

**THE FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER
SAFETY REGULATIONS, AND
OTHER REQUIRED FORMS MAY
BE OBTAINED FROM:**

**Colorado Motor Carrier's
Association** (303) 433-3375
4060 Elati Street
Denver, Colorado 80216
www.cmca.com

**J.J. Keller &
Associates, Inc.** (800) 558-5011
145 West Wisconsin Avenue
Neenah, Wisconsin 54956
www.jjkeller.com

LabelMaster (800) 723-4327
5724 North Pulaski Road
Chicago, Illinois 60646-6797
www.labelmaster.com

**Commercial Vehicle
Safety Alliance** (301) 564-1623
5430 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 130
Bethesda, Maryland 20814
www.cvsa.org

**COMMERCIAL VEHICLE
INFORMATION CAN BE
OBTAINED THROUGH THE
FOLLOWING AGENCIES:**

**Weight Questions & Port of Entry
Information**

Department of Revenue
Motor Carrier Services
Port of Entry Section (303) 205-5691
www.state.co.us/gov_dir/revenue_dir/MCS_dir/poe.htm

**Commercial Driver's License
Information**

Department of Revenue (303) 227-3221
www.state.co.us/gov_dir/revenue_dir/MV_dir/mv.html

Extra Legal Loads, LVC Permits

Colorado Department
of Transportation (303) 757-9539
(800) 350-3765
www.dot.state.co.us

Colorado Regulated Carriers

Public Utilities
Commission (303) 894-2000
www.dora.state.co.us/PUC

U.S. DOT Information

Federal Highway (303) 969-6748
Administration extension 388
www.fhwa.dot.gov/omc/omchome.html

**Colorado Hazardous Materials
Information**

Colorado State Patrol (303) 239-4546
Hazardous Materials Section
www.hazmatrans.state.co.us/public/default.htm

**Colorado Motor Carrier Safety
Regulations Information**

Colorado State Patrol (303) 273-1875
Motor Carrier Safety Section
www.csp.state.co.us

*LIFE'S A SNAP!
ALWAYS BUCKLE UP*



CFR 49 §392.16

A motor vehicle which has a seat belt assembly installed at the driver's seat shall not be driven unless the driver has properly restrained himself within the seat belt assembly.

CFR 49 §393.93

Every commercial vehicle manufactured on or after January 1, 1965 must be equipped with a seat belt assembly installed at the driver's seat and at the right front outboard seat.

**C.R.S. §42-4-236
and §42-4-237**

Every driver of every front seat passenger, and every person under the age of 16, in a motor vehicle shall wear a fastened safety belt while the motor vehicle is being operated on a street or highway in this state. Additionally, every child under 4 years of age, and who weighs under 40 pounds, must be in a child restraint system that is securely fastened.

**THE SMALL TRUCK
AND COMBINATION
OWNER'S GUIDE
TO THE COMMERCIAL MOTOR
VEHICLE SAFETY REGULATIONS**



**THIS PAMPHLET PROVIDED AS A
PUBLIC SERVICE BY:
COLORADO STATE PATROL
MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY SECTION
15200 SOUTH GOLDEN ROAD
GOLDEN, COLORADO 80401**

Small truck and combination vehicle (vehicles with a GVWR or GCWR, between 10,001 and 26,000 pounds) drivers are not exempt from complying with the safety requirements contained in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSR) as adopted by the State of Colorado, when operating vehicles that meet the definition shown in the following paragraph.

A commercial motor vehicle (CMV), is defined in Colorado Revised Statute §42-4-235 as; "...any self-propelled or towed vehicle bearing an apportioned plate or having a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating (**GVWR**) or gross combination rating (**GCWR**) of ten thousand one pounds or more, which vehicle is used in commerce on the public highways of this state..."

Colorado Revised Statute §42-4-235 requires motor carriers to be knowledgeable of the safety regulations for commercial motor vehicles.

THE FOLLOWING ARE CONDENSED VERSIONS OF SAFETY REGULATIONS THAT ARE SOMETIMES OVERLOOKED

MARKINGS: (Company name and DOT number)

Part §390.21 requires that all CMV's must be marked on both sides with the company name. Interstate and intrastate carriers are required to display their DOT number. The FHWA issues numbers to interstate carriers and the State Patrol, Motor Carrier Safety Section issues numbers to intrastate carriers. Combination vehicles may meet the requirements of this section by marking the trailer if the power unit's GVWR is 10,000 pounds or less.

EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT:

Part §393.95 requires a CMV to have a fire extinguisher with at least a 5 B:C rating and either three bi-directional reflective triangles or fuses.

SAFETY CHAINS ON TRAILERS:

§42-4-506(3) says; "Whenever one vehicle is towing another, in addition to the drawbar or other connection, except a fifth wheel connection meeting the requirements of the department of transportation, safety chains or cables arranged in such a way that it will be impossible for the vehicle being towed to break loose from the vehicle towing in the event the drawbar or other connection were to be broken, loosened, or otherwise damaged shall be used. This subsection (3) shall apply to all motor vehicles, to all trailers*, except semitrailers connected by a proper fifth wheel, and to any dolly used to convert a semitrailer to a full trailer."

**This includes all ball and socket connections.*

TRAILER BRAKES:

Part §393.42 requires brakes on all wheels of all towed vehicles weighing more than 3,000 pounds. This part also requires those towed vehicles that are required to have brakes to have a breakaway brake system to apply the service brakes of the towed vehicle in the event of the towed vehicle becoming detached from the towing vehicle. Colorado Revised Statute §42-4-223 has the same requirement.

RETROFLECTIVE SHEETING AND REFLEX REFLECTORS:

As of June 1, 2001 the retroflective sheeting and reflex reflectors will be required on all trailers and semitrailers with a GVWR of 10,001 pounds or more. Refer to Part §393.13 for specific requirements.

ANNUAL INSPECTIONS:

Part §396.17 requires every CMV to be inspected annually and proof of that inspection to be carried with the CMV. A copy of the annual inspection is required to be kept in the CMV's maintenance file. Part §396.19 provides the requirements for becoming an inspector.

HOURS OF SERVICE REQUIREMENTS:

Part §395.8 requires all commercial vehicle drivers to prepare records of duty status (RODS).

Part §395.1(e) provides an exemption from §395.8, if the driver does not go more than 100 air miles from the point where he or she was dispatched, and the driver returns to the point of dispatch and is totally released from duty within 12 hours and the company keeps time records. The company must maintain those time records for 180 days. The time records must contain the time reporting for work, the time leaving work and the total amount of time on duty for every day of the week.

DRIVER, VEHICLE INSPECTION REPORTS:

If you own more than one CMV*, Part §396.11 requires the driver to prepare a report in writing at the completion of each day's work listing any defect or deficiency discovered. There are eleven specific items the driver must inspect.

**Companies owning one truck and two or more trailers would have more than one CMV.*

I.D., CLEARANCE LIGHTS, AND REFLECTORS:

Part §393.11 requires a CMV that is 80 inches or more in width, to have lights marking the extreme width and height of the vehicle. I.D. and clearance lights are required on the front and rear of the vehicle. Reflectors are required on each side, front and rear, of all CMV's regardless of the vehicle's width. These light and reflector requirements are also covered under State statutes.

LOAD SECUREMENT REQUIREMENTS:

Part §393.100 through §393.106 contains the requirements for securing loads, and the specifications of the load securing devices and front-end structures. A load must be secured to prevent it from shifting or falling off of the vehicle. In addition, each cargo carrying motor vehicle must conform to the applicable rules in §393.102, §393.104 and §393.106.

REAR END PROTECTION:

Part §393.86 requires a CMV that has a clearance at the rear end of more than 30 inches from the ground when empty, and the measurement from the rear tires to the rear of the bed is 24 inches or more, must have a device substantially constructed and firmly attached to the frame, to prevent a vehicle from going under the rear of the CMV. Rear impact guards are also required on trailers with a GVWR of 10,001 pounds or more.

There are many additional safety regulations that must be complied with, such as tires, suspension, steering etc., that this informational pamphlet due to space limitations, cannot cover. All motor carriers should obtain a copy of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSR) to refer to, for all the safety regulations. A copy of the FMCSR may be obtained from the organizations listed in this pamphlet.
