

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS PA VEHICLE CODE

"Commercial driver." A person who is either a commercial driver license holder as defined in section 1603 (relating to definitions) or who is driving a commercial motor vehicle.

"Engineering and traffic study." An orderly examination or analysis of physical features and traffic conditions conducted in accordance with regulations of the department and conforming to generally accepted engineering standards and practices for the purpose of ascertaining the need or lack of need for a particular action by the department or local authorities.

"Fleet owner." A person, Federal, State or local government agency or authority owning or leasing 15 or more vehicles who or which provides servicing and repair of the vehicles.

"For-hire motor carrier operations." The transportation of goods or passengers for compensation.

"Full trailer." A trailer so constructed that no part of its weight rests upon the towing vehicle. A semitrailer attached to a towing vehicle by means of an auxiliary front axle or dolly shall be deemed to be a full trailer.

"Gross combination weight rating (GCWR)." The value specified by the manufacturer as the loaded weight of a combination.

"Gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR)." The value specified on the Federal weight certification label by the manufacturer as the loaded weight of a single vehicle.

"Gross weight." The combined weight of a vehicle or combination of vehicles and its load excluding the driver's weight.

"Hazardous material." Any explosive, blasting agent, flammable liquid, combustible liquid, flammable solid, flammable or nonflammable compressed gas, corrosive material, poison, poison gas, irritant, oxidizer, organic peroxide, radioactive material, etiologic agent, cryogenic liquid, hazardous waste, hazardous substance or other material which the department by procedure prescribed in Chapter 83 (relating to hazardous materials transportation) declares to be a hazardous material.

"Motor carrier vehicle."

(1) A truck, truck tractor or combination having a gross vehicle weight rating, gross combination weight rating, registered gross weight, registered combination weight or actual gross weight of 17,001 pounds or more.

(2) A truck, truck tractor or combination engaged in interstate commerce and having a gross vehicle weight rating, gross combination weight rating, registered gross weight, registered combination weight or actual gross weight of 10,001 pounds or more.

"Nondivisible." Incapable of being divided into parts or dismembered without substantially damaging its usefulness or value.

"Registered gross weight."

(1) The maximum gross weight at which a vehicle or combination is registered in this Commonwealth to operate upon a highway, which shall include the weight at which a vehicle or combination is registered for operation in this Commonwealth under any system of proportional registration pursuant to Subchapter C of Chapter 61 (relating to reciprocity).

(2) For the purposes of Chapter 49 (relating to size, weight and load) and the definition of "motor carrier vehicle," if there is no registered gross weight as defined in paragraph (1), then the term shall mean the maximum gross weight at which a vehicle or combination registered in another state is registered or otherwise authorized to operate by such state.

"Semitrailer." A trailer so constructed that some part of its weight rests upon or is carried by the towing vehicle.

"Commercial motor vehicle." A motor vehicle or combination designed or used to transport passengers or property:

(1) if the vehicle has a gross vehicle weight rating or gross vehicle weight of 26,001 or more pounds or such lesser rating as the department shall adopt under the provisions of section 6103(c) (relating to promulgation of rules and regulations by department), as determined by Federal regulation and published by the department as a notice in the Pennsylvania Bulletin;

(1.1) if the vehicle has a gross combination weight rating or gross combination weight of 26,001 pounds or more, whichever is greater, inclusive of a towed unit with a gross vehicle weight rating or gross vehicle weight of more than 10,000 pounds, whichever is greater;

(2) if the vehicle is designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver;

(3) if the vehicle is a school bus; or

(4) if the vehicle is transporting hazardous materials and is required to be placarded in accordance with department regulations.

The term does not include an antique or classic motor vehicle, or an implement of husbandry, or any motor home or recreational trailer operated solely for personal use, or motorized construction equipment, including, but not limited to, motorscrapers, backhoes, motorgraders, compactors, excavators, tractors, trenchers and bulldozers.

