

INFORMATION BULLETIN



March 24, 2020

PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE DRIVER LICENSE AND ENDORSEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Effective August 1, 2017, the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) began to issue passenger (P) and tank endorsements, in addition to hazardous materials endorsements, on a Class C commercial driver license (CDL). This Information Bulletin (IB) provides clarification pertaining to the operation of vehicles which may now be subject to the requirement of holding a Class C CDL with the P endorsement.

Questions have arisen as to the applicability of a Class C CDL for drivers who, prior to August 1, 2017, were operating vehicles meeting the definition of a passenger transportation vehicle but did not meet the definition of a bus described in Section 233 of the California Vehicle Code (CVC), and were not previously required to obtain a CDL with the P endorsement. As the DMV can now issue the P endorsement on a Class C CDL, a driver operating any passenger transportation vehicle, as defined in Section 464 of the CVC, is required to hold a Class C CDL with the P endorsement.

Section 464 CVC defines a passenger transportation vehicle as follows:

A "passenger transportation vehicle" is any vehicle, including a trailer bus, designed, used, or maintained for carrying more than 10 persons including the driver, which requires the person to have in his or her immediate possession a valid driver's license for the appropriate class of vehicle to be driven endorsed for passenger transportation.

A Class C CDL with the P endorsement may be utilized for a passenger transportation vehicle classified as a bus which has a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) and gross weight of 26,000 pounds or less. Prior to the DMV being able to issue the P endorsement on a Class C CDL, a Class B CDL with the P endorsement would have been required to operate a vehicle classified as a bus, regardless of the GVWR or gross weight of the vehicle. A bus with a GVWR or gross weight over 26,000 pounds will still require a Class B CDL with the P endorsement.



Notwithstanding Section 12804.9 CVC relating to the class of a driver license, the California Education Code (CEC) and the California Public Contracts Code (CPCC) have specific driver license requirements for the driver of a 15-passenger van equipped with single rear wheels and a GVWR of 11,499 pounds or less.

Section 39800.5 CEC requires the driver of a 15-passenger van, described previously, owned or operated by any school district or private school providing transportation for pupils, to possess a Class B CDL with the P endorsement.

Section 10326.1 CPCC requires the driver of a 15-passenger van, described previously, owned or operated by a campus or a facility of a California Community College or California State University providing transportation of passengers, to possess a Class B CDL with the P endorsement. Sections 39800.5 CEC and 10326.1 CPCC are applicable to the owner or operator of the 15-passenger van, and are not enforceable upon a driver.

The DMV does not issue a schoolbus (S) endorsement on a Class C CDL. Therefore, the driver of a schoolbus, regardless of the GVWR, is required to possess a Class B CDL with P and S endorsements, and a schoolbus special driver certificate.

Additionally, the driver of a farm labor vehicle (FLV), described in Section 322 CVC, is not eligible for a Class C CDL, and is still required to possess a Class B CDL with the P endorsement and an FLV certificate per Section 12804.9(b)(2)(D) CVC, regardless of the GVWR or gross weight.

Questions regarding this IB may be directed to the Commercial Vehicle Section, at (916) 843-3400.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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