Truck Drivers, Heavy

Occupational Profile

WHAT THEY DO
Drives a tractor-trailer combination or a truck with a capacity of at least 26,000 pounds. Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW). May be required to unload truck. Requires commercial drivers’ license. Belongs to the Transportation, Distribution and Logistics cluster and Transportation Operations pathway.

IS THIS FOR YOU?
Work Interests are described in the following categories (compatible with Holland's Model) by people who tend to succeed in this career:
- **Realistic** – You are a "doer". You like physical activities and projects. You like to find the answers to problems by doing hands-on work instead of talking about solutions.
- **Conventional** – You are an "organizer". Keeping things neat and organized is important to you. You like working with charts and reports, and work well with power and authority.

Work Values are aspects of work that are satisfying to you. The following work values are generally associated with this career:
- **Independence**—It’s very important to you that your work allows you to make decisions on your own. You want to try out your own ideas and work with little supervision.
- **Support** – It’s very important to you to know the company stands behind its workers and has competent, considerate and fair management.

Aptitudes reflect a person's ability to acquire skills and knowledge. The following aptitudes are important for success in the career:
- **General Learning Ability**
- **Spatial Perception**
- **Eye-Hand Coordination**
- **Manual Dexterity**

Source: [https://secure.ihaveaplaniowa.gov/](https://secure.ihaveaplaniowa.gov/)

SKILLS YOU NEED
Basic Skills:
- Reading Comprehension
- Active Listening
- Speaking
- Critical Thinking
- Monitoring

Transferable Skills (applicable in other careers):
**High level**
- Operating trains, buses, or trucks to transport people or freight

**Medium level**
- Following travel directions
- Inspecting vehicles
- Loading and unloading materials
- Preparing and maintaining work logs and reports

Workplace Skills:
**High level**
- Operation and Control

**Medium level**
- Judgment and Decision Making
- Operation Monitoring
- Repairing
- Time Management
- Troubleshooting

Additional skills for this occupation may be found at [http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/career-exploration-resources](http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/career-exploration-resources)
State and federal regulations govern the qualifications and standards for truck drivers. All drivers must comply with federal regulations and any state regulations that are in excess of federal requirements. Truck drivers must have a driver’s license issued by the state in which they live, and most employers require a clean driving record. Drivers of trucks designed to carry 26,000 pounds or more — including most tractor-trailers, as well as bigger straight trucks — must obtain a commercial driver’s license (CDL) from the state in which they live. All truck drivers who operate trucks transporting hazardous materials must obtain a CDL, regardless of truck size. Taking driver-training courses is a desirable method of preparing for truck driving jobs and for obtaining a CDL. High school courses in driver training and automotive mechanics also may be helpful. Many private and public vocational-technical schools offer tractor-trailer driver training programs. Iowa licensing information can be found at [http://access.bridges.com/ext/cp/custom_state_data/iowa_licensed_occupations/53-3032.htm](http://access.bridges.com/ext/cp/custom_state_data/iowa_licensed_occupations/53-3032.htm).

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