

INFORMATION BULLETIN



October 12, 2021

WATER TANK TRUCKS

The purpose of this Information Bulletin (IB) is to provide information regarding registration, driver license (DL), motor carrier, equipment, driver hours-of-service (HOS), North American Standard (NAS) inspection, Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) Out-of-Service Criteria (OOSC), and Basic Inspection of Terminals (BIT) Program requirements applicable to a water tank truck (WTT). The information provided in this bulletin is not all-encompassing and is specifically applicable only to WTTs engaged in intrastate commerce which are not in a combination of vehicles or transporting hazardous materials.

IMPLEMENT OF HUSBANDRY.

A WTT used for the loading of a spray or fertilizer applicator rig, identified in Section 36005(d) of the California Vehicle Code (CVC), is an implement of husbandry (IOH) pursuant to Section 36005(f) CVC. The following are applicable to an IOH:

Registration. An IOH is exempt from registration pursuant to Section 36100 CVC. An IOH may, but is not required to, display a license plate or Special Equipment (SE) ID plate as specified in Section 5014 CVC.

Driver License. The driver of an IOH which is not in combination with another vehicle is not required to possess a DL pursuant to Section 36300 CVC. Although a DL is not required, a person with a suspended or revoked driving privilege may not drive an IOH. Driver license requirements for an IOH in combination with another vehicle are specified in Sections 36300 and 36305 CVC.

Motor Carrier. An IOH is exempt from the requirement to display a carrier ID number pursuant to Section 34507.5(e)(4) CVC. An IOH is exempt from the motor carrier of property permit (MCP) specified in Section 34620 CVC pursuant to Section 34622(a) CVC. A WTT defined as an IOH with an unladen weight of 6,001 pounds or more is required to display the name or trademark of



the person under whose authority the IOH is being operated pursuant to Section 27900(a) CVC.

Equipment. Unless exempted by a specific equipment statute or Sections 36500 through 36520 CVC, an IOH is subject to all equipment requirements contained in the CVC. An IOH, even if described in Sections 34500(a) or (k) CVC, is not subject to requirements contained in Chapter 6.5, Motor Carrier Safety, Title 13, of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), including, but not limited to, equipment and daily vehicle inspection requirements, pursuant to Section 1200(b), Title 13, CCR.

Driver Hours-of-Service. The driver of an IOH, even if described in Sections 34500(a) or (k) CVC, is not subject to driver HOS requirements contained in Chapter 6.5, Title 13, CCR, pursuant to Section 1200(b), Title 13, CCR. However, the driver of an IOH is subject to driver HOS limitations described in Section 21702(b) CVC.

North American Standard Inspection. An IOH is subject to the scale stopping and inspection requirements specified in Section 2813 CVC. However, IOHs are not subject to requirements contained in Chapter 6.5, Title 13, CCR, including, but not limited to, driver and equipment requirements pursuant to Section 1200(b), Title 13, CCR. Therefore, they do not meet the qualifications outlined in the CVSA guidelines to receive an NAS inspection or CVSA decal.

Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance Out-of-Service Criteria. An IOH is not subject to the CVSA OOSC pursuant to Section 1200(b), Title 13, CCR.

Basic Inspection of Terminals. An IOH is not subject to the BIT Program pursuant to Section 34501.12(c)(3) CVC.

FARM VEHICLE.

A WTT **owned by a farmer** and used exclusively to service their own IOHs, sprinkle water on dirt roads providing access to agricultural fields, or transport water for the irrigation of crops or trees is a farm vehicle (FV) pursuant to Sections 36101(b) and (c) CVC. The following are applicable to an FV:

Registration. Pursuant to Section 36101 CVC, an FV is exempt from registration **only when displaying** an SE ID plate as specified in Section 5014 CVC.

Driver License. The driver of an FV is required to possess the appropriate class of DL. Additionally, the driver is subject to any applicable restrictions and required endorsements.



Motor Carrier. An FV displaying an SE ID plate is exempt from the MCPP specified in Section 34620 CVC pursuant to Section 34622(a) CVC. However, an FV described in Sections 34500(a) or (k) CVC is required to display a carrier ID number pursuant to Section 34507.5 CVC. Additionally, an FV with an unladen weight of 6,001 pounds or more is required to display the name or trademark of the person under whose authority the FV is being operated pursuant to Section 27900(a) CVC.

Equipment. An FV displaying an SE ID plate is subject to all equipment requirements as if registered. An FV displaying an SE ID plate, even if described in Sections 34500(a) or (k) CVC, is not subject to requirements contained in Chapter 6.5, Title 13, CCR, including, but not limited to, equipment and daily vehicle inspection requirements pursuant to Section 1200(b), Title 13, CCR.

Driver Hours-of-Service. The driver of an FV displaying an SE ID plate is not subject to driver HOS requirements contained in Title 13, CCR, pursuant to Section 1200(b), Title 13, CCR. However, the driver of an FV is subject to driver HOS limitations described in Section 21702(b) CVC.

North American Standard Inspection. An FV displaying an SE ID plate is subject to the scale stopping and inspection requirements specified in Section 2813 CVC. However, an FV displaying an SE ID plate is not subject to requirements contained in Chapter 6.5, Title 13, CCR, including, but not limited to, driver and equipment requirements pursuant to Section 1200(b), Title 13, CCR. Therefore, they do not meet the qualifications outlined in the CVSA guidelines to receive an NAS inspection or CVSA decal.

Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance Out-of-Service Criteria. An FV displaying an SE ID plate is not subject to the CVSA OOSC pursuant to Section 1200(b), Title 13, CCR.

Basic Inspection of Terminals. An FV is not subject to the BIT Program pursuant to Section 34501.12(c)(3) CVC.

SPECIAL CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT.

A WTT equipped with an apparatus for spraying or otherwise applying water to the ground and used **primarily** for construction work on highways, or for construction or maintenance work on a railroad right-of-way is considered special construction equipment (SCE) pursuant to Section 565 CVC. Exclusive use is not required to meet this definition. The following are applicable to SCE:



Registration. Special construction equipment is exempt from registration pursuant to Section 4010 CVC but is required to display an SE ID plate pursuant to Section 5011 CVC.

Driver License. Drivers of SCE are required to possess the appropriate class of DL. Additionally, the driver is subject to any applicable restrictions and required endorsements.

Motor Carrier. Special construction equipment is exempt from the requirement to display a carrier ID number pursuant to Section 34507.5(e)(3) CVC. Special construction equipment is exempt from the MCPP specified in Section 34620 CVC pursuant to Section 34622(a) CVC. A WTT defined as SCE with an unladen weight of 6,001 pounds or more is required to display the name or trademark of the person under whose authority the SCE is being operated pursuant to Section 27900(a) CVC.

Equipment. Special construction equipment is exempt from Section 26508 CVC relating to emergency stopping systems, pursuant to Section 26508(k)(1) CVC. Additionally, the exempted provisions outlined in Section 25801 CVC apply to SCE. Drivers of SCE are exempt, per Section 27400(b) CVC, from Section 27400 CVC relating to the covering of both ears while driving. Special construction equipment, even if described in Sections 34500(a) or (k) CVC, is not subject to requirements contained in Chapter 6.5, Title 13, CCR, including, but not limited to, equipment and daily vehicle inspection requirements pursuant to Section 1200(b), Title 13, CCR.

Driver Hours-of-Service. Drivers of SCE are not subject to driver HOS requirements contained in Title 13, CCR, pursuant to Section 1200(b), Title 13, CCR. However, drivers of SCE are subject to driver HOS limitations described in Section 21702(b) CVC.

North American Standard Inspection. Special construction equipment is subject to the scale stopping and inspection requirements specified in Section 2813 CVC. However, SCE is not subject to requirements contained in Chapter 6.5, Title 13, CCR, including, but not limited to, driver and equipment requirements pursuant to Section 1200(b), Title 13, CCR. Therefore, they do not meet the qualifications outlined in the CVSA guidelines to receive an NAS inspection or CVSA decal.

Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance Out-of-Service Criteria. Special construction equipment is not subject to the CVSA OOSC pursuant to Section 1200(b), Title 13, CCR.



Basic Inspection of Terminals. Special construction equipment is not subject to the BIT Program pursuant to Section 34501.12(c)(3) CVC.

WATER TENDER VEHICLE.

A WTT designed to carry not less than 1,500 gallons of water and used **primarily** for transporting and delivering water to be applied by other vehicles or pumping equipment at fire emergency scenes is a water tender vehicle (WTV) pursuant to Section 676.5 CVC. Exclusive use is not required to meet this definition. The following are applicable to a WTV:

Registration. A WTV is subject to registration pursuant to Section 4000(a)(1) CVC.

Driver License. The driver of a WTV is required to possess the appropriate class of DL. Additionally, the driver is subject to any applicable restrictions and required endorsements.

Motor Carrier. A WTV with an unladen weight of 6,001 pounds or more is required to display the name or trademark of the person under whose authority the WTV is being operated pursuant to Section 27900(a) CVC. A WTV exempt from registration fees pursuant to Sections 9101, 9103, 9104, or 9104.2 CVC is exempt from the MCPP specified in Section 34620 CVC pursuant to Section 34622(a) CVC. The carrier ID number display requirement specified in Section 34507.5 CVC is dependent upon the MCPP requirement and configuration of the WTV as follows:

When Exempt from the MCPP. A two-axle WTV with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 26,000 pounds or less is not required to display a carrier ID number. However, a WTV described in Sections 34500(a) or (k) CVC is required to display a carrier ID number pursuant to Section 34507.5 CVC.

When the MCPP is Required. The WTV is required to display a carrier ID number pursuant to Section 34507.5 CVC regardless of vehicle configuration.

NOTE: A two-axle motortruck with a GVWR between 10,001 and 26,000 pounds is not described as a regulated vehicle in Section 34500(j) CVC, unless subject to the MCPP requirement.

Equipment. A WTV is subject to all equipment requirements contained in the CVC. The applicability of equipment requirements in Chapter 6.5, Title 13, CCR, is dependent upon the MCPP requirement and configuration of the WTV as follows:

When Exempt from the MCPP. A two-axle WTV with a GVWR of 26,000 pounds or less is not subject to requirements contained in Chapter 6.5, Title 13, CCR, including, but not limited to, equipment and daily vehicle inspection requirements pursuant to Section 1200(b), Title 13, CCR. However, a WTV described in Sections 34500(a) or (k) CVC is subject to all Title 13, CCR, requirements.

When the MCPP is Required. The WTV is subject to Title 13, CCR, requirements regardless of vehicle configuration.

Driver Hours-of-Service. The applicability of driver HOS requirements in Chapter 6.5, Title 13, CCR, is dependent upon the MCPP requirement and configuration of the WTV as follows:

When Exempt from the MCPP. The driver of a two-axle WTV with a GVWR of 26,000 pounds or less is not subject to Title 13, CCR, driver HOS requirements; however, the driver is subject to driver HOS limitations described in Section 21702(b) CVC. However, the driver of a WTV described in Sections 34500(a) or (k) CVC is subject to the driver HOS requirements.

When the MCPP is Required. The driver of the WTV is subject to Title 13, CCR, driver HOS requirements regardless of vehicle configuration.

NOTE: Exemptions for drivers of vehicles owned and operated by any forestry or fire department of any public agency, or a fire department organized as provided in the California Health and Safety Code are contained in Sections 1212(j) and 1213(b)(1), Title 13, CCR.

North American Standard Inspection. The applicability of the NAS inspection is dependent upon the MCPP requirement and configuration of the WTV as follows:

When Exempt from the MCPP. A two-axle WTV with a GVWR of 26,000 pounds or less is subject to the scale stopping and inspection requirements specified in Section 2813 CVC. However, it is not subject to requirements contained in Chapter 6.5, Title 13, CCR, including, but not limited to, driver and equipment requirements pursuant to Section 1200(b), Title 13, CCR. Therefore, they do not meet the qualifications outlined in the CVSA guidelines to receive an NAS inspection or CVSA decal. A



WTV described in Sections 34500(a) or (k) CVC is eligible to receive an NAS inspection and CVSA decal.

When the MCPP is Required. The WTV is eligible to receive an NAS inspection and CVSA decal regardless of vehicle configuration.

Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance Out-of-Service Criteria. The applicability of the CVSA OOSC contained in Chapter 6.5, Title 13, CCR, is dependent upon the MCPP requirement and configuration of the WTV as follows:

When Exempt from the MCPP. Both the driver and a two-axle WTV with a GVWR of 26,000 pounds or less are not subject to the CVSA OOSC. However, both the driver and a WTV described in Sections 34500(a) or (k) CVC are subject to the CVSA OOSC.

When the MCPP is Required. Both the driver and the WTV are subject to the CVSA OOSC regardless of vehicle configuration.

Basic Inspection of Terminals. Basic Inspection of Terminals Program requirements for a WTV is dependent upon the MCPP requirement and configuration of the WTV as follows:

When Exempt from the MCPP. A two-axle WTV with a GVWR of 26,000 pounds or less is not subject to the BIT Program. Except for a WTV owned or operated by the federal government (Section 34501.12[c][3] CVC), a WTV described in Sections 34500(a) or (k) CVC is subject to the BIT Program.

When the MCPP is Required. The WTV is subject to the BIT Program regardless of vehicle configuration.

A WTT not otherwise described in this IB is subject to all requirements applicable to a motortruck.

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

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

OPI: 062

