

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.

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State licensing agency contacts	Marcus J. Glasper, Agency Director Phone: 360-902-3600 Brad Benfield, Assistant Director, Programs and Services Phone: 360-902-3600 Email: BBenfield@dol.wa.gov
Current State testing procedures	CDL applicants who have held a permit for at least 14 days are permitted to schedule and take the skills test to get their CDL license. The skills test includes under-the-hood. Skills tests are conducted at locations throughout Washington.
Waived components	Section 11.M5 of the Washington State Commercial Driver Guide Supplemental Materials 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	Washington 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 Washington CDL endorsements and restrictions can be found here .
State CDL licensing regulations	Washington's CDL regulations are outlined in Chapter 46.25 RCW: Uniform Commercial Driver's Act . <p>Relevant section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 46.25.060 Knowledge and skills examination, exemptions, fee distribution
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.