some Common Placards

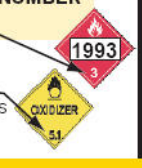
2. ENTER THE FOUR-DIGIT NUMBER (OR NAME) FROM THE PLACARD 1 9 9 3

The four-digit number may be on an orange panel or a white "square-on-point" panel.
If no four-digit number appears on the placard, enter the Placard Name.



3. ENTER THE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS CLASS NUMBER FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE PLACARD 3

The Class Number can be a one- or two-digit number with a decimal in the middle. 5.1
It is critical for identifying and studying various types of hazardous materials involved in traffic crashes.



4. WAS HAZARDOUS CARGO RELEASED?
YES ● NO ○

The intent of this question is to determine whether any of the **placarded material** was released or escaped from its transport container into the environment. Fuel or oil carried by the vehicle for its own use is NOT considered cargo and should not be reported in this section.

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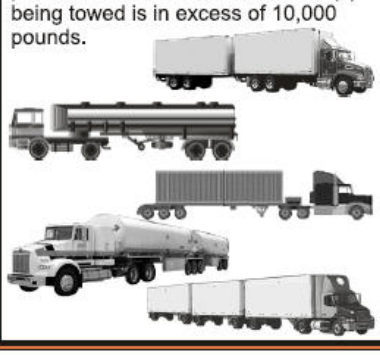
Commercial Driver's License(CDL)

Commercial Motor Vehicle Groups

Group A (Combination Vehicle)
Any combination of vehicles with a gross combination weight rating (GCWR) of 26,001 pounds or more provided the GVWR of the vehicle(s) being towed is in excess of 10,000 pounds.



Group B (Heavy Straight Vehicle)
Any single vehicle with a GVWR of 26,001 pounds or more, or any such vehicle towing a vehicle not in excess of 10,000 pounds GVWR.

Group C (Small Vehicle)
Any single vehicle or combination of vehicles, that meets neither the definition of Group A nor Group B, but is designed to transport 16 or more passengers including the driver, or is used in the transportation of materials found to be hazardous which require the motor vehicle to be placarded. This includes any quantity of chemical or biological material or agent posing a threat to national security, including toxins.

Commercial Driver's License(CDL)

CDL Endorsements

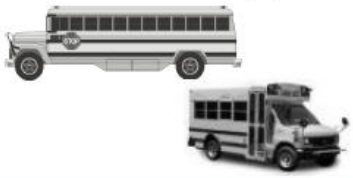
Double/Triple Trailers (T)

Passenger Vehicles (P)

Tank Vehicles (N)

Hazardous Materials (H)
(any size vehicle)

School Buses (S)



Tank & Hazardous Materials (X)