Truck and Trailer Safety

With DPS Officer Chase Livingston
How much do you weigh?

- Expectations and regulations vary by truck & trailer weight

- 2 broad categories that include most landscapers:
  - GVW or GVWR 26,001 lbs or more (must follow CMV Rules if in Intrastate Commerce.) (Recent Change HB 2455)
  - GVW or GCWR 10,001 lbs or more (must follow CMV Rules if in Interstate Commerce.)

- *****Intrastate means stays within Arizona*****
GVW and GVWR less than 26,001 lbs

- Gross vehicle weight includes vehicle, trailer and load
- Subject to A.R.S. (Arizona Revised Statutes) Codes
- Refer to sheet with statues 28-929 which talks about trailer requirements
Lights needed on a trailer per ARS Title 28
Light Trucks with or without trailers (under GVW and GVWR 26,001 lbs)

- Can be pulled over if they look ‘unsafe’ and other A.R.S. Violations
- For example:
  - Broken tail lights
  - Blinkers don’t work
  - Something else related to safety of driver and other vehicles on the roadway (ex. Debris falling onto road/ loose load)
Vehicles weighing over 26,001 lbs

- These vehicles can be pulled over at any time without an obvious reason for a safety inspection
- Subject to adopted Federal regulations **NOT** just Arizona Title 28 Statutes
- Need all of the same lights, reflectors, and other safety features as the light vehicles plus:
  - Trailer brakes need to be operating
  - Emergency brake needs to be connected properly
  - No bare or unattached wires may be visible
  - Driver needs medical certificate from approved physician (see FMCSA website for list)
More on Medical Card

- Needs to be kept on file in company office.
- Driver receives a wallet card to carry, 2\textsuperscript{nd} violation of not possessing a medical certificate on a non-CDL vehicle will place the driver out of service until he possesses a valid Medical Certificate.
- Officers can verify medical card information when they run a driver’s license if the driver possesses a current CDL.
Pre-Trip Checks

- This is for safety and liability.
- It’s not required on vehicles with GCWR 26,000lbs or less, but it is still a good idea to implement for a company’s maintenance program.
- Before driving a motor vehicle, the driver shall:
  - (a) Be satisfied that the motor vehicle is in safe operating condition;
  - (b) Review the last driver vehicle inspection report; and
  - (c) Sign the report, only if defects or deficiencies were noted by the driver who prepared the report, to acknowledge that the driver has reviewed it and that there is a certification that the required repairs have been performed. The signature requirement does not apply to listed defects on a towed unit which is no longer part of the vehicle combination.
Pre-Trip Checks

- Check and tighten bolts
- Check hoses for cracks and leaks
- Check things that hold fluids for leaks
- Check tires for pressure and worn tread
- Check hitch, coupler and chains
Post Trip Inspections

- Required on GVW/GVWR 26,001 lbs or more.
Vehicle combinations over 26,001 lbs

- May require a CDL (commercial driver’s license) in most situations
- See Flow Chart in your packet
- Medical Certificate for CDL driver must be submitted to MVD
- Must Follow all FMCSR and State laws
CDL Flowchart

Examine the Driver’s License

There are three types of commercial driver’s licenses: Class A, B, and C. Drivers of light vehicles — passenger cars and pick up trucks — will be issued an operator’s license.

Class A — Combination of vehicles with a gross combination weight rating (GCWR) or gross vehicle weight over 26,000 pounds, provided the GVWR or GVW of the vehicle(s) being towed is greater than 10,000 pounds. A driver with a Class A license will be able to drive Class A, B, and C commercial vehicles with proper endorsements when required.

Class B — Single vehicles with a GVWR or GVW over 26,000 pounds, or any such vehicle towing a vehicle under 10,000 GVWR or GVW. A driver with a Class B license will be able to drive Class B and C commercial vehicles with proper endorsement when required.

Class C — Vehicles with a GVWR or GVW less than 26,001 pounds. Class C is strictly for vehicles designed to carry 16 or more people or carry hazardous materials in quantities large enough to require a placard. A Class C license holder will be able to drive Class C commercial vehicles only.

383.5 Definition of GCWR — means the value specified by the manufacturer as the loaded weight of a combination (articulated) vehicle. In absence of a value specified by the manufacturer, the GCWR will be determined by adding the GVWR of the power unit and the total weight of the towed unit and load thereon.

ENDORSEMENTS
T = Double/Trailer
P = Passenger vehicle designed to carry 16 or more people, including driver.
N = Tank Vehicle
H = Hazardous Materials
X = H/M and Tank Vehicle
S = School Bus

EXEMPTIONS
Drivers of the following are exempted from obtaining a commercial driver’s license:
1. Recreational vehicles for personal use.
4. Farm vehicles (not used for hire or driven 150 miles from the farm)
Common Problems that get trucks/trailers pulled over

- Cargo not properly secured---explain what needs to be covered and how

- Chains and breakaway not hooked up properly

- Trailers come unhooked—by that time it’s too late
Scenarios

WWW.FMCSA.DOT.GOV
Questions

Contact Officer Livingston - clivingston@azdps.gov