

4501-7-28

Training required for the operation of commercial motor vehicles.

(A) The following requirements apply to enterprises and instructors training drivers in the operation of commercial motor vehicles.

(1) The enterprise shall ensure that each student completes all required classroom and behind-the-wheel training within two hundred seventy days after the first lesson unless mitigating circumstances occur which shall be documented by the school in the student's record.

(2) No enterprise shall provide more than ten hours of training to a student in one calendar day.

(3) Classroom instruction shall total at least forty hours and shall, at a minimum, cover the curriculum topics including the following:

(a) Traffic laws.

(b) Rules and regulations of the public utility commission of Ohio.

(c) Federal motor carrier safety regulations relating to the operation of trucks, commercial cars, commercial tractors, trailers and semi-tractors, and motor vehicles transporting flammable and/or hazardous cargo. In addition, the enterprise shall provide the student with a current copy of the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49, parts 380, 383, and 391, of the federal motor carrier safety regulations.

(d) Federal laws relating to vehicle brake systems, lighting, and display of emergency equipment.

(e) Registration and licensing laws.

(f) Special taxes such as the international registration plan (IRP), the international fuel tax alliance (IFTA), and the unified carrier registration system (UCRS).

(g) Crash reporting and financial responsibility laws.

(h) The effects of driver fatigue.

(i) Safe driving practices.

(j) Courteous driving practices and sharing the road.

(k) Routine services and pre-trip and post-trip inspections and documentation.

(l) Use of occupant protection devices, including their benefits and

effectiveness in motor vehicle collisions.

(m) Emerging commercial motor vehicle safety technologies (i.e. electronic stability control and automatic braking systems).

(n) Commercial driver license requirements.

(o) The effect of alcohol and drugs.

(p) Proper public thoroughfare railroad grade crossing procedure.

(q) Commercial motor vehicle view limitations, also known as the "no zone".

(4) No more than forty per cent of the total classroom instruction hours shall be devoted to showing educational videos, slides or films that relate to commercial driver training. No videos, films, or activities unrelated to safe commercial driving practices, commercial driver knowledge, or commercial driver skill shall be used.

(5) Behind-the-wheel instruction shall total at least forty hours and include, at a minimum, all of the following topics:

(a) Starting.

(b) Stopping.

(c) Turning.

(d) Shifting.

(e) Braking.

(f) Parking.

(g) Docking.

(h) Hooking up and unhooking trailers and semi-trailers.

(i) Display of emergency equipment.

(j) Use of hazard lighting systems.

(k) Checking and servicing the parts of commercial motor vehicles. Pre-trip and post-trip documenting vehicle repair needs.

(l) Sharing the road.

(m) Safe driving practices.

- (n) Proper public thoroughfare railroad grade crossing procedure.
- (6) No less than ten hours of behind-the-wheel instruction shall be given on off-highway ranges. At least four hours of instruction shall be given off the highway and behind-the-wheel before any on-highway, behind-the-wheel instruction can be offered.
- (7) No less than ten hours of behind-the-wheel instruction shall be given on streets and highways with normal traffic.
- (8) Twenty hours of behind-the-wheel instruction may be used either for on-highway or off-highway training. The authorizing official or training manager, who may consider which behind-the-wheel instruction would be most beneficial to the student, shall make such determination. Each student driver, with the assistance of the instructor, shall do at least one pre-trip inspection during each day of on-the-road training.
- (9) If a student is observing behind-the-wheel instruction of another student and not actually driving, such time shall not be credited to the student for behind-the-wheel training completed.
- (10) For every five vehicles, a minimum of one instructor, who is not restricted to the classroom, shall be on the driving range at any time a student is operating a motor vehicle. During such operation a maximum of two students shall be assigned to each vehicle. There shall be a maximum of ten students per instructor during instruction on the range.
- (11) All behind-the-wheel instruction on streets and highways shall be under the direct supervision of a licensed instructor who is in the vehicle and seated in the front seat next to the driver.
- (B) Enterprises training drivers in the operation of commercial motor vehicles shall provide both classroom instruction and behind-the-wheel instruction in the operation of commercial motor vehicles. Students shall be taught and supervised by a licensed instructor.
- (C) Classroom instruction and behind-the-wheel instruction shall consist of no less than sixty minutes for each hour credited toward completion of the required instruction. Time taken for breaks shall not be included when calculating completion of the required instruction.

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