

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

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 Pennsylvania. 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	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation 1101 S. Front St. Harrisburg, PA 17104
State licensing agency contacts	Kara Templeton, Deputy Secretary for Driver and Vehicle Services Phone: 717-412-5300 Email: ktempleton@pa.gov
Current State testing procedures	CDL applicants who have held a permit for at least 15 days are permitted to schedule and take the CDL Skills Test to get their CDL license. The vehicle inspection includes under-the-hood. Skills tests are conducted at locations throughout Pennsylvania.
Waived components	Section 10.M5 of the updated Commonwealth of Pennsylvania 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	Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania CDL endorsements and restrictions can be found here .
State CDL licensing regulations	Pennsylvania's CDL regulations are outlined in the PA Vehicle Code (Title 75). Relevant section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 16: Commercial Drivers
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.