



Idaho State Police

Service Since 1939



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IDAHO EXEMPTIONS FROM MEDICAL CARDS

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One of the most common questions my office receives is which intrastate (operate only in Idaho) commercial vehicle drivers are exempt from the medical card qualifications in 49 CFR.

The answer to this question is found in Idaho Code and the Idaho State Police Motor Carrier Administrative Rules.

Idaho Code §67-2901B has 13 exemptions listed in the code. Some of the exemptions are specific and some are broad. These exemptions are outlined below.

(a) Motor vehicles employed solely in transporting school children and teachers to or from school or to and from approved school activities, when the motor vehicles are either:

(i) Wholly owned and operated by such school, or

(ii) Leased or contracted by such school and the motor vehicle is not used in the furtherance of any other commercial enterprise (school buses are required to conform to the requirements contained in the Idaho Department of Education School, Standards for Idaho School Buses and Operations Manual); or

(b) Taxicabs or other motor vehicles performing a licensed or franchised taxicab service, having a seating capacity of not more than seven (7) passengers within twenty-five (25) miles of the boundaries of the licensing or franchising jurisdiction (Many local municipalities do regulate taxi operations); or

(c) Motor vehicles owned or operated by or on behalf of hotels and used exclusively for the transportation of hotel patrons between hotels and local railroads or airports or other common carrier stations; or

(d) Motor vehicles controlled and operated by any farmer when used in the transportation of his farm equipment or in the transportation of supplies to his farm (Intrastate Transportation of hazardous materials is federally regulated); or

- (e) Motor vehicles used exclusively in the distribution of newspapers; or*
- (f) Transportation of persons or property by motor vehicle at an airport when incidental to transportation by aircraft or other transportation in substitution for scheduled airline service when the carrier cannot provide the scheduled service because of weather and/or mechanical conditions and the transportation is arranged for and paid by the affected airlines; or*
- (g) Transportation of persons and/or property, including mobile and modular houses manufactured with wheels and undercarriage as part of the substructure, but not transportation of other houses, buildings or structures within a municipality or territory contiguous to such municipality if such operation outside such municipality be a part of a service maintained within the limits of the municipality with the privilege of transfer of passengers to vehicles within the municipality without additional fare (mobile/modular homes moved within a city or adjoining area and buses operated by municipalities); or*
- (h) *The transportation of agricultural products including fresh fruits and vegetables, livestock, livestock feed or manure at any time of the year (This exemption is product specific.); or*
- (i) Motor propelled vehicles for the sole purpose of carrying United States mail or property belonging to the United States (The purpose of this exemption is for the vehicles transporting mail to private residences. Trucks transporting any interstate mail are not exempt.); or*
- (j) *Motor carriers transporting products of the forest at any time of the year (This exemption is product specific.); or*
- (k) *Motor carriers transporting products of the mine including sand, gravel and aggregates thereof, except petroleum products and wet concrete (This exemption is product specific.) ; or*
- (l) Motor carriers transporting household goods as defined by the federal surface transportation board; or*
- (m) Vehicles properly equipped, designed and customarily used for the transportation of disabled or abandoned vehicles by means of a crane, hoist, tow bar, dolly or roll bed, which vehicle shall be known as a "wrecker (tow truck)."*

***This is supported by a exempt/regulated commodity list maintained by the Idaho State Police at <http://www.isp.idaho.gov/cvs/commodities.html>.**

It is important to note that many of these exemptions are commodity specific and only apply when the exempt commodity is being transported. Many drivers transport exempt commodities on some loads and are regulated on other loads. These drivers will need a medical card.

The Idaho State Police Motor Carrier Administrative Rules contain a limited exemption for commercial vehicles transporting only property in vehicles with a GVW, GVWR, GCW or GCWR greater than ten thousand (10,000) pounds and up to twenty-six thousand (26,000) pounds. Drivers of these vehicles are not required to have a medical card; however, they are still required to comply with some of the safety regulations. This rule can be found at <http://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/2011/11/1301.pdf>. This exemption does not apply if transporting placardable quantities of hazardous materials or passengers.

The medical card regulations can be complicated. It is important to know before you drive. It is even more important today, because your medical card is tied to your CDL. If you need help trying to determine if you need a medical card, please contact the Idaho State Police Commercial Vehicle Safety Division at 208-884-7220.