

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



February 4, 2025

## EXEMPTIONS FOR PIPELINE WELDING TRUCKS

The purpose of this Information Bulletin (IB) is to provide information regarding the application of the exemptions for pipeline welding trucks described in Title 49, Section 390.38 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

NOTE: Pursuant to Title 49, Section 390.3T(a) CFR, the provisions of Part 390, Title 49, CFR are only applicable to employers, employees, and commercial motor vehicles (CMV) that transport property or passengers in **interstate** commerce. As a result, the exemptions described in Title 49, Section 390.38 CFR are not applicable to a CMV operated in **intrastate** commerce.

Title 49, Section 390.38(b) CFR defines an interstate pipeline welding truck as a motor vehicle which is owned by a welder, is a pick-up style truck, is equipped with a welding rig that is used in the construction or maintenance of pipelines, and has a gross vehicle weight and combination weight rating and weight of 15,000 pounds or less.

Part 390, Title 49, CFR does not contain a definition for "pick-up style truck." Pursuant to Section 471 of the California Vehicle Code (CVC), a "pickup truck" is a motor truck with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating of less than 11,500 pounds, an unladen weight of less than 8,001 pounds, and which is equipped with an open box-type bed not exceeding nine feet in length. The CVC definition does not include a motor truck equipped with a bed-mounted storage compartment unit commonly referred to as a "utility body."

### Interstate Pipeline Welding Trucks

Title 49, Section 390.38(b) CFR exempts **interstate** pipeline welding trucks from the following:

- Any requirement relating to driver qualifications contained in Part 391, Title 49, CFR.
- Any requirement relating to registering with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration as a motor carrier, including the requirement to obtain and display



a Department of Transportation number, contained in Parts 365 or 390, Title 49, CFR.

- Any requirement relating to driving of commercial motor vehicles contained in Part 392, Title 49, CFR.
- Any requirement relating to parts and accessories and inspection, repair, and maintenance of commercial motor vehicles, contained in Parts 393 and 396, Title 49, CFR.
- Any requirement relating to hours of service of drivers, including maximum driving and on duty time, contained in Part 395, Title 49, CFR.

### Intrastate Pipeline Welding Trucks

As previously stated, the provisions of Title 49, Section 390.38 CFR are not extended to pipeline welding trucks operated in **intrastate** commerce. All applicable provisions of the CVC and Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations apply to **intrastate** pipeline welding trucks.

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

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

OPI: 062

