

Comparison – Motor Carrier Safety Regulation Exceptions for Agricultural Operations

On October 1, 2012, the way certain federal motor carrier safety regulations apply to agricultural operations will change as provisions of the current highway funding act, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act take effect.

One of the biggest changes is the definition of a **covered farm vehicle**. Starting that day, a covered farm vehicle is one that is

- Operated by a farm/ranch owner or operator, employee or family member within 150 air miles of the farm/ranch.
- Transporting agricultural commodities, livestock, machinery or supplies to or from the farm/ranch.
- The vehicle must be identified by a special license plate. (In Missouri, this is indicated by the 'F' tab on the plate.)
- The vehicle may not be used in for-hire operation

None of these exceptions apply to vehicles required to be placarded for hazardous material.

Topic	Current Exceptions	MAP-21 Exceptions
Commercial Driver's Licensing	<p>CDL is not required for farmers, employees or family members if the vehicle is owned and operated by the farmer transporting farm supplies, farm machinery or agricultural products to or from the farm. The exception is limited to a 150 air-mile radius of the farm. Vehicle may not be used in for-hire operation.</p> <p>Missouri has agreements with surrounding states, except Kentucky, for interstate operation.</p>	<p>A CDL is not required for drivers of covered farm vehicles after October 1, 2012.</p> <p>If the vehicle has a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating or Gross Vehicle Weight in excess of 26,000 pounds, the CDL exception applies in the state the vehicle is licensed from or within a 150 air-mile radius of the farm.</p>
Controlled Substance and Alcohol Testing	<p>Controlled substance and alcohol testing is applicable only when the driver is required to have a CDL.</p>	<p>Controlled substance testing is not required for drivers of covered farm vehicles after October 1, 2012.</p> <p>Controlled substance and alcohol testing is applicable only when the driver is required to have a CDL.</p>



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<p>Medical Certification</p>	<p>Interstate Commerce Medical certification is not required for custom harvesters, bee keepers transporting live bees, or to the drivers of farm straight trucks (without trailers) owned and controlled by the farmer operating within a 150 air-mile radius of the farm transporting agricultural products, farm supplies or machinery to or from the farm.</p> <p>Exception does not apply to for-hire operation or to vehicles transporting hazardous material required to be placarded.</p> <p>Intrastate Commerce Medical certification is not required if the driver operates solely in intrastate commerce and had a valid chauffeur’s license on or before May 13, 1988.</p> <p>Medical certification is not required for the driver of a vehicle operated solely in intrastate commerce and licensed for 42,000 pounds or less legally displaying a farm license plate. This exception is not applicable if the vehicle is used to transport hazardous material.</p> <p>Medical certification is not required for drivers of vehicles operated solely in intrastate commerce with a GVWR/GCWR of 26,000 pounds or less. This exception does not apply if the vehicle is used to transport any type or quantity of hazardous material.</p>	<p>Interstate Commerce Same exceptions for custom harvesters, bee keepers, and farm straight trucks.</p> <p>Drivers of covered farm vehicles are not required to be medically certified after October 1, 2012.</p> <p>If the vehicle has a GVWR or GVW in excess of 26,000 pounds, the medical certification exception applies in the state the vehicle is licensed from or within a 150 air-mile radius.</p> <p>The farm vehicle may not be used in for-hire operation.</p> <p>The exception does not apply to vehicles required to be placarded for hazardous material.</p> <p>Intrastate Commerce The same exceptions apply for drivers who held a valid chauffeur’s licenses on or before May 13, 1988; vehicles displaying farm license plate which are licensed for 42,000 pounds or less; and vehicles with GVWR/GCWR of 26,000 pounds or less.</p>



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Hours of Service	<p>Interstate Commerce The hours of service limits are not applicable to drivers transporting agricultural commodities or farm supplies for agricultural purposes within a 100 air-mile radius of the source of the supplies or distribution point of the supplies. The transportation must take place during the planting and harvesting season.</p> <p>The planting and harvesting season in Missouri is January through December.</p> <p>Intrastate Commerce The hours of service are not applicable for the driver of a vehicle operated solely in intrastate commerce and licensed for 42,000 pounds or less legally displaying a farm license plate. This exception is not applicable if the vehicle is used to transport hazardous material.</p> <p>The hours of service limits are not applicable to drivers transporting agricultural commodities or farm supplies for agricultural purposes within a 100 air-mile radius of the source of the supplies or distribution point of the supplies. The transportation must take place during the planting and harvesting season.</p> <p>The hours of service are not applicable to drivers of vehicles operated solely in intrastate commerce with a GVWR/GCWR of 26,000 pounds or less. This exception does not apply if the vehicle is used to transport any type or quantity of hazardous material.</p>	<p>Interstate Commerce The hours of service will not apply to drivers of covered farm vehicles after October 1, 2012.</p> <p>If the vehicle has a GVWR or GVW in excess of 26,000 pounds, the hours of service exception applies in the state the vehicle is licensed from or within a 150 air-mile radius.</p> <p>The vehicle may not be used in for-hire operation.</p> <p>The hours of service exception does not apply to vehicles required to be placarded for hazardous material.</p> <p>Intrastate Commerce The same hours of service exceptions will apply.</p>



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<p>Vehicle Maintenance, Repair and Inspection</p>	<p>Interstate Commerce Vehicles with a GVWR/GCWR in excess of 10,000 pounds are required to meet all vehicle inspection, repair and maintenance regulations. All vehicles of this size are treated the same without exception for agricultural operation.</p> <p>Vehicle inspection includes annual DOT inspection.</p> <p>Intrastate Commerce The vehicle maintenance, repair and inspection requirements are not applicable for the driver of a vehicle operated solely in intrastate commerce and licensed for 42,000 pounds or less legally displaying a farm license plate. This exception is not applicable if the vehicle is used to transport hazardous material.</p> <p>The vehicle inspection, repair and maintenance regulations are not applicable to drivers of vehicles operated solely in intrastate commerce with a GVWR/GCWR of 26,000 pounds or less. This exception does not apply if the vehicle is used to transport any type or quantity of hazardous material.</p> <p>If the annual DOT inspection is not required, the Missouri vehicle inspection and equipment requirements are applicable.</p>	<p>Interstate Commerce The vehicle maintenance, repair and inspection requirements are not applicable to covered farm vehicles after October 1, 2012.</p> <p>If the vehicle has a GVWR or GVW in excess of 26,000 pounds, the vehicle maintenance, repair and inspection exception applies in the state the vehicle is licensed from or within a 150 air-mile radius.</p> <p>The vehicle may not be used in for-hire operation.</p> <p>The exception does not apply to vehicles required to be placarded for hazardous material.</p> <p>Intrastate Commerce The same intrastate exceptions will apply.</p>

