WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING

Commercial Driver License (CDL) Waivers Annual Report

RCW 46.25.060(2)(a)

Washington State Department of Licensing

Legislative and Policy Office

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ADA Accessibility

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Commercial Driver License (CDL) Waivers Annual Report

CDL Waivers

RCW 46.25.060(2)(a) requires the Department of Licensing to send an annual report to the House and Senate Transportation Committees and the Joint Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs of the Legislature on the number and types of waivers granted to current and former military service members who meet the requirements of 49 C.F.R Sec. 383.77. For qualifying current and former military service members, RCW 46.25.060(2)(a) allows the department to waive the skills examination, the requirement for completion of a course of instruction in the operation of a commercial motor vehicle, and the knowledge test.

Qualifying Experience under 49 C.F.R Sec. 383.77

Service members who drove trucks in the military may be eligible to get a commercial driver license (CDL) without having to meet training requirements or needing to take a knowledge and skills test.

To qualify for a waiver, current and former military service members must:

- Have 2 or more years' experience driving commercial vehicles as part of their military job,
- meet all requirements on the Application for Military Skills Test Waiver, and
- be currently active **or** within 12 months of an honorable discharge.

Waiver Application Process

When applying for a CDL, applicants can submit a Military CDL Knowledge Test or Knowledge and Skills Test Waiver Application form to a Licensing Services Office (LSO), or by mailing it to the department. The department's website includes instructions on how to apply, and who qualifies, for these waivers on the Military experience waiver page.

Initial Reporting Period

This is the third CDL Annual Waivers Report. To provide the maximum available information, this initial report covers the time-period from January 1, 2025, through November 1, 2025. It is expected that future reports will provide data on a fiscal year basis, unless otherwise noted.

CDL Waiver Issuances in 2025

First/Original CDL Issuances January 1, 2025, through November 1, 2025	
Total Statewide*	8,258
With Veteran Designation**	544
With Active Military Designation**	2
With both a Veteran and Military Designation**	1
Total Current and Former Military Designations Issued* **	**547**

Military Waivers added from January 1, 2025, through November 1, 2025	
Number of customers with a military CDL test waiver added to their record	29
Number of customers to date with a subsequent CDL issuance	24
*While we have a table that captures these in DRIVES, we don't know if these records are complete. We are also unable to determine what test was waived.	

Total CDL Issuances in 2025

Counts of Active CDL Credentials as of November 1, 2025	
Total Statewide	189,026
With Veteran Designation**	15,101
With Active Military Designation**	397
With both a Veteran and Military Designation**	46
Total Active CDLs with Veteran and/or Active Military Designations* **	**15,544**
*These are first time issuance. The Stat's & Trends "original" CDL counts can include upgrades and were pulled at a different time in a production database that changes constantly, so those counts may not align with the numbers provided here.	
**Customers may choose not to disclose their military or veteran status.	