

# Overview: Michigan CDL Skills Test

## CDL Skills Test Requirements and Overview

Before taking the CDL skills test, you must:

- ✓ Meet driving record eligibility requirements, pass all required vision and CDL written tests and obtain a CDL Temporary Instruction Permit (TIP).
- ✓ Contact any approved third party driver skills test organization to schedule your CDL skills test. **Ask about the third party CDL skills test fee policy when you schedule your exam.** Your local Secretary of State branch office has information about test site locations in your area.
- ✓ Show the third party driver skills test organization your valid Michigan photo driver license and Medical Examiner's Certificate (commonly known as a DOT card or School Bus card) or medical waiver.
- ✓ Provide a test vehicle(s) with a GVWR representative of the type you plan to drive.
  - Vehicles and trailers used for the CDL skills tests **must be empty** and meet the equipment and safety inspection requirements of the Michigan and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations.
  - Vehicles must include a seat equipped with a safety belt for both the driver and examiner. Buses are not required to have safety belts for the examiner.
  - Vehicles and trailers used for the CDL skills tests must have a valid registration and proof of insurance.
  - Vehicles used for testing must be able to travel at safe and legal highway speeds.
- ✓ Pay the CDL third party skills tests fee.
- ✓ After passing the CDL skills test, receive a Michigan Department of State Driver Skills Test Certificate (TPT-010) only from the approved third party driver skills test organization. Third party organizations are prohibited from releasing any other test documentation except the skills test certificate.
- ✓ Take the skills test certificate directly to any SOS branch office to receive your full privilege CDL. You must redeem your certificate within one (1) year from date of issuance. After one year, you must take all CDL tests again.
- ✓ Pay a correction fee to add the CDL privileges to your license and obtain your temporary CDL.
- ✓ Receive your photo CDL in the mail within about ten (10) business days.

The CDL skills test consists of three separate tests. They are administered in the following order:

- ✓ The Vehicle Inspection Test.
- ✓ The Off-Road Basic Control Skills Test.
- ✓ The On-Road Driving Test.

Each test must be passed before continuing on to the next test. A failure of any one of the CDL skills tests terminates testing. On subsequent attempts, you must start over from the beginning of the test (vehicle inspection test) regardless of which test you failed. You are allowed one (1) attempt per day.

During the tests, you will be evaluated on your knowledge and skills. **Do not** be concerned when the examiner marks the scoring form, since it does not necessarily mean you have done anything wrong.

Sections 11-13 outlines the criteria which will be used to evaluate your knowledge and skills.