Chapter Trans 327

MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY

Trans 327.03 Federal regulations adopted. The following federal motor carrier safety regulations adopted by the United States department of transportation are adopted by the department and shall be enforced in relation to those carriers, drivers or vehicles which operate in intrastate commerce in the same manner as though the regulations were set out in full in this chapter:

(1) Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, part 390, federal motor carrier safety regulations — general, except 390.23(a)(3);

(2) (a) Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, part 391, qualifications of drivers, except:

1. 391.11(b)(1), and 391.41(b)(3) if, in the alternative a driver with diabetes controlled by insulin obtains statements from 2 licensed physicians indicating, on a form provided by the department of transportation, that the diabetes is not likely to cause loss of ability to control or operate a motor vehicle.

2. 391.41(b)(10), if a driver who does not meet the vision standards provides documentation from a licensed vision specialist that he or she does not have progressive eye disease; that his or her vision in the best eye, corrected or uncorrected, is at least 20/40 (Snellen); and that he or she has a minimum of 70–degree visual field from the center of at least one eye. The documentation shall be accomplished by a statement from the specialist indicating that the driver’s vision is not likely to cause a loss of ability to control or operate a commercial motor vehicle. A driver may apply for an exception or waiver to drive in intrastate commerce by submitting this information with his or her application.

(b) A driver is not eligible for an exception or waiver under par. (a) if he or she has had any moving violations or any reportable at–fault accidents while driving any motor vehicle within the 3–year period prior to the date of the application. After a driver receives an exception or waiver, his or her noncompliance with any applicable reporting requirements may result in cancellation of the exception or waiver.

Note: Refer to ch. Trans 332 for criteria requiring cancellation/voluntary temporary surrender of the CDR, for medical purposes.

(3) Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, part 392, driving of motor vehicles, except 392.16.

(4) Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, part 393, parts and accessories necessary for safe operation, except 393.42 shall not apply to vehicles placed in operation in common, contract or private carriage prior to June 1, 1987;

(5) Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, part 396, inspection, repair and maintenance;

(6) Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, part 397, transportation of hazardous materials; driving and parking rules.

(7) Every traffic officer and state patrol inspector employed under the authority of s. 110.07, Stats., is authorized to declare vehicles and drivers out–of–service in accordance with the North American standard out–of–service criteria.

History: Cr. Register, May, 1987, No. 377, eff. 6–1–87; emerg. r. and recr. (intro.), rem. (1) and (2) to be (2) (b) and (d), cr. (1), (2) (intro.), (a), (c), (d), eff. 4–1–95; r. and recr. (intro.), rem. (1) and (2) to be (2) (b) and (d) and am. (2) (d) (intro.) and 3., cr. (2) (a), (c) and (d) 9., Register, August, 1995, No. 476, eff. 9–1–95; correction in (2) (d), 3. made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7., Stats., Register, October, 2000, No. 536; CR 02–080: rem. (2) (c), (d) and (4) to be (2) (d), (f) and (h) and am. (2) (f) 3., cr. (2) (c), (e) and (g) Register April 2003 No. 568, eff. 5–1–03; CR 06–043: r. (2) (b), (c), (e) to (b), remn. (2) (d) to be (2) (b) Register October 2006 No. 610, eff. 11–1–06.

Trans 327.07 Enforcement.

Trans 327.09 Exemptions.

Trans 327.11 Demerit points not applicable.

Trans 327.13 Copies of federal regulations.

Trans 327.14 Medical certification requirements as part of the commercial driver license.

Trans 327.01 Definitions. Words and phrases defined in s. 340.01, Stats., and 49 CFR part 390.5 have the same meaning in this chapter. However, the definition of a word or phrase in s. 340.01, Stats., except s. 340.01 (8), Stats., shall apply when the word or phrase is defined in both s. 340.01, Stats., and 49 CFR part 390.5.

(2) In this chapter:

(a) “Driver’s record of duty status” means a form for all drivers, when required by this chapter, to record all off–duty time, on–duty time and driving time.

(b) “Emergency” means the result of any natural activities including, but not limited to, tornado, windstorm, thunderstorm, snowstorm, ice storm, blizzard, drought, mud slide, flood, high water, earthquake, forest fire, explosion, blackout or other occurrence, natural or manmade, which interrupts the delivery of essential services, such as electricity, medical care, sewer, water, telecommunication transmissions, or essential supplies, such as food and fuels, or otherwise threatens human life or public welfare.

History: Cr. Register, May, 1987, No. 377, eff. 6–1–87; emerg. r. and recr. (intro.), rem. (1) and (2) to be (2) (b) and (d), cr. (1), (2) (intro.), (a), (c), (d), eff. 4–1–95; r. and recr. (intro.), rem. (1) and (2) to be (2) (b) and (d) and am. (2) (d) (intro.) and 3., cr. (2) (a), (c) and (d) 9., Register, August, 1995, No. 476, eff. 9–1–95; correction in (2) (d), 3. made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7., Stats., Register, October, 2000, No. 536; CR 02–080: rem. (2) (c), (d) and (4) to be (2) (d), (f) and (h) and am. (2) (f) 3., cr. (2) (c), (e) and (g) Register April 2003 No. 568, eff. 5–1–03; CR 06–043: r. (2) (b), (c), (e) to (b), remn. (2) (d) to be (2) (b) Register October 2006 No. 610, eff. 11–1–06.

Trans 327.05 Hours of service of drivers.
Trans 327.05 Hours of service of drivers. (1) General. Except as provided in s. Trans 327.09 (4), every intrastate motor carrier, its officers, drivers, agents, employees, and representatives shall comply with the provisions in this section, and every intrastate motor carrier shall require that its officers, drivers, agents, employees, and representatives be conversant with the provisions in this section.

(2) Regulatory Guidance. The hours of service provisions in this chapter shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with the regulatory guidance provisions of 49 CFR part 395 when applicable.

(3) Driver’s Record of Duty Status. (a) Every motor carrier shall require every driver used by the motor carrier to record the driver’s duty status for each 24-hour period. Failure to complete the record of duty activities of this section, failure to preserve a record of such duty activities, or making of false reports in connection with such duty activities shall constitute a violation of this chapter.

(b) Each motor carrier shall maintain records of duty status and all supporting documents for each driver it employs for a period of 6 months from the date of receipt of the duty status and reporting documents.

(c) The driver shall retain a copy of each record of duty status for the previous 7 consecutive days which shall be in the driver’s possession and available for inspection while on duty.

Note: The maintenance and retention of separate driving logs is not necessarily required to meet the ‘records of duty status’ provisions of this subsection. This section does, however, require records showing all off-duty, on-duty, and driving time. A time card, for example, that recorded the daily total of off-duty, the daily total of on-duty, and the daily total of driving time for the employee could be used to meet the reporting requirements of this subsection.

(4) Drivers Declared Out of Service. (a) Every traffic officer and state patrol inspector, as set forth in s. 110.07, Stats., is authorized, except in the case of an emergency, to declare a driver out of service and to notify the motor carrier of that declaration, upon finding at the time and place of examination that the driver has violated par. (b).

(b) 1. No driver shall drive after being on duty in excess of the maximum periods permitted by s. Trans 327.03 (10). 2. No driver required to maintain a record of duty status under sub. (3) shall fail to have a true and accurate record of duty status current on the day of examination and for the prior 7 consecutive days.

History: Cr. Register, May, 1987, No. 377, eff. 6-1-87; emerg. am. (1), (4) to (6), remum. (2) to be (3) and am. (2), (3), (c) (d), eff. 4-1-95; am. (1), (4) to (6), remum. (2) to be (3) and am. (2), (3) (c) (d), Register, August 1995, No. 476, eff. 9-1-95; CR 02-080: remum. (5) and (6) to be (5) (a) and (6) and am. (3) (5) (b), (c) and (6) (b) Register April 2003 No. 568, eff. 5-1-03; CR 06-043: r. (3) and (4), remum. (5) and (6) to be (5) and (4) and am. (4) (b) 1. and 2. Register October 2006 No. 610, eff. 11-1-06.

Trans 327.07 Enforcement. (1) The provisions of s. Trans 327.03 (4) and (5) shall be enforced under the provisions of ss. 110.07 and 110.075, Stats.

(2) The provisions of ss. Trans 327.03 (2), (3), (6) and (10), and 327.05 shall be enforced under the provisions of ss. 194.38 and 194.43, Stats.

History: Cr. Register, May, 1987, No. 377, eff. 6-1-87; emerg. am. (2), eff. 4-1-95; am. (2), Register, August 1995, No. 476, eff. 9-1-95; corrections made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7., Stats., Register May 2003 No. 569, corrections made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7., Stats., Register December 2003 No. 576, CR 06-043: am. (2) Register October 2006 No. 610, eff. 11-1-06.

Trans 327.09 Exemptions. (1) The provisions of s. Trans 327.03 do not apply to a driver or school bus when the school bus is being used for authorized educational or extracurricular or charter activities.

(2) The provisions of s. Trans 327.03 (2) do not apply to the following:

(a) Drivers who operate motor vehicles which have a manufacturers’ gross vehicle weight rating equal to or less than 26,000 pounds, except that this provision does not apply to vehicles transporting hazardous materials requiring placarding or vehicles transporting 16 or more passengers including the driver.

(b) Drivers who have met state medical qualifications and have been issued a valid Wisconsin commercial driver’s license, or CDL, prior to July 29, 1996, which has not been revoked, and who continue to meet state medical requirements as found in ch. Trans 112.

(3) The provisions of s. Trans 327.03 (6) do not apply to drivers and vehicles transporting hazardous materials by a motor vehicle which is not required to be placarded. The provisions of s. Trans 327.05 do not apply to the following:

(a) Drivers of authorized emergency vehicles as defined in s. 340.01 (3), Stats.

(b) Drivers who operate motor vehicles which have a manufacturers’ gross vehicle weight rating equal to or less than 26,000 pounds.

(c) Drivers of tow trucks as defined in s. 340.01 (67n), Stats., operating at the request of a law enforcement officer.

(5) The provisions of s. Trans 327.05 (3) do not apply to drivers of vehicles operating within an area having a 150 air mile radius from the drivers’ home post office or a 150 air mile radius from the official worksite of the vehicle if:

(a) The driver returns to the work reporting location and is released within 12 consecutive hours.

(b) At least 10 consecutive hours off duty separate each 12 hours on duty.

(c) The driver does not exceed 12 hours maximum driving time following 10 consecutive hours off duty.

(d) The motor carrier that employs the driver maintains and retains for a period of 6 months accurate and true time records showing:

1. The time the driver reports for duty each day.
2. The total number of hours the driver is on duty each day.
3. The time the driver is released from duty each day.

(6) The provisions of ss. Trans 327.03 (2) and 327.05 do not apply to drivers of motor vehicles when transporting property or passengers during a declared emergency as defined in s. Trans 327.01 (2) (b). Each employer must declare and document that the emergency is necessary to assure the protection of public health and safety or to provide other essential assistance to the public. Each employer shall maintain such documentation for one year and shall make it available upon request of a traffic officer or state patrol inspector. Each employer shall also notify the Wisconsin department of transportation, division of state patrol of such declarations by fax or first class mail within 30 days or by the end of the calendar year, whichever is greater.

Note: Declarations can be faxed to (608) 267-9600.

(b) Drivers returning to normal duty following the end of a declared emergency and when s. Trans 327.05 hours of service have been exceeded shall be off duty for at least 24 consecutive hours.

(7) The provisions of this chapter do not apply to any farm truck or dual purpose farm truck combined with any semitrailer or farm trailer, or any vehicle combined with a horse trailer, if the vehicle combination’s gross combination weight rating, registered weight, and actual gross weight do not exceed 26,000 pounds, the vehicle combination does not include a commercial motor vehicle described in s. 340.01 (8) (c) or (d), Stats., and the vehicle combination is operated solely in intrastate commerce.

History: Cr. Register, May, 1987, No. 377, eff. 6-1-87; emerg. am. (2) (a) and (3), r. and recr. (2) (b), (d) (2), (d) (4) (b), remum. (4) (c) to be (5), cr. (5) (c) (d), eff. 4-1-95; am. (2) (a) and (3), r. and recr. (2) (b), remum. (4) (c) to be (5) (intro.) and am. (4) (c) (d), (5) (a) to (d) and (6), t. (4) (d), Register, August 1995, No. 476, eff. 9-1-95; remum. (6) to be (6) (a) to (b), Register, October, 2008, No. 538, eff. 11-1-08; CR 02-080: remum. (6) to be (13) and am. (6) to (12) Register April 2003 No. 568, eff. 5-1-03; corrections made in (2) (a) and (3) and (13) (a) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7., Stats., Register May 2003 No. 569, CR 03-059: rem. (4) (b) and (6) Register December 2003 No. 576, eff. 1-4-04; corrections in (2) (a) and (3) and (13) (a) made under s. 13.93 (2m)
Trans 327.11 Demerit points not applicable. No demerit points may be assessed for violations of the regulations adopted in this chapter.

History: Cr. Register, May, 1987, No. 377, eff. 6−1−87.

Trans 327.13 Copies of federal regulations. The department shall advise carriers upon request that copies of the federal regulations cited in s. Trans 327.03 may be obtained by contacting the division of state patrol, Wisconsin department of transportation.

Note: Federal motor regulations may also be obtained through the Internet via: http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/rules-regulations/administration/fmcst/fmcsguide.asp

History: Cr. Register, May, 1987, No. 377, eff. 6−1−87; emerg. am. eff. 4−1−95; am. Register, August, 1993, No. 476, eff. 9−1−95; CR 08−100; am. Register April 2009 No. 640, eff. 5−1−09.

Trans 327.14 Medical certification requirements as part of the commercial driver license. (1) PURPOSE. As authorized by ss. 343.02 (1), 343.06 (3), and 343.065 (3), Stats., this section establishes the processes for a CDL holder to certify the appropriate type of driving in accordance with 49 CFR 383.71 (2012) and to provide any federal medical certificate required by 49 CFR 391.45, and for the department to downgrade the CDL of any person who does not make that certification or who does not provide or maintain in effect a medical certificate as required by 49 CFR 383.73. This section also establishes the process for reinstating a downgraded commercial driver license.

(2) DEFINITIONS. In this section:

(a) “CDL” means a commercial driver license.

(b) “Commercial learner’s permit” means a permit issued to an individual by this state or other jurisdiction that, when carried with a valid driver’s license issued by the same jurisdiction, authorizes the individual to operate a class of a commercial motor vehicle when accompanied by a holder of a valid CDL for purposes of training. When issued to a CDL holder, a commercial learner’s permit serves as authorization for accompanied training in a commercial motor vehicle for which the holder’s current CDL is not valid.

(c) “Downgrade” means to remove a person’s privilege to operate commercial motor vehicles from a person’s CDL by indicating on the person’s driving record that all commercial vehicle classes and endorsements, other than an “H” endorsement, are voluntarily surrendered. “Downgrade” with respect to an “H” endorsement means suspension of the “H” endorsement.

(d) “Driving record” means the record under s. 343.23 (2) (a), Stats.

(e) “‘H’ endorsement” means the hazardous materials endorsement described in s. 343.17 (3) (d) 1m., Stats.

(f) “Medical certificate” means a completed, unexpired medical examiner’s certificate issued in accordance with 49 CFR 391.43 (2012), on a form approved by the department, stating that the person is physically qualified under 49 CFR 391.41 (2012) to drive a commercial motor vehicle, together with any medical variance described in 49 CFR 390.5 and required under 49 CFR 383.73 (a) (2012).

(g) “Tier 1 driver” means a person who certifies as Tier 1 under sub. (3) (b) 1.

(3) SELF−CERTIFICATION OF THE TYPE OF DRIVING TO BE DONE. (a) A person applying for a CDL shall certify to the department the tier of operation in which he or she intends to engage. A person may change his or certification at any time. The department shall deny as incomplete an application for any of the following that is submitted without a certification required under this subsection or a required medical certificate:

1. A commercial learner’s permit.
2. An initial commercial driver’s license.
3. A transfer of a commercial driver’s license from another jurisdiction to this state.
4. Renewal of a commercial driver’s license.
5. A license upgrade authorizing the operation of a vehicle group not authorized on the prior commercial driver license or an endorsement authorizing the operation of a commercial motor vehicle not covered by the current commercial driver’s license.

(b) A person may certify one of the following tiers of operation under this subsection:

1. Tier 1, or non−excepted interstate. Tier 1, or non−excepted interstate, means the person operates or expects to operate in interstate commerce, is both subject to and meets the qualification requirements under 49 CFR part 391 (2012), and is required to obtain a medical examiner’s certificate by 49 CFR 391.45 (2012).
2. Tier 2, or excepted interstate. Tier 2, or excepted interstate, means the person operates or expects to operate in interstate commerce, but engages exclusively in transportation or operations that are excepted by 49 CFR 390.3 (f), 391.2, 391.68, or 398.3 (2012) from all or parts of the qualification requirements of 49 CFR part 391 (2012), and is therefore not required to obtain a medical examiner’s certificate by 49 CFR 391.45 (2012).
3. Tier 3, or non−excepted intrastate. Tier 3, or non−excepted intrastate, means the person operates only in intrastate commerce and therefore is subject only to state driver qualification requirements.
4. Tier 4, or excepted intrastate. Tier 4, or excepted intrastate, means the person operates in intrastate commerce, but engages exclusively in transportation or operations excepted from all or parts of the state driver qualification requirements.

(4) MEDICAL CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS. (a) No person may operate a commercial motor vehicle in non−excepted interstate or foreign commerce unless the person is certified as a Tier 1 driver, has provided a medical certificate to the department, and has verified that the department has recorded the certification and indicated the person’s status as “Certified” on the person’s driving record.

(b) A person who certifies himself or herself as a Tier 3 driver is subject to state driver qualification requirements and shall provide a medical certificate to the department when applying for initial issuance or renewal of a CDL and must possess a medical certificate whenever operating a commercial motor vehicle, but is not required to maintain a medical certificate on file with the department.

(c) A person who certifies himself or herself as Tier 4 driver is subject to state driver qualification requirements but is not required to provide a medical certificate to the department.

(d) A CDL holder who obtained a medical certificate required by 49 CFR 383.71 (h) with a medical variance from the federal motor carrier safety administration must have in his or her possession a copy of that medical variance documentation whenever on−duty.

(5) DEPARTMENT RECORDS OF MEDICAL CERTIFICATE. (a) Within 10 days after receiving a medical certificate from a Tier 1 driver the department shall record the certification on the person’s driving record and shall record the person’s status as “Certified”, together with all required information from the medical certificate. The department shall then file the medical certificate of a Tier 1 driver and retain that medical certificate for at least 3 years after the date of the medical examination.

(b) If the federal motor carrier safety administration notifies the department that a CDL holder has been issued a medical variance, the department shall indicate the existence of the medical variance on the person’s driving record, on the commercial driver license information system and on the CDL using the medical variance restriction code “V”.

(c) Only the medical certificate relating to the most recent medical examination may be considered unexpired. The depart-
partment shall consider any medical certificate relating to an earlier medical examination to be expired.

(6) **Downgrade process.** (a) Notwithstanding ss. Trans 112.16 (1) (c) and 327.09 (2) (b), the department shall downgrade the CDL of any of the following:

1. A Tier 1 driver, upon the expiration of his or her medical certificate.
2. A Tier 1 driver, upon receiving notice that the federal motor carrier safety administration has removed or rescinded a medical certificate or variance relating to the driver.
3. Any person who fails to submit an updated medical certificate or to have a corrected CDL issued within 60 days after notification under sub. (8) (a) 4.

(b) If the department downgrades a CDL, the department shall do all of the following:

1. Record the downgrade on the person’s driving record. The department may record as voluntarily surrendered any commercial vehicle classes or endorsements that are expired or are already suspended, revoked, cancelled, disqualified or withdrawn for another reason.
2. Record the person’s medical certification status as “Not Certified” on the commercial driver license information system, if the person was last certified as a Tier 1 driver.
3. Notify the person as provided in sub. (8).
4. Complete the actions required under this paragraph within 60 days after the expiration of the medical certificate or the deadline for providing a medical certificate. The department shall record the entry required under this subdivision within 10 days after expiration of the medical certificate or receiving notice that a medical certificate or medical variance is removed or rescinded.

(c) 1. A downgrade does not affect the operating privileges of any non-commercial vehicle classifications. A person whose CDL is downgraded under this subsection may retain an operator’s license that indicates commercial driver classes and endorsement without making any physical alterations to that operator’s license.
2. A downgrade under this subsection affecting an “H” endorsement is considered suspension of that endorsement, not a voluntary surrender under s. 343.265 (1r), Stats. The department may not cancel an “H” endorsement under s. 343.265, Stats., as a result of a downgrade under this subsection.

(7) **Reinstatement.** (a) A person whose CDL is downgraded may reinstate his or her CDL at any time prior to the CDL expiration date by making the certification required under sub. (3), or, if required, providing a medical certification, or both, or by changing his or her certification to something other than a Tier 1 driver.
(b) Reinstating a CDL that is downgraded has no effect on any suspension, revocation, cancellation, disqualification or withdrawal for another reason.

(c) The department may not charge a fee to reinstate a CDL that is downgraded, but may charge a fee to reinstate a CDL that is also suspended, revoked, cancelled, disqualified or withdrawn for another reason, or to change restrictions that require the issuance of a duplicate CDL.

(d) Upon reinstatement under this paragraph, the department shall record the reinstatement on the person’s driving record and on the commercial driver license information system and shall make applicable record entries relating to the medical certification.

(e) Reinstating a CDL under this paragraph reinstates any endorsement, including an “H” endorsement, held at the time of voluntary surrender if the person otherwise remains eligible to hold those endorsements.

(8) **Notices to drivers and employers.** (a) The department shall provide written notice to a Tier 1 driver of each of the following, as applicable:

1. The expiration date of his or her medical certificate; that the person may not operate in interstate commerce after the medical certificate expires; and that the person’s CDL will be downgraded if he or she does not maintain a medical certificate on file with the department. Whenever practicable, the department shall provide notice under this subdivision at least 55 days before the expiration of the medical certificate.
2. That the person’s medical certificate is expired, that the person is no longer certified to operate in interstate commerce, and that the person’s CDL may be downgraded. The department shall provide notice under this subdivision upon expiration of the medical certificate.
3. That the department has downgraded the person’s CDL and of how the person may reinstate his or her CDL. The department shall provide notice under this subdivision upon completing the downgrade.
4. That the federal motor carrier safety administration has notified the department that a CDL holder has been issued a medical variance and the most recent medical certificate on file with the department does not contain a medical variance. The notice shall require the driver to submit a current medical certificate reflecting the variance.

(b) The department may use the online method established under sub. (9) to provide written notices required under this subsection. The department shall use the employer notification system under s. 343.27, Stats., to inform an employer of any notice provided under par. (a) 1., 2., or 3., if at the time of that notice the employer is enrolled in the employer notification system and the affected driver is shown in that employer’s list of enrolled drivers.

(9) **Department online services.** The department may maintain on its website a means for any person to make the certification required in sub. (3). The department shall maintain on its website a means for all of the following:

(a) For any person to verify the status of his or her CDL, including any authorized vehicle classes and endorsements.
(b) For any Tier 1 driver to submit an electronic copy of his or her medical certificate.
(c) For any employer enrolled in the employer notification system established under s. 343.247, Stats., to verify its driver’s current certified tier of operation and the expiration date of the medical certificate for its Tier 1 driver employees.
(d) For any Tier 1 driver to verify the department has completed the actions required in sub. (5).
(e) For any driver to confirm a downgraded CDL has been reinstated.

History: EmR1426: emerg. cr. eff 12–4–14; CR 14–031: cr. Register August 2015 No. 716, eff. 9–1–15; correction in (6) (a) made under s. 35.17, Stats., Register August 2015 No. 716.