

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

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 Michigan. 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	Michigan Department of State 430 W. Allegan St. Richard H. Austin Building, fourth floor Lansing, MI 48918
State licensing agency contacts	Shelly Belton, State Bureau Admin, Bureau of Quality & Customer Experience Phone: 517-243-9388 Email: BeltonS@Mi.gov
Current State testing procedures	CDL applicants who have held a permit for at least 14 days are permitted to schedule and take various driving skills tests to get their CDL license. The vehicle inspection includes under-the-hood. Skills tests are administered by driver testing businesses throughout the State of Michigan.
Waived components	Section 11.1 of the Michigan Commercial Driver's 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	Michigan 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 Michigan CDL endorsements and restrictions can be found here .
State CDL licensing regulations	Michigan's CDL regulations are outlined in the Michigan Vehicle Code . Relevant section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 257.312e Operation of commercial motor vehicle
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.