

Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Waivers Annual Report

DECEMBER 2021



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.

Under federal law, a CDL is not allowed an indefinite military expiration. The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR 383.73(b) (9)) doesn't allow expirations beyond 8 years.

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 first CDL Annual Waivers Report. In order to provide the maximum available information, this initial report covers the time period from January 1, 2021 through November 1, 2021. It is expected that future reports will provide data on a fiscal year basis, unless otherwise noted.

CDL Waiver Issuances in 2021

| First/Original CDL Issuances January 1, 2021, through November 1, 2021 | |
|---|------------|
| Total Statewide* | 8,835 |
| With a Veteran Designation** | 637 |
| With an Active Military Designation** | 106 |
| Total Current and Former Military Designations Issued*** | 743 |

| Military Waivers added from January 1, 2021, and November 1, 2021 | |
|---|----|
| Customers with a knowledge test waiver only added to their record | 0 |
| Customers with a CDL skills test waiver added to their record | 26 |
| Customers with a combination skills and knowledge test waiver | 64 |

Total CDL Issuances in 2021

| Counts of Active CDL Credentials as of November 1, 2021 | |
|--|---------------|
| Total Statewide | 187,579 |
| With a Veteran Designation** | 9,976 |
| With an Active Military Designation** | 289 |
| Total Active CDLs with Veteran and/or Active Military Designations*** | 10,265 |
| *These are first issuance only and do not include any upgrades to existing CDL holders. | |
| **Customers may choose not to disclose their military or veteran status. | |
| ***The CDL military waiver criteria is much more specific and defined than the general veteran and active military designation criteria. | |