

Adopting the Under-the-Hood Waiver: Process for Massachusetts

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration is allowing state driver's licensing agencies to waive the "under-the-hood" portion of the vehicle inspection skills test for public transit operators seeking a CDL. "Under-the-hood" refers specifically to the engine compartment component of the vehicle inspection test, as outlined in [49 CFR §383.113\(a\)\(1\)\(i\)](#).

This information is designed to help transit agencies advocate for the under-the-hood waiver to be adopted in Massachusetts. See the briefing document titled "[Under-the-Hood](#)" CDL Waiver for Transit Bus Operators for additional information on the waiver and its purpose.

State driver's licensing agency	Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles P.O. Box 55889 Boston, MA 02205
State licensing agency contacts	Colleen Ogilvie, Registrar of Motor Vehicles Phone: 857-368-8000 Email: Colleen.Ogilvie@state.ma.us
Current State testing procedures	CDL applicants who have held a permit for at least 14 days are permitted to schedule and take a road test to get their CDL license. The pre-trip inspection includes under-the-hood. Road tests are conducted at locations throughout the State of Massachusetts.
Waived components	Section 11.5 of the Massachusetts Commercial Driver's License Manual details the under-the-hood components currently required for CDL operators.
Waiver eligibility	The waiver is for operators seeking a new Class A/B CDL license with a Passenger (P) endorsement. Operators must have an intrastate-only and a transit-bus-only restriction on their license.
Existing CDL endorsements and restrictions	Massachusetts has the following CDL endorsements and restrictions pertinent to the waiver: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intrastate only: Yes (K restriction) • Transit bus only: No A full list of Massachusetts CDL endorsements and restrictions can be found here .
State CDL licensing regulations	Massachusetts CDL regulations are outlined in Chapter 90F: Uniform Operation of Commercial Motor Vehicles Act . Relevant sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 5: Operation of commercial vehicles; learner's permits; suspended driving privileges; waivers • Section 6: Commercial driver licensing; testing procedures • Section 8: Commercial driver licenses; issuance; expiration; renewal
Implementing under-the-hood waiver	States granting licenses under the waiver must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the names and CDL numbers of operators issued a CDL pursuant to the exemption to FMCSA each month. • Mark licenses with a stamp, punch, or label to clearly indicate that the operator is licensed for transit-bus-only and intrastate-only operation. • Place a transit-bus-only restriction on the CDL. If States do not already have a transit-bus-only restriction or category, they may create one. However, a new category is not required as long as the license is clearly marked.