

BuildND.org

Heavy Truck Driver

Job Description

Truck drivers (heavy) drive trucks such as water, trailer, or dump trucks with a capacity of more than three tons transporting materials to specified destinations on construction sites. They operate equipment on the vehicle to load, secure, and unload/disperse cargo/materials, or they may assist in loading, securing, and unloading the truck manually. They maintain radio or telephone contact with base or a supervisor to receive instructions or be dispatched to new location. They keep records of materials and products transported. They may also be responsible for cleaning, inspecting, and servicing the vehicle.

Work Conditions

Truck drivers (heavy) drive trucks such as water, trailer, or dump trucks with a capacity of more than three tons transporting materials to specified destinations on construction sites. They operate equipment on the vehicle to load, secure, and unload/disperse cargo/materials, or they may assist in loading, securing, and unloading the truck manually. They maintain radio or telephone contact with base or a supervisor to receive instructions or be dispatched to new location. They keep records of materials and products transported. They may also be responsible for cleaning, inspecting, and servicing the vehicle.

How to Become a Heavy Truck Driver

Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers usually have a high school diploma and attend a professional truck driving school. They must have a commercial driver's license (CDL).

- **Education**
 - Most companies require their truck drivers to have a high school diploma or equivalent.
 - Many companies require drivers to attend professional truck-driving schools, where they take training courses to learn how to maneuver large vehicles on highways or through crowded streets. During these classes, drivers also learn the federal laws and regulations governing interstate truck driving. Students attend either a private truck-driving school or a program at a community college that lasts between 3 and 6 months.
 - Upon finishing these classes, drivers receive a certificate of completion.
 - The Professional Truck Driver Institute (PTDI) certifies a small percentage of driver-training courses at truck-driver training schools that meet both the industry standards and the U.S. Department of Transportation guidelines for training tractor-trailer drivers.
- **Training**
 - After completing truck driving school and being hired by a company, drivers normally receive between 1 and 3 months of on-the-job training. During this time, they drive a truck with a more experienced mentor-driver in the passenger seat. This period of on-the-job training is to learn more about the specific type of truck they will drive and material they will be transporting.
- **Licenses, Certifications, and Registrations**
 - All heavy truck drivers must have a commercial driver's license (CDL). Qualifications for obtaining a CDL vary by state but generally include passing both a knowledge test and a driving test. States have the right to refuse to issue a CDL to anyone who has had a CDL suspended by another state. For each year of the program, apprentices must have at least 144 hours of technical instruction and 2,000 hours of paid on-the-job training.



Associated General Contractors of North Dakota
22 North Second Street, PO Box 1624, Bismarck, ND 58502
(800) 472-2120, (701) 223-2770
www.agcnd.org



BuildND.org

- Drivers can get endorsements to their CDL that show their ability to drive a specialized type of vehicle. Truck drivers transporting hazardous materials (HAZMAT) must have a hazardous materials endorsement (H). Getting this endorsement requires an additional knowledge test and a background check. After completing an apprenticeship program, painters are considered journey workers and may perform tasks on their own.
 - Federal regulations require random testing of on-duty truck drivers for drug or alcohol abuse. In addition, truck drivers can have their CDL suspended if they are convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs or are convicted of a felony involving the use of a motor vehicle.
 - Other actions can result in a suspension after multiple violations. The [Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration](#) website has a list of these violations. Additionally, some companies have stricter standards than what federal regulations require.
- **Important Qualities**
 - **Hand-eye coordination**

Drivers of heavy trucks and tractor-trailers must be able to coordinate their legs, hands, and eyes simultaneously so that the driver reacts appropriately to the situation around them and drives the vehicle safely.
 - **Hearing ability**

Truck drivers need good hearing. Federal regulations require that a driver be able to hear a forced whisper in one ear at 5 feet (with or without the use of a hearing aid).
 - **Physical health**

Federal regulations do not allow people to become truck drivers if they have a medical condition that may interfere with their ability to operate a truck, such as high blood pressure or epilepsy. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration website has a full list of medical conditions that disqualify someone from driving a long-haul truck.
 - **Visual ability**

Truck drivers must be able to pass vision tests. Federal regulations require a driver to have at least 20/40 vision with a 70-degree field of vision in each eye and the ability to distinguish the colors on a traffic light.

Wage Information:

The table below shows the estimated Employment Wage Statistics for individuals in North Dakota employed as HeavyTruck Driver in 2013.

Rate Type	Entry level	Mean	Experienced
Annual Wage	\$35,380	\$47,580	\$53,680
Hourly Wage	\$17.01	\$22.88	\$25.81



Associated General Contractors of North Dakota
22 North Second Street, PO Box 1624, Bismarck, ND 58502
(800) 472-2120, (701) 223-2770
www.agcnd.org

