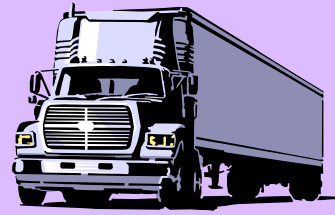


# COMMERCIAL VEHICLE

## FACT SHEET



**MYTH:** "My truck has a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of less than 26,001 lbs., so I don't have to comply with the Motor Carrier Safety Regulations."

**FACT:** The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations apply to all commercial vehicles and vehicle combinations with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating of 10,001 lbs. or more. They have historically **always** applied at or above the 10,000 lb. GVWR range.

**MYTH:** "I don't cross state lines in my truck, so I don't have to comply with Motor Carrier Safety Regulations."

**FACT:** The Georgia Department of Public Safety (MCCD) has adopted the Federal Motor Carrier Safety regulations (FMCSRs) and Federal Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR) as state regulations; these regulations have the force and effect of law.

**MYTH:** "I don't make a profit with my truck, so therefore I don't meet the 'commercial' criteria."

**FACT:** If you derive a tax benefit from your vehicle, such as deductions for business purposes, or the truck carries advertising for your business, the vehicle is indeed commercial. "Non-profit" does not mean non-commercial – charitable entities, such as Red Cross, Salvation Army, and Goodwill Industries are considered commercial entities.

**MYTH:** These regulations and laws are recently enacted.

**FACT:** These regulations are **not** new. While many aspects of the regulations are relatively new (such as alcohol and drug testing), many of these Federal and State regulations date to the 1930's.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations appear in Title 49 of the United States Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 350-399 (49 CFR Parts 350-399). In section §390.5, these regulations define a commercial vehicle as one which meets any one of the following:

- Has a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,001 lbs. or more (single vehicle or total GVWR of a combination of vehicles);
- Is designed or used to transport more than 8 passengers (including the driver) for compensation; or
- Is designed or used to transport more than 15 passengers (including the driver) and is not used to transport passengers for compensation; or
- Is used to transport hazardous materials in a type and quantity requiring placards.

In addition, the Department of Public Safety (MCCD) has adopted regulations for ALL vehicles, *regardless of GVWR*, which meet any one of the following:

- A "for-hire carrier of passengers or property (such as non-emergency medical transporters, limousines, courier services, parcel delivery services, and tow trucks);
- A vehicle with a GVWR of 10,000 lbs. or *less*, which transports a hazardous material in a quantity that does *not* require placards.

The 10,001 lb. definition applies to single vehicles or combinations with a total GVWR of 10,001 lbs. or more. For example, many Ford F-350 series trucks have a GVWR that falls just below the 10,001 lb. threshold.



A Safety Message from Project P.I.E.  
(Public Information & Education)  
FACT SHEET #11  
Georgia Department of Public Safety  
Motor Carrier Compliance Division  
P.O. Box 1456  
Atlanta, GA 30371-1456  
(404) 624-7211 [www.dps.georgia.gov](http://www.dps.georgia.gov)