

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) from January 2017 Safety Training with Motor Vehicle Enforcement (MVE) at CRLCSWA**

### **Q: I drive for city or county government. Am I exempt from Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) regulations?**

**A:** Yes, and no. Federal law states municipal vehicles are exempt from some inspection requirements; and log book and medical card rules, etc. *Municipal vehicles are **NOT** exempt from CDL requirements and weight restrictions.*

Even if a municipal driver or vehicle is exempt from some CMV rules, neither the driver nor the driver's employer is exempt from liability in the event of an accident or injury related to the operation of a commercial vehicle. This is why, increasingly, many municipalities and their insurers require their employees to comply fully with CDL requirements, and all rules for commercial vehicles, regardless of municipal exemptions.

### **Q: What is the definition of a "commercial motor vehicle"?**

**A:** A commercial motor vehicle is any self-propelled or towed motor vehicle used on a highway in interstate or intrastate commerce to transportation passenger or property when the vehicle:

- Has a gross vehicle weight rating or gross combination weight rating of 10,001 pounds or more; or,
- Is designed or used to transportation more than eight passengers (including the driver) for compensation; or,
- Is designed or used to transportation 15 passengers, including the driver, and is not used to transportation passengers for compensation; or,
- Is used in transportation hazardous materials in a quantity requiring placarding.

### **Q: How is the allowable loaded weight of a commercial vehicle determined?**

**A:** The gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) represents the maximum allowable weight, of the vehicle and its load, and is assigned by the vehicle manufacturer. The GVWR includes the weight of the vehicle itself, plus fuel, passengers, cargo, and trailer tongue weight. The manufacturer's original GVWR label is commonly found on the truck door jamb or on the inside of the door. For trailers, it is usually found as a metal tag or plate on the hitch. Depending of the GVWR, the rules and the type of CDL required may vary.

### **Q. What could happen if I get pulled over by Motor Vehicle Enforcement or DOT?**

**A.** There are several different levels of inspection that a MVE officer can conduct. If you are pulled over, a roadside stop may only involve the officer requesting your license, and/or log book or other documentation.

An officer may also ask you to demonstrate that the lights; seat belt; air brakes; steering; wheels and rims, and fuel system, are all in good working order. A more in-depth inspection may involve the officer directing your truck to another location where it can be subjected to a thorough physical inspection, including the officer or or inspector getting underneath the vehicle.

**Q. What does OOS mean?**

**A.** OOS = **O**ut **O**f **S**ervice. This is what can happen if a driver is pulled over by MVE, and his paperwork or vehicle is found to have a serious violation. OOS Violations can render the driver, the vehicle and/or the cargo out of service, and off the road, until the condition(s) or defect(s) can be fixed.

**Q. How much does a MVE ticket cost?**

**A.** Not all violations result in a ticket. However, if a ticket is issued, the fine is generally \$127.50. Multiple tickets may be issued, each carrying that penalty amount. Violations for overweight vehicles can be considerable more expensive, and vary depending on infraction.

**Q. How many MVE officers work in Iowa?**

**A.** There are 88 officers, patrolling Iowa roadways, statewide.

**Q. How can I find out more information about Iowa DOT/MVE rules and regulations?**

**A.** Go to their website: <http://www.iowadot.gov/mvd/CDL/regulations.html> , or contact Captain Kevin Steele: [Kevin.Steele@iowadot.us](mailto:Kevin.Steele@iowadot.us)