

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

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 Wisconsin. 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	Wisconsin Department of Transportation 4822 Madison Yards Way Madison, WI 53705
State licensing agency contacts	Tommy Winkler, Administrator, Division of Motor Vehicles Phone: 608-266-2481 Email: Tommy.WinklerJr@dot.wi.gov
Current State testing procedures	CDL applicants who have held a permit for at least 14 days are permitted to schedule and take the CDL skills exam to get their CDL license. The vehicle inspection test includes under-the-hood. Skills exams are conducted at locations throughout Wisconsin.
Waived components	Section 11.M5 of the Wisconsin 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	Wisconsin 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 Wisconsin CDL endorsements and restrictions can be found here (see pages 13–14).
State CDL licensing regulations	Wisconsin's CDL regulations are outlined in Chapter 343: Operator's Licenses . Relevant sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 343.16 Examination of applicants; reexamination of licensed persons • 343.17 Contents and issuance of operator's license
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.