

DRIVER LICENSE FLOWCHART GUIDES

Page 1 – California Resident Driver License Requirements – **Power Units Only**

Page 2 – California Resident Driver License Requirements – **Towing**

Page 3 – California Resident Driver License Requirements – **Trailer Coach and 5th Wheel Travel Trailer**

Page 4 – California Resident Driver License Requirements – **Motorcycle and Motorized Scooter**

Page 5 – California Resident Driver License Requirements – **Endorsements**

Page 6 – Driver License Requirements – **Implements of Husbandry**

Page 7 – Driver License Requirements – **Farm Labor Vehicle**

Page 8 – Driver License Requirements – **Vanpool Vehicle**

Page 9 – Driver License Requirements – **Special Driver Certificate**

Page 10 – Nonresident Driver License Requirements – **Federal Commercial Driver License Requirements**

Page 11 – Nonresident Driver License Requirements – **Federal Commercial Driver License Endorsements**

FLOWCHART APPLICABILITY

Flowcharts on pages 1-5 are only applicable to California residents.

Flowcharts on pages 6-9 are applicable to all drivers regardless of residency.

Flowcharts on pages 10-11 are applicable to drivers residing outside of California.

ACRONYMS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT

AG (Agricultural)	GPPV (General Public Paratransit Vehicle)
CCR (California Code of Federal Regulations)	GVWR (Gross Vehicle Weight Rating)
CDL (Commercial Driver License)	GW (Gross Weight)
CFR (Code of Federal Regulations)	HAM (Hazardous Agricultural Material)
CMV (Commercial Motor Vehicle)	IOH (Implement of Husbandry)
CVC (California Vehicle Code)	lbs. (Pounds)
DL (Driver License)	MV (Motor Vehicle)
DMV (California Department of Motor Vehicles)	SPAB (School Pupil Activity Bus)
FLV (Farm Labor Vehicle)	VDDP (Vehicle for Developmentally Disabled Persons)
FSP (Freeway Service Patrol)	VTT (Verification of Transit Training)
FV (Farm Vehicle)	

DRIVER LICENSES IDENTIFIED IN THIS DOCUMENT

A CDL is required to drive a CMV, as defined in §15210(b)(1) CVC and §383.5, Title 49, CFR. A CDL for a driver self-certified as non-excepted interstate or intrastate (NI or NA is displayed on the driving record) is not valid to operate a CMV without a medical certification. (Refer to Highway Patrol Manual 82.6, Commercial Enforcement Manual, Chapter 7, Driver Requirements, for information on self-certification requirements.) With the exception of the 5th wheel travel trailer restriction (commonly referred to as an endorsement) and a house car endorsement, the placement of an endorsement on a class C DL makes the license a CDL.

A restricted (noncommercial) class A DL may be issued for the operation of a specific combination of vehicles for a specified purpose that would otherwise require a class A CDL. A medical certification is not required, however, the holder must submit medical information to the DMV.

A noncommercial class B DL may be issued for the operation of a housecar exceeding 40 feet in length. A medical certification is not required, however, the holder must submit medical information to the DMV.

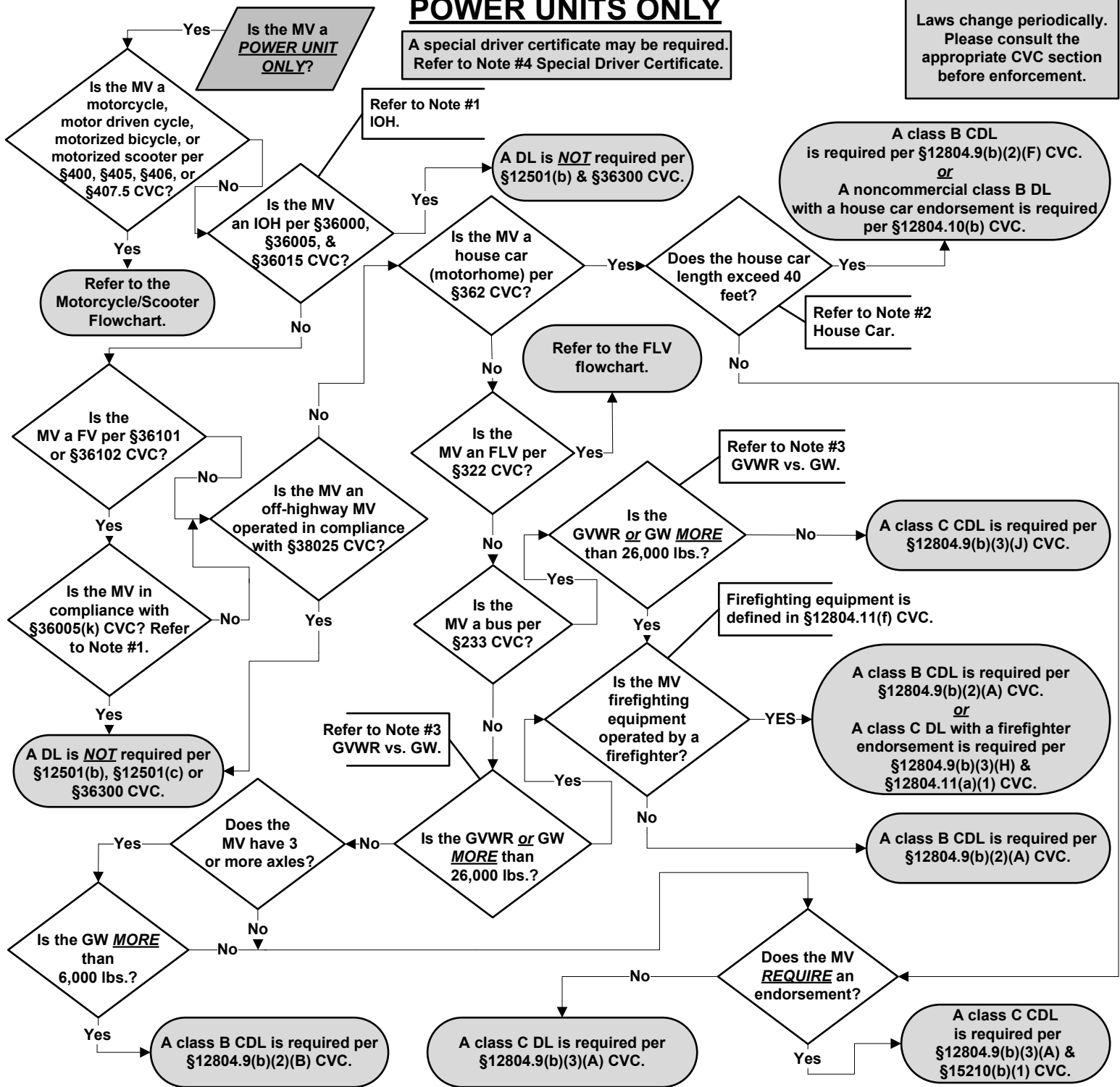
A class C DL is the license issued to operate a motor vehicle.

A class M1 or M2 DL is a license to operate a specified two-wheel MV.

POWER UNITS ONLY

A special driver certificate may be required.
Refer to Note #4 Special Driver Certificate.

Laws change periodically.
Please consult the
appropriate CVC section
before enforcement.



Motor vehicle does not include a self-propelled wheelchair, motorized tricycle, or motorized quadricycle operated by physically disabled persons, but does include self-propelled devices such as construction equipment, golf carts, lawn mowers, other landscaping equipment, and other vehicles that may be driven upon a highway (§415 CVC).

Note #1 – IOH

Any vehicle operated upon a highway for the purposes of transporting an agricultural product can be an IOH for a distance not to exceed one mile from the point of origin of the trip (§36005[k] CVC).

Note #2 – House Car

House car driver license requirements are based upon the length of the vehicle, not the GVWR or GW weight.

Note #3 – GVWR vs. GW

The GVWR is the weight specified by the manufacturer as the loaded weight of a single vehicle. It is usually indicated on a plate or decal inside the door jamb or in the cab. The GW is the actual weight of the vehicle.

Note #4 – Special Driver Certificate

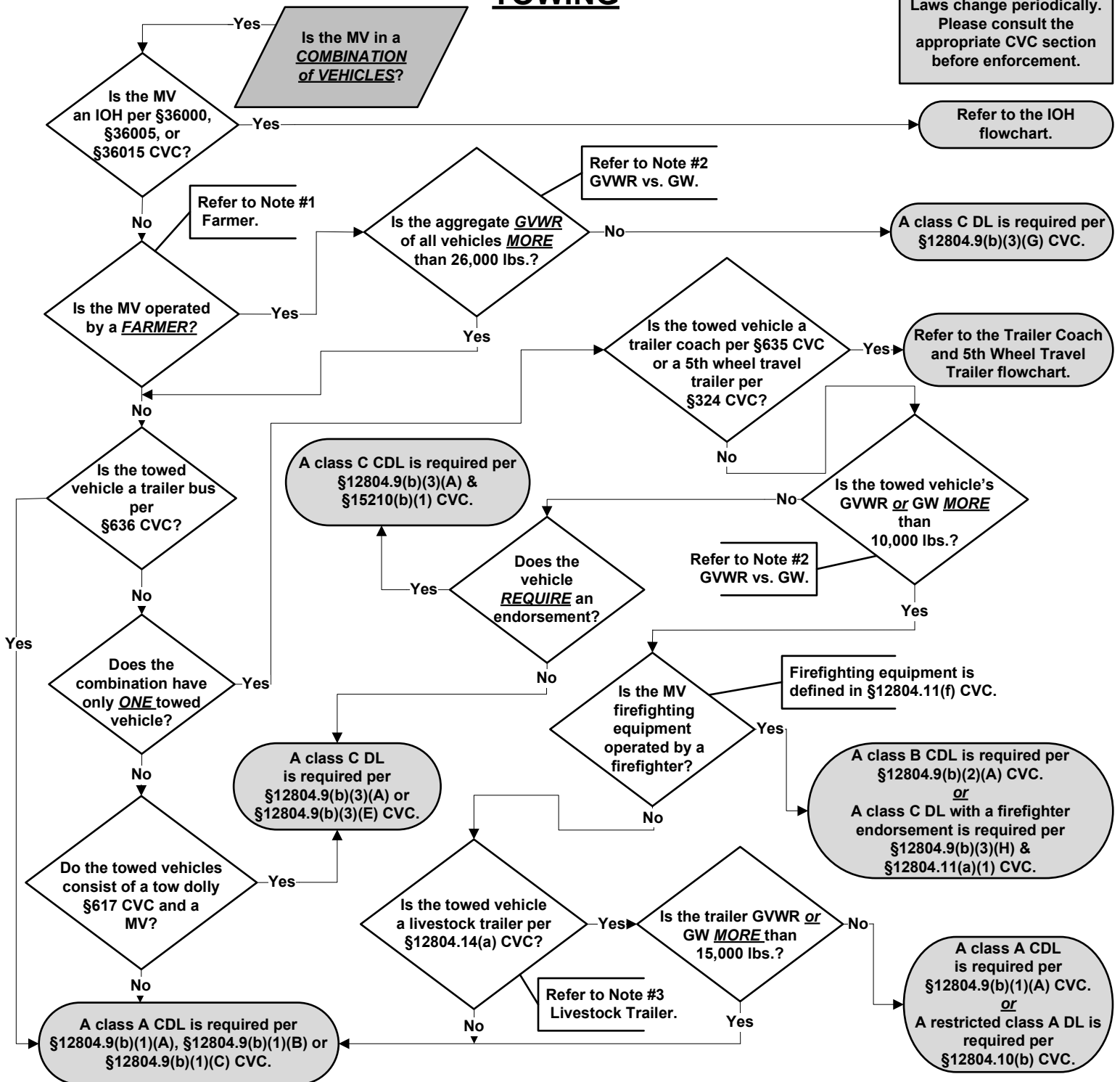
An ambulance, FLV, school bus, and other types of MVs require a special driver certificate. Refer to the Special Driver Certificate flowchart.

When a CDL or class C DL with a firefighter endorsement is indicated, refer to the Endorsements flowchart.

Driver licenses of a higher class permit the driving of a vehicle requiring a lower class of license (e.g., class A license permits the driving of a vehicle requiring a class B or class C license). This does not include class M1 or M2.

TOWING

Laws change periodically.
Please consult the
appropriate CVC section
before enforcement.



Motor vehicle does not include a self-propelled wheelchair, motorized tricycle, or motorized quadricycle operated by physically disabled persons, but does include self-propelled devices such as construction equipment, golf carts, lawn mowers, other landscaping equipment, and other vehicles that may be driven upon a highway (§415 CVC).

Note #1 – Farmer

Must meet all of the following:

1. Farmer, employee of farmer, or certified AG instructor for a high school or college.
2. Used exclusively in the conduct of AG operations.
3. Not used for compensation (other than the AG operation) or for-hire.

Note #2 – GVWR vs. GW

The GVWR is the weight specified by the manufacturer as the loaded weight of a single vehicle. It is usually indicated on a plate or decal inside the door jamb or in the cab, or on the trailer tongue or body. The GW is the actual weight of the vehicle.

Note #3 – Livestock Trailer

Must meet all of the following:

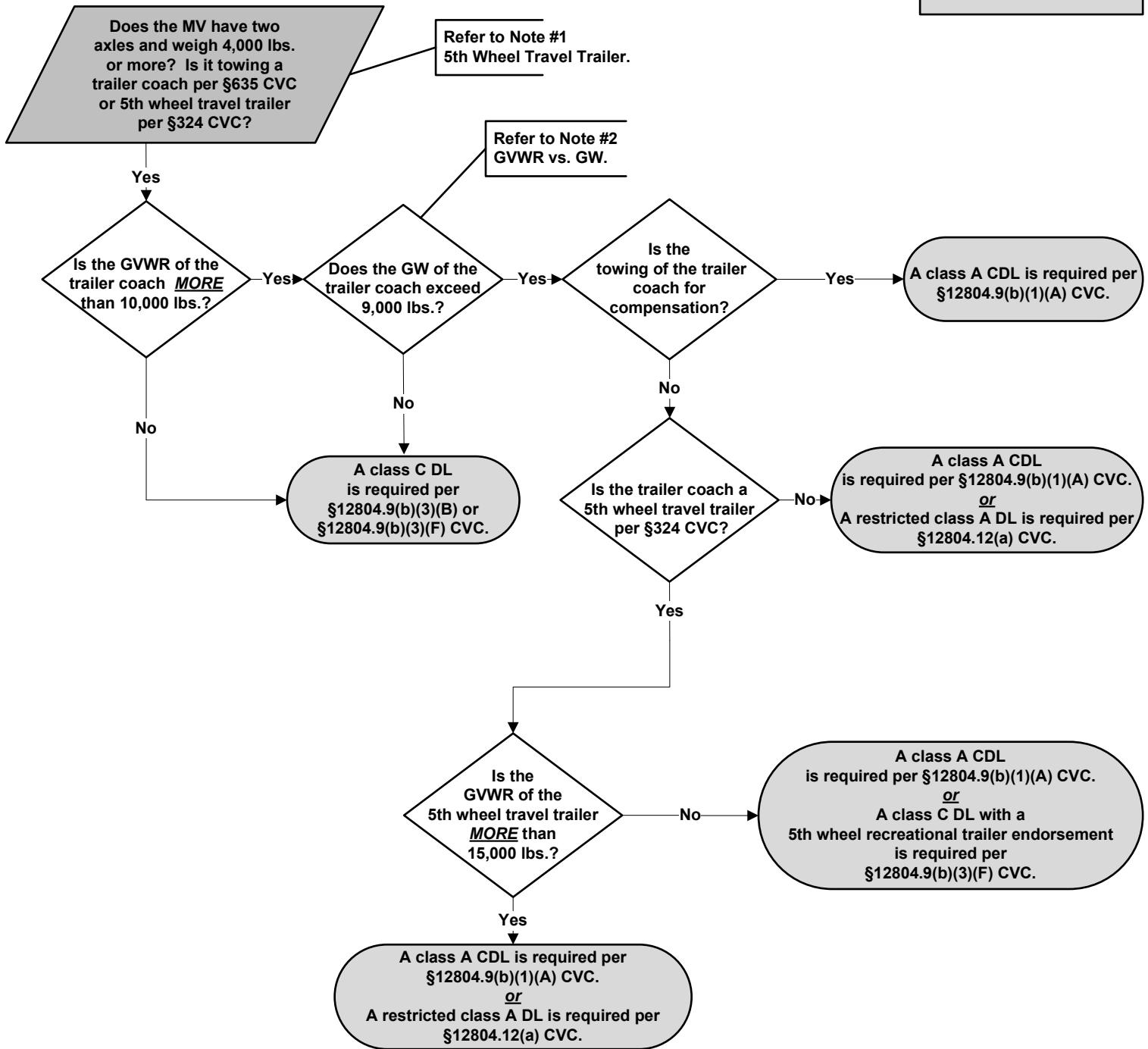
1. Vehicle is controlled and operated by a farmer.
2. Used to transport livestock to or from a farm.
3. Not used in the operations of a common or contract carrier.
4. Used within 150 miles of the person's farm.

When a CDL or class C DL with a firefighter endorsement is indicated refer to the Endorsements flowchart.

Driver licenses of a higher class permit the driving of a vehicle requiring a lower class of license (e.g., class A license permits the driving of a vehicle requiring a class B or class C license). This does not include class M1 or M2.

TRAILER COACH and 5TH WHEEL TRAVEL TRAILER

Laws change periodically.
Please consult the
appropriate CVC section
before enforcement.



Motor vehicle does not include a self-propelled wheelchair, motorized tricycle, or motorized quadricycle operated by physically disabled persons, but does include self-propelled devices such as construction equipment, golf carts, lawn mowers, other landscaping equipment, and other vehicles that may be driven upon a highway (§415 CVC).

Note #1 – 5th Wheel Travel Trailer

A 5th wheel travel trailer is a more specifically defined trailer coach.

Note #2 – GVWR vs. GW

The GVWR is the weight specified by the manufacturer as the loaded weight of a single vehicle. It is usually indicated on a plate or decal inside the door jamb or in the cab, or on the trailer tongue or body. The GW is the actual weight of the vehicle.

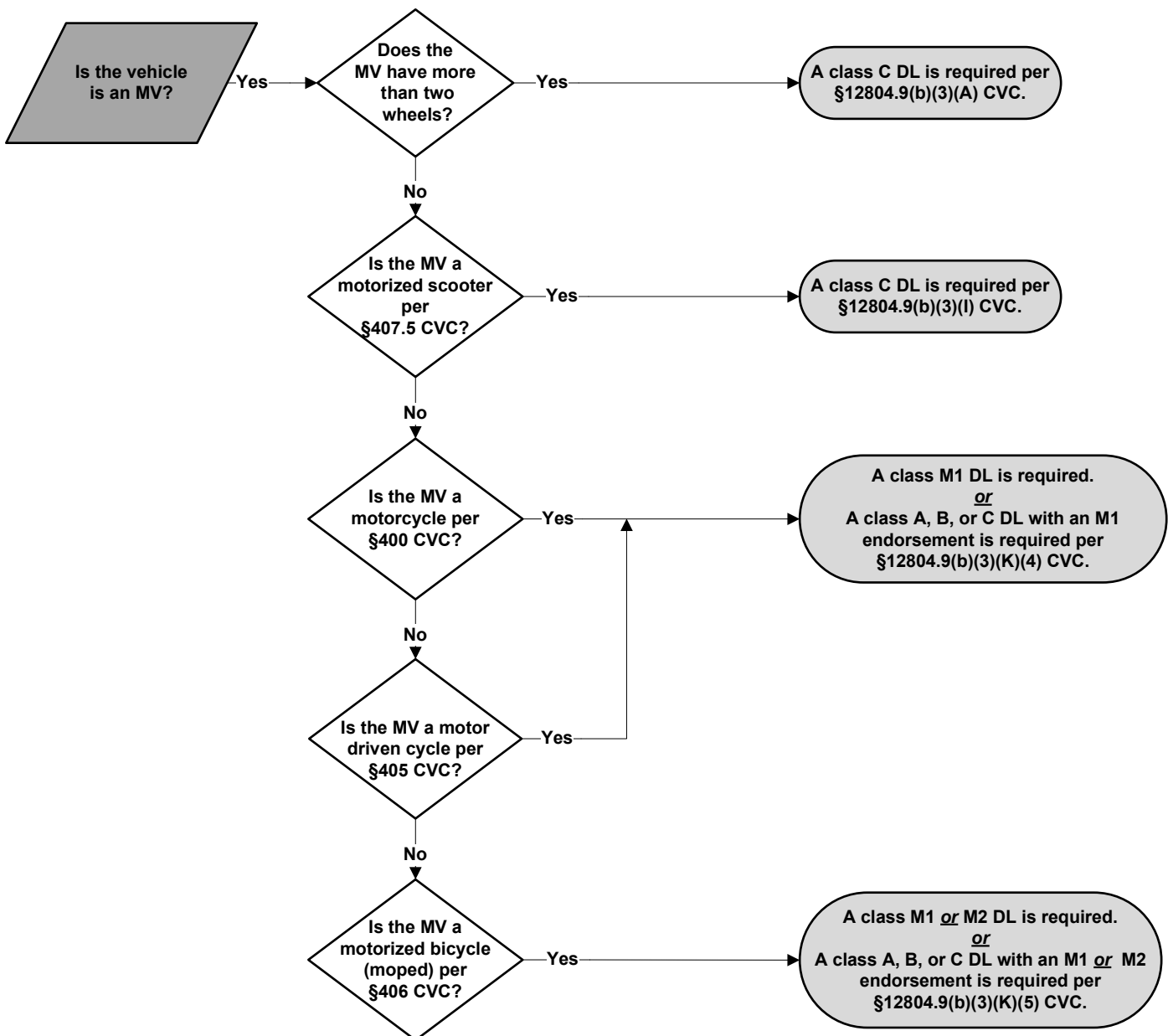
When a CDL or class C DL with a firefighter endorsement is indicated refer to the Endorsements flowchart.

Driver licenses of a higher class permit the driving of a vehicle requiring a lower class of license (e.g., class A license permits the driving of a vehicle requiring a class B or class C license). This does not include class M1 or M2.

California Resident Driver License Requirements

MOTORCYCLE and MOTORIZED SCOOTER

Laws change periodically.
Please consult the
appropriate CVC section
before enforcement.



Motor vehicle does not include a self-propelled wheelchair, motorized tricycle, or motorized quadricycle operated by physically disabled persons, but does include self-propelled devices such as construction equipment, golf carts, lawn mowers, other landscaping equipment, and other vehicles that may be driven upon a highway (§415 CVC).

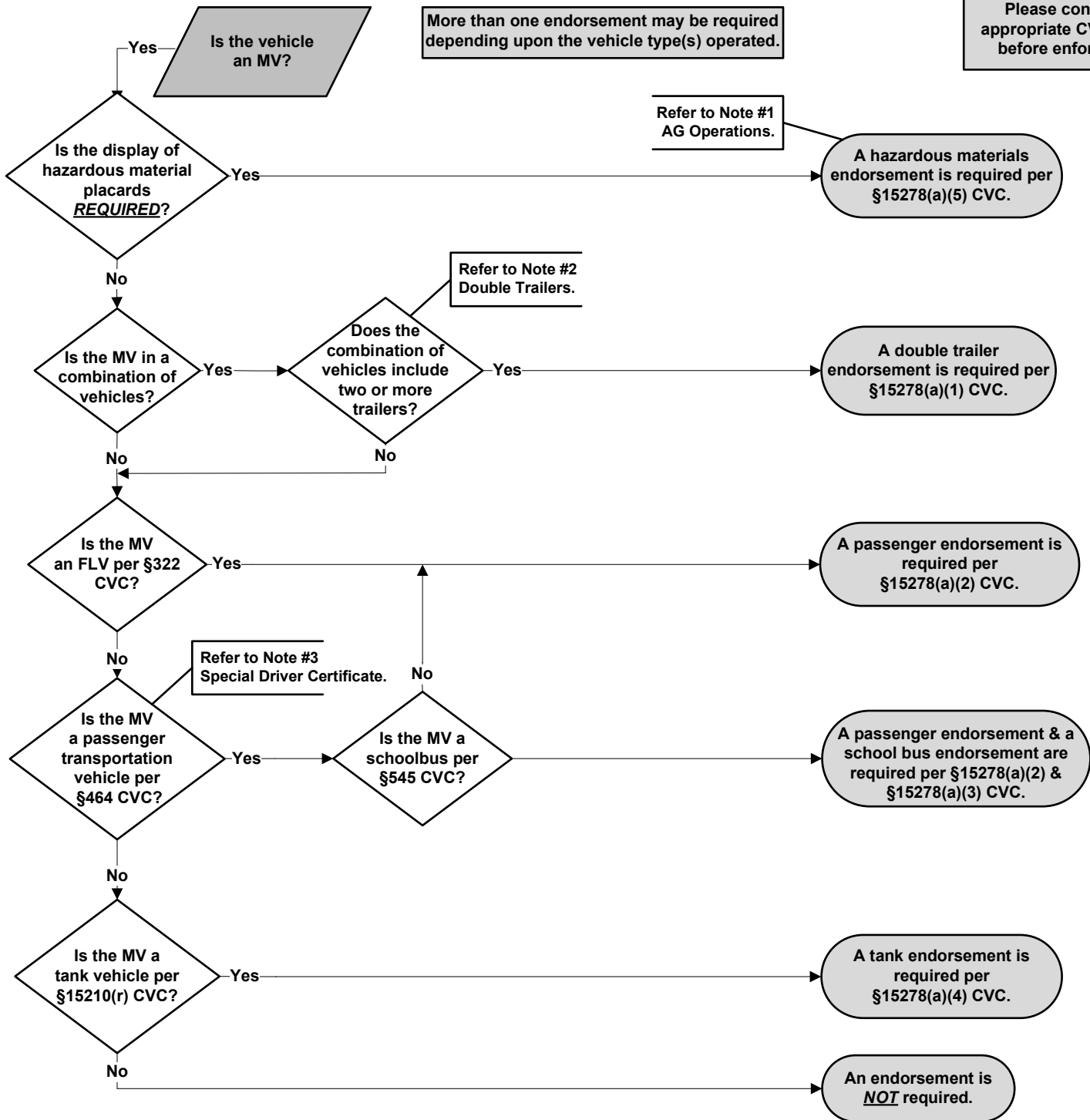
This space intentionally left blank.

Driver licenses of a higher class permit the driving of a vehicle requiring a lower class of license (e.g., class A license permits the driving of a vehicle requiring a class B or class C license). This does not include class M1 or M2.

ENDORSEMENTS

Laws change periodically.
Please consult the
appropriate CVC section
before enforcement.

More than one endorsement may be required
depending upon the vehicle type(s) operated.



Motor vehicle does not include a self-propelled wheelchair, motorized tricycle, or motorized quadricycle operated by physically disabled persons, but does include self-propelled devices such as construction equipment, golf carts, lawn mowers, other landscaping equipment, and other vehicles that may be driven upon a highway (§415 CVC).

Note #1 – AG Operations

A driver in an AG operation and in compliance with conditions specified in §12804.2 CVC may possess a HAM certificate in lieu of a hazardous materials endorsement and is exempt from all other endorsement requirements per §12804.2(a) CVC.

Note #2 – Double Trailers

A double trailer endorsement is required only when two or more semitrailers or trailers are in the combination of vehicles. For example: A combination of vehicles consisting of an MV towing a semitrailer and an MV would not require a double trailer endorsement.

Note #3 – Special Driver Certificate

Many types of MVs requiring a passenger endorsement also require a special driver certificate. Refer to the Special Driver Certificate flowchart.

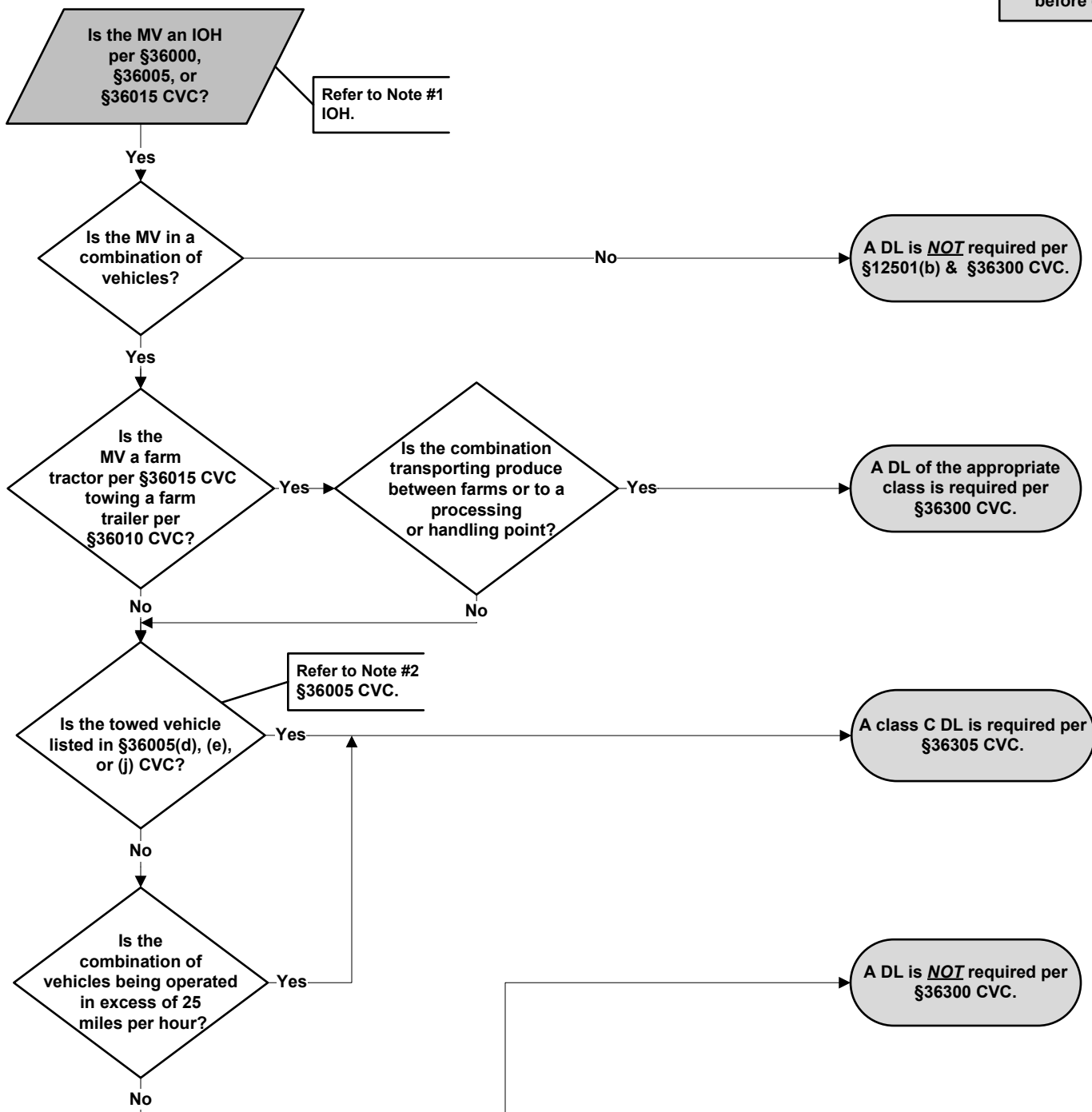
Firefighter Endorsement

A firefighter possessing a firefighter endorsement and operating a type of vehicle requiring an endorsement per §15278 CVC is required to be in possession of such endorsement.

For example: A tank endorsement is required in addition to the firefighter endorsement when operating a tank vehicle.

Driver License Requirements IMPLEMENTS OF HUSBANDRY

Laws change periodically.
Please consult the
appropriate CVC section
before enforcement.



Motor vehicle does not include a self-propelled wheelchair, motorized tricycle, or motorized quadricycle operated by physically disabled persons, but does include self-propelled devices such as construction equipment, golf carts, lawn mowers, other landscaping equipment, and other vehicles that may be driven upon a highway (§415 CVC).

Note #1 – IOH

Any vehicle operated upon a highway for the purposes of transporting an agricultural product can be an IOH for a distance not to exceed one mile from the point of origin of the trip (§36005[k] CVC).

Note #2 – §36005 CVC

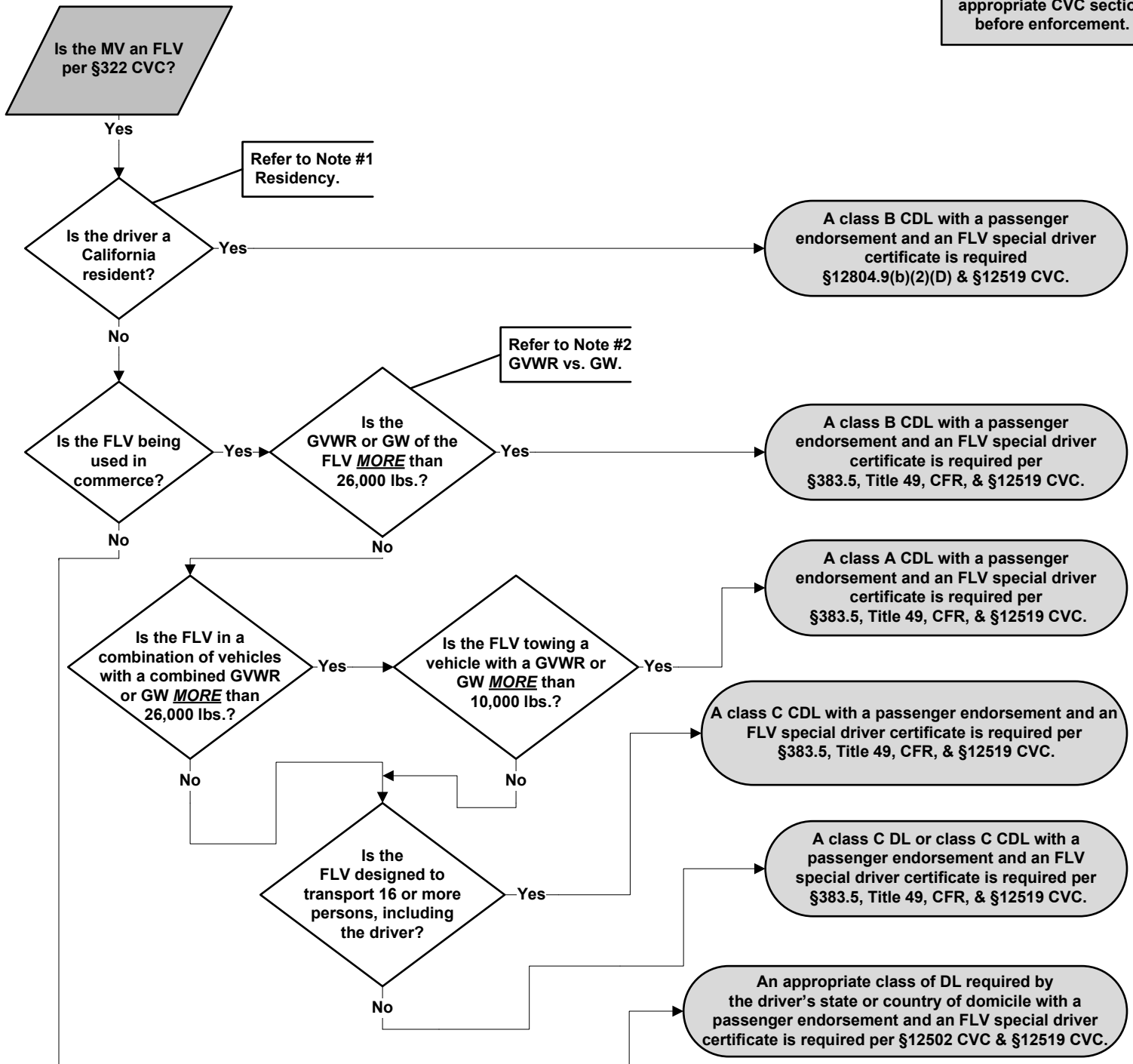
- (d) A spray or fertilizer applicator rig (does not include anhydrous ammonia applicator with a capacity in excess of 500 gallons).
- (e) A trailer or semitrailer with a capacity of more than 500 gallons but not more than 1,000 gallons exclusively used for the transportation and application of anhydrous ammonia.
- (j) A trap wagon as defined in §36016 CVC not exceeding 1,000 gallons capacity.

This space intentionally left blank.

Driver License Requirements

FARM LABOR VEHICLE

Laws change periodically.
Please consult the
appropriate CVC section
before enforcement.



Motor vehicle does not include a self-propelled wheelchair, motorized tricycle, or motorized quadricycle operated by physically disabled persons, but does include self-propelled devices such as construction equipment, golf carts, lawn mowers, other landscaping equipment, and other vehicles that may be driven upon a highway (§415 CVC).

Note #1 – Residency

Nonresident drivers of an FLV are not subject to the class B CDL requirement in §12804.9(b)(2)(D) CVC. Most states, Canada, and Mexico use the definition of a CDL and a CMV found in §383.5, Title 49, CFR, (refer to the Nonresident Federal Commercial Driver License Requirements flowchart on Page 10). §12519 CVC requires every driver of an FLV in California, regardless of their state or country of domicile, to possess a license of the appropriate class, endorsed for passenger transportation and an FLV special driver certificate.

Note #2 – GVWR vs. GW

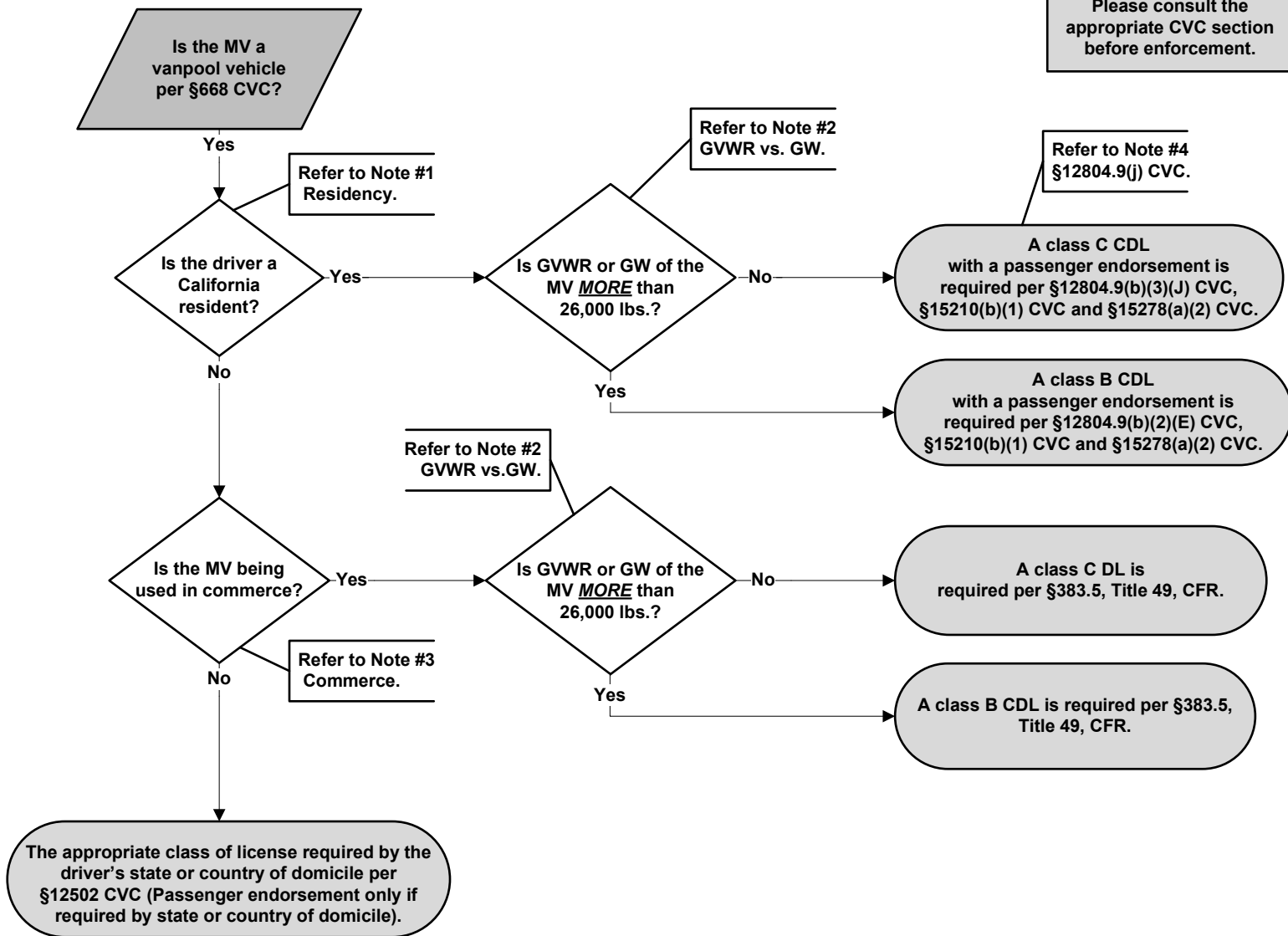
The GVWR is the weight specified by the manufacturer as the loaded weight of a single vehicle. It is usually indicated on a plate or decal inside the door jamb or in the cab, or on the trailer tongue or body. The GW is the actual weight of the vehicle.

When a CDL or class C DL with a firefighter endorsement is indicated refer to the Endorsements flowchart.

Driver licenses of a higher class permit the driving of a vehicle requiring a lower class of license (e.g., class A license permits the driving of a vehicle requiring a class B or class C license). This does not include class M1 or M2.

Vanpool Vehicle

**Laws change periodically.
Please consult the
appropriate CVC section
before enforcement.**



Motor vehicle does not include a self-propelled wheelchair, motorized tricycle, or motorized quadricycle operated by physically disabled persons, but does include self-propelled devices such as construction equipment, golf carts, lawn mowers, other landscaping equipment, and other vehicles that may be driven upon a highway (§415 CVC).

Note #1 – Residency

Refer to Note #1 on Federal Commercial Driver License Requirements flowchart (Page 10).

Note #2 – GVWR vs. GW

The GVWR is the weight specified by the manufacturer as the loaded weight of a single vehicle. It is usually indicated on a plate or decal inside the door jamb or in the cab, or on the trailer tongue or body. The GW is the actual weight of the vehicle.

Note #3 – Commerce

The MV is being used in commerce if the operation is in the furtherance of a commercial enterprise.

Note #4 – §12804.9(j) CVC

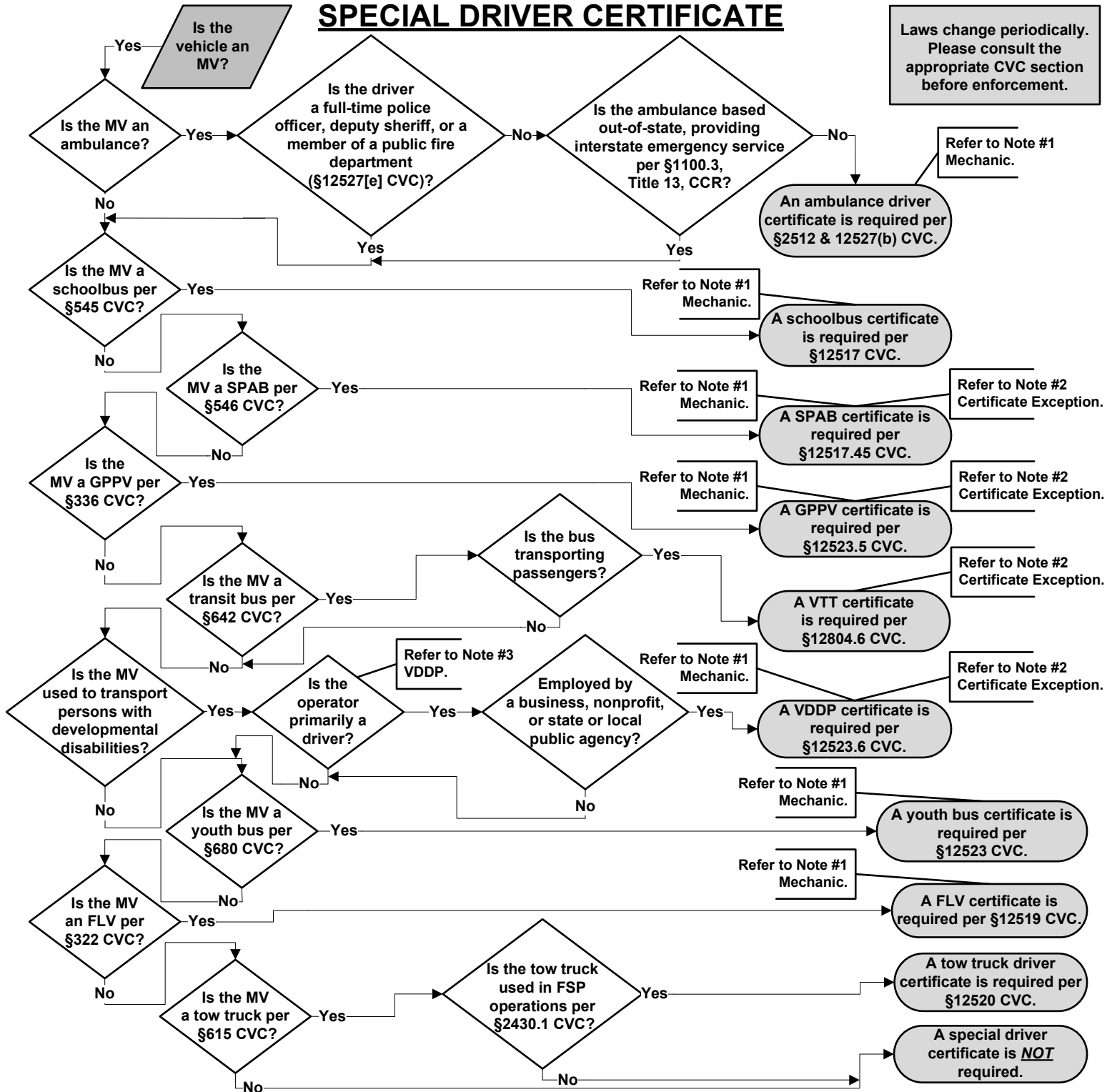
A change to §12804.9 and §15210 CVC in 2014 requires a passenger endorsement for any passenger transportation vehicle as defined in §464 CVC, including vehicles requiring a class C driver license. The provisions of §12804.9(j) CVC are no longer applicable.

Driver licenses of a higher class permit the driving of a vehicle requiring a lower class of license (e.g., class A license permits the driving of a vehicle requiring a class B or class C license). This does not include class M1 or M2.

Driver License Requirements

SPECIAL DRIVER CERTIFICATE

Laws change periodically.
Please consult the
appropriate CVC section
before enforcement.



Motor vehicle does not include a self-propelled wheelchair, motorized tricycle, or motorized quadricycle operated by physically disabled persons, but does include self-propelled devices such as construction equipment, golf carts, lawn mowers, other landscaping equipment, and other vehicles that may be driven upon a highway (§415 CVC).

Note #1 – Mechanic

Mechanics or other maintenance personnel in the performance of their duties may operate an ambulance, schoolbus, SPAB, youth bus, FLV, GPPV, or transit bus without a special driver certificate when no pupils or members of the public are transported (§12525 CVC).

Note #2 – Certificate Exception

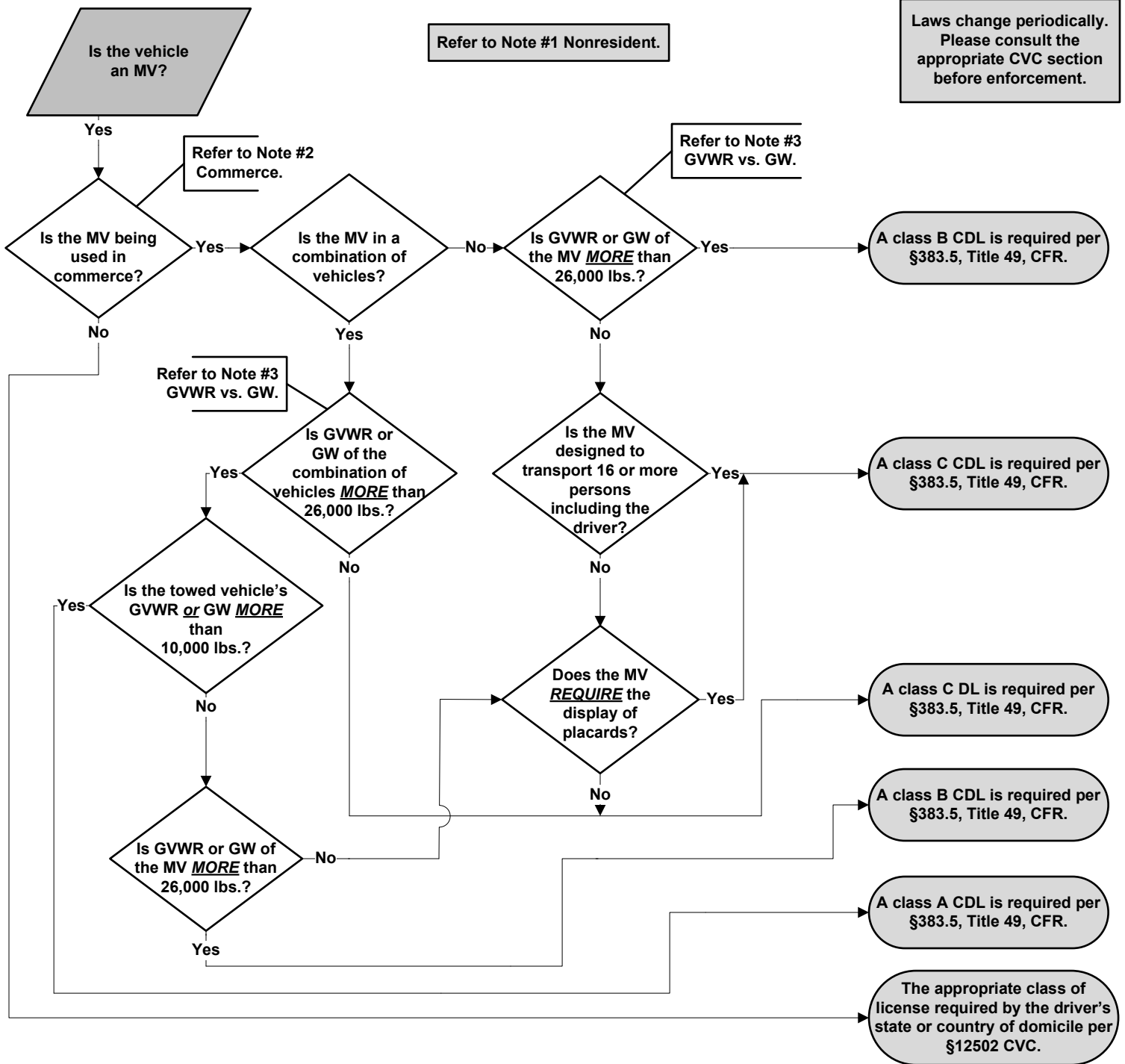
A SPAB may be operated with a SPAB or schoolbus certificate. In place of the required certificate, a GPPV or transit bus may be operated with a SPAB or schoolbus certificate.

Note #3 – VDDP

Refer to §12523.6(f) CVC for the an explanation of “employed primarily as a driver.” Additional exceptions to the VDDP certificate requirement are contained in §12523.6(g) CVC.

This space intentionally left blank.

FEDERAL COMMERCIAL DRIVER LICENSE REQUIREMENTS



Motor vehicle does not include a self-propelled wheelchair, motorized tricycle, or motorized quadricycle operated by physically disabled persons, but does include self-propelled devices such as construction equipment, golf carts, lawn mowers, other landscaping equipment, and other vehicles that may be driven upon a highway (§415 CVC).

Note #1 – Nonresident

Nonresident drivers are not subject to the driver license requirements in §12804.9 CVC. Most states, Canada, and Mexico use the definition of a CDL and a CMV found in §383.5, Title 49, CFR.

Note #2 – Commerce

The MV is being used in commerce if the operation is in the furtherance of a commercial enterprise.

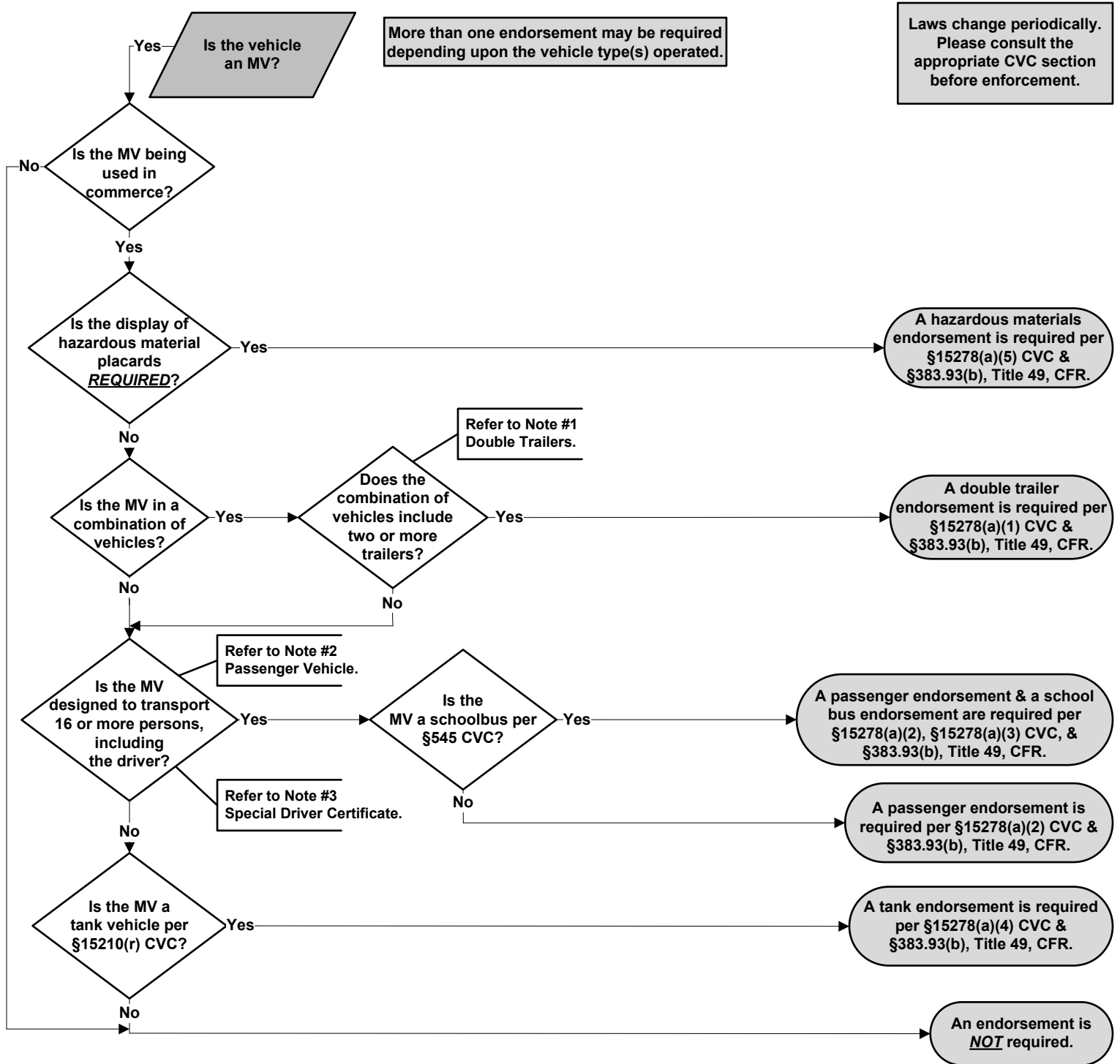
Note #3 – GVWR vs. GW

The GVWR is the weight specified by the manufacturer as the loaded weight of a single vehicle. It is usually indicated on a plate or decal inside the door jamb or in the cab, or on the trailer tongue or body. The GW is the actual weight of the vehicle.

When a CDL is indicated, refer to the Nonresident Driver License Requirements Federal Commercial Driver License Endorsements flowchart.

Driver licenses of a higher class permit the driving of a vehicle requiring a lower class of license (e.g., class A license permits the driving of a vehicle requiring a class B or class C license). This does not include class M1 or M2.

FEDERAL COMMERCIAL DRIVER LICENSE ENDORSEMENTS



Motor vehicle does not include a self-propelled wheelchair, motorized tricycle, or motorized quadricycle operated by physically disabled persons, but does include self-propelled devices such as construction equipment, golf carts, lawn mowers, other landscaping equipment, and other vehicles that may be driven upon a highway (§415 CVC).

Note #1 – Double Trailers

A double trailer endorsement is required only when two or more semitrailers or trailers are in the combination of vehicles. For example: A combination of vehicles consisting of an MV towing a semitrailer and an MV would not require a double trailer endorsement.

Note #2 – Passenger Vehicle

The federal definition of a passenger vehicle in §385.5, Title 49, CFR, is different from the definition of a passenger transportation vehicle in §464 CVC which is applicable to a California resident.

Note #3 – Special Driver Certificate

Many types of motor vehicles requiring a passenger endorsement also require a special driver certificate. Refer to the Special Driver Certificate flowchart.

This space intentionally left blank.