

## Adopting the Under-the-Hood Waiver: Process for Washington State

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 Washington. See the briefing document titled "[Under-the-Hood](#)" CDL Waiver for Transit Bus Operators for additional information on the waiver and its purpose.

<b>State driver's licensing agency</b>	<a href="#">Washington State Department of Licensing</a> P.O. Box 9030 Olympia, WA 98507-9030
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<b>Current State testing procedures</b>	CDL applicants who have held a permit for at least 14 days are permitted to <a href="#">schedule and take the skills test</a> to get their CDL license. The skills test includes under-the-hood. Skills tests are conducted at locations throughout Washington.
<b>Waived components</b>	Section 11.M5 of the <a href="#">Washington State Commercial Driver Guide Supplemental Materials</a> details the under-the-hood components currently required for CDL operators.
<b>Waiver eligibility</b>	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.
<b>Existing CDL endorsements and restrictions</b>	Washington has the following CDL endorsements and restrictions pertinent to the waiver: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intrastate only: Yes (K restriction)</li> <li>• Transit bus only: No</li> </ul> A full list of Washington CDL endorsements and restrictions can be found <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>State CDL licensing regulations</b>	Washington's CDL regulations are outlined in <a href="#">Chapter 46.25 RCW: Uniform Commercial Driver's Act</a> . Relevant section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">46.25.060 Knowledge and skills examination, exemptions, fee distribution</a></li> </ul>
<b>Implementing under-the-hood waiver</b>	States granting licenses under the waiver must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit the names and CDL numbers of operators issued a CDL pursuant to the exemption to FMCSA each month.</li> <li>• Mark licenses with a stamp, punch, or label to clearly indicate that the operator is licensed for transit-bus-only and intrastate-only operation.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>