



Course Description

TRA0084 | Truck Driver Heavy Florida Class "B" | 5.00 credits

The Truck Driver Heavy Florida Class "B" course prepares students for entry into the trucking and logistics industry. Students explore career opportunities and requirements of a professional class "B" truck driver. Students study vehicle safety, accident prevention, operating regulations, cargo handling, documentation procedures, pre-trip preparation, vehicle inspection, maintenance, service, control procedures, backing, maneuvering, road and hazardous driving skills, and licensing requirements. Prerequisites/Co-requisite Information: Must have a valid Florida Driver's License and good driving record, must have Commercial Learner's Permit, must pass DOT Health Examination, must pass DOT Drug Test.

Course Competencies:

Competency 1: The student will be able to understand vehicle safety and accident prevention procedures by:

1. Identifying and explaining the use of vehicle safety equipment
2. Utilizing fire extinguishers
3. Utilizing seat belts and personal protection gear appropriate to the type of operation
4. Describing safe lifting procedures
5. Describing personal safety equipment and procedures
6. Describing actions applicable for vehicle accidents
7. Reviewing reports in a classroom activity
8. Preparing accident reports according to company, state, and federal requirements
9. Identifying all information needed for accident reports to the State, the employer, and the insurance company
10. Reviewing an accident report
11. Describing procedures for protecting the scene of an accident
12. Describing personal liability requirements
13. Identifying hazardous road conditions that are a potential threat to the safety of the truck driver
14. Describing activities and characteristics of other road users that make them potentially dangerous
15. Describing the potential consequences of excessive speed
16. Describing the potential consequences of the use of drugs or alcohol
17. Describing and demonstrating safety procedures for entering and exiting vehicles

Competency 2: The student will be able to understand and comply with vehicle operating regulations by:

1. Complying with Hours of Service regulations
2. Maintaining a complete, neat, and accurate driver's duty status log, including discussion of electronic logs
3. Keeping accurate records required by hours of service regulations
4. Reviewing mathematical calculations necessary to recap and apply totals to the hours of service regulations
5. Determining driving hours remaining on a particular day or tour of duty
6. Complying with applicable United States Department of Transportation regulations, including Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration rules and regulations - Compliance, Safety, and Accountability (CSA), particularly the role of drivers and motor carriers
7. Complying with Federal, State, and local traffic laws, including restrictions on vehicle size and weight, including permits when required

Competency 3: The student will demonstrate proper cargo handling and documentation procedures by:

1. Loading and unloading cargo safely and efficiently
2. Calculating legal gross weight and axle weight
3. Describing cargo load to meet legal weight and safety requirements
4. Explaining how to secure cargo using blocking, bracing, packing, rope, cable, chains, and strapping

5. Identifying types of hazardous cargoes
6. Applying the placement of placards when carrying hazardous materials
7. Applying correct procedure for the use of common cargo handling equipment, including pallets, jacks, dollies, hand trucks, nets, slings, poles, and other equipment
8. Identifying categories of hazardous materials and the need for specialized training to handle hazardous materials
9. Identifying hazardous materials documentation requirements
10. Verifying nature, amount and condition of cargo on both pickup and delivery
11. Verifying information on the bill of lading and properly recording and reporting discrepancies and damage to the cargo. Verifying appropriate signatures on delivery receipts and other required forms
12. Comparing door seal number against shipping document
13. Complying with inspection station procedures

Competency 4: The student will be able to demonstrate vehicle inspection procedures by:

1. Checking for previous days' DVIR. Checking the general appearance and condition of the vehicle
2. Checking fuel, oil, water levels, automatic transmission fluid level, and diesel emissions fluid (DEF)
3. Checking signal lights, stoplights, and running lights
4. Checking tires, rims, and suspension
5. Checking horns, windshield wipers, mirrors, and reflectors
6. Checking emergency bi-directional reflective triangles and fire extinguishers
7. Checking instruments for regular readings
8. Checking steering system, brake action and tractor protection valve
9. Checking cargo blocking, bracing, and tie down
10. Checking to perform route inspections. Performing a post-trip inspection of the vehicle and all systems

Competency 5: The student will be able to demonstrate trip planning preparation procedures by:

1. Checking vehicle registration and permit
2. Checking accident report packets for proper contents
3. Planning a route from one point to another that is optimal in terms of travel time, fuel costs, potential hazards, and federal, state, and local travel restrictions
4. Describing the use of manual and contemporary GPS navigation systems
5. Estimating travel times and arranging a secure place for layovers, especially when transporting hazardous materials
6. Demonstrating map reading skills
7. Estimating fuel consumption and planning fuel stops. Estimating expense money and obtaining funds and/or credit cards

Competency 6: The student will be able to perform vehicle maintenance and servicing procedures by:

1. Describing the function and operation of principal vehicle systems, including engine, engine auxiliary brake, drive train, coupling, suspension and electrical system, DEP engines, and regeneration processes where applicable
2. Checking engine fuel, DEF fluid, oil, coolant, battery, and filters
3. Checking tire air pressure
4. Checking for proper tire and wheel mounting
5. Draining moisture from air brake supply reservoirs
6. Checking brakes and related systems
7. Cleaning and repairing lights
8. Checking fuses and reset circuit breakers
9. Cleaning the interior and exterior of the vehicle
10. Checking mud/rain flaps

Competency 7: The student will be able to perform vehicle maintenance and servicing procedures by:

1. Placing transmission in neutral before starting the engine. Starting, warming up, and shutting down

- the engine according to the manufacturer's specifications
2. Building full pressure (120-140 PSI) in air tanks or to governed cut-out
 3. Testing parking and service brakes before moving/driving the vehicle
 4. Coordinating the use of the accelerator and clutch to achieve smooth acceleration and avoid clutch abuse (if applicable)
 5. Maintaining proper engine RPM while driving (if applicable)
 6. Properly modulating air brakes to bring the vehicle to a smooth stop
 7. Properly shifting up and down through all gears using a clutch (if applicable)
 8. Double clutching non-synchronized transmissions and time shifting for smooth and fuel-efficient performance (if applicable)
 9. Selecting proper gear for speed and highway conditions (if applicable)

Competency 8: The student will be able to demonstrate backing skills and basic vehicle maneuvers by:

1. Checking area before and during backing
2. Utilizing guides and mirrors properly
3. Backing in straight lines and curved paths properly
4. Backing into both 45 and 90 alley docks properly
5. Navigating through a 100 feet alley both forward and backward
6. Demonstrating an offset left/ right backing maneuver
7. Positioning unit for backing into a loading dock. Backing to a dock. (actual or simulated)
8. Stopping the unit within 36 inches of the dock without contacting the dock. (actual or simulated)
9. Identifying parallel parks (nightside/ blindside)
10. Identifying side, rear, and overhead clearances and the trailer's path
11. Making a straight-in approach to an alley
12. Driving forward through an alley for 100 feet

Competency 9: The student will be able to demonstrate road driving skills by:

1. Carefully entering traffic from a stopped or parked position
2. Using clutch and gears properly (if applicable)
3. Proceeding from a stopped position without rolling backward
4. Using mirrors properly
5. Signaling intention to turn well in advance of the turn
6. Getting into the proper lane well in advance of the turn
7. Checking traffic conditions and turning only when the intersection is clear
8. Restricting traffic from passing on the right when preparing to complete a right-hand turn
9. Maintaining 3 feet or less on the right side of the vehicle
10. Executing a right-hand turn, maintaining 3 feet or less on the right side of the vehicle
11. Completing a turn promptly and safely and not impede other traffic
12. Selecting and shifting to the proper gear prior to beginning any turn (if applicable)
13. Obeying all traffic signals. Planning stops in advance and adjusts speed correctly
14. Using brakes properly on grades
15. Planning stops far enough in advance to avoid hard braking
16. Stopping clear of crosswalks
17. Coming to a complete stop at all stop signs. Yielding right of way at intersections having yield signs
18. Checking for cross traffic regardless of traffic signals
19. Approaching all intersections, prepared to stop if necessary. Stopping a minimum of 15 feet but not more than 50

Learning Outcomes:

- Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills
- Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning
- Describe how natural systems function and recognize the impact of humans on the environment