



# RISK MANAGEMENT BULLETIN

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## NON CDL DRIVERS – ARE YOU IN COMPLIANCE?

In October 2003, the State of Maryland adjusted the requirements for any non-commercial driver operating a commercial vehicle conducting intrastate (within the State of Maryland) commerce. Non-commercial drivers operate under a Class A, B or C license and may operate vehicles with gross vehicle weights (GVW) ranging from 10,001 up to 26,000 pounds without the need for obtaining a commercial driving license (CDL).

Employees of Maryland local governments often operate large vehicles that have a GVW within the range set forth above. In fact, many of these employees have operated vehicles within this GVW range for years. However, as of October 1, 2003, Maryland law *requires* any non-commercial driver operating a vehicle with a GVW in excess of 10,001 pounds to obtain and have in his/her possession a valid Department of Transportation (DOT) Federal Motor Carrier physical card, known as a DL-171. If the DL-171 card is not obtained and maintained in the driver's possession, he/she is not qualified to operate vehicles with a GVW in excess 10,001 pounds in Maryland.

Employees who were licensed prior to October 1, 2013, are required to obtain and maintain a DL-171 card. However, any driver with a pre-existing medical condition cannot and will not be disqualified from passing the DOT required physical. This pre-existing medical condition exemption is valid for 20 years, as long as the medical condition does not worsen.

It is important that LGIT's local government members comply with this requirement. Any failure to comply will be closely scrutinized in the event of an accident. Please confirm the GVW on all government owned and/or operated vehicles and determine whether the employees operating them are properly classed, and, which employees need to obtain the appropriate DOT physical card. Safe Driving is not an accident!

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