



*Kern County*

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**ISSUE: 22-27**

**TRAINING BULLETIN**

**DATE: June 24, 2022**

**Department of Motor Vehicles Memo 22-01:  
FMCSA Exemption from CDL Standards for Recreational Vehicle Industry**

On June 8, 2022, the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) issued Law Enforcement Information Memo 22-01: FMCSA Exemption from CDL Standards for Recreational Vehicle Industry. The purpose of the memo is to notify law enforcement of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) announcement to renew the exemption from federal commercial driver license (CDL) requirement for drivers who deliver newly manufactured recreational vehicle (RVs) to dealers or tradeshow before retail sale.

For further information please refer to the attached DMV Law Enforcement Information Memo 22-01: FMCSA Exemption from CDL Standards for Recreational Vehicle Industry.



**LAW ENFORCEMENT INFORMATION MEMO: 22-01**  
**SUBJECT: FMCSA Exemption from CDL Standards for**  
**Recreational Vehicle Industry**  
**Memo Date: June 8, 2022**

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**Purpose**

To notify California law enforcement agencies of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) announcement to renew the exemption from federal commercial driver license (CDL) requirements for drivers who deliver newly manufactured recreational vehicles (RVs) to dealers or tradeshow before retail sale.

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**Background**

Federal regulations require drivers to hold a CDL when operating any combination of vehicles with a gross combination weight rating (GCWR) of 26,001 pounds or more, provided the gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of the towed unit is over 10,000 pounds, or any single vehicle with a GVWR of 26,001 pounds or more.

In 2014 FMCSA received a request for exemption from federal CDL requirements for employees of driveaway-towaway companies, RV manufacturers, and RV dealers. The exemption was requested because compliance with CDL requirements creates delays in the delivery of RVs, which could lead to reduction in RV sales and drivers employed by the RV industry. FMCSA granted the exemption, which was effective April 6, 2015 through April 6, 2017. In 2017 FMCSA received a request for the exemption to be renewed, which FMCSA granted, and the extension was effective April 12, 2017 through April 6, 2022.

FMCSA has determined that the level of safety associated with the transportation of RVs from manufacturers to dealers would likely be equivalent to, or greater than, the level of safety obtained by complying with the CDL requirements. FMCSA concludes that granting the exemption for another five years, under the same terms and conditions, will likely achieve a level of safety that is equivalent to, or greater than, the level of safety achieved without the exemption.

The exemption covers employees of all driveaway companies, RV manufacturers, and RV dealers transporting RVs between manufacturing sites and dealer locations and for movements prior to first retail sale. The exemption is restricted to employees of driveaway-towaway companies, RV manufacturers, and RV dealers transporting RVs between the manufacturing site and dealer location and for movements prior to first

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**Background  
(continued)**

retail sale. Drivers engaged in driveaway deliveries of RVs with gross vehicle weight ratings of 26,001 pounds or more will not be required to have a CDL as long as the RVs have actual gross vehicle weights or gross combination weights that do not meet or exceed 26,001 pounds, and any RV trailers towed by other vehicles weigh 10,000 pounds or less at the time of transportation. RVs that have a gross vehicle weight or gross combined weight exceeding 26,000 pounds are not covered by the exemption.

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**New  
Information**

FMCSA has granted an exemption renewal for 5 years, effective April 6, 2022 and expiring on April 6, 2027. In accordance with [49 U.S.C. 31315\(d\)](#), as implemented by [49 CFR 381.600](#), during the period this exemption is in effect, no State shall enforce any law or regulation that conflicts with or is inconsistent with this exemption with respect to a firm or person operating under the exemption. States may, but are not required to, adopt the same exemption with respect to operations in intrastate commerce. When operating under this exemption, motor carriers and drivers must comply with all other applicable Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations ([49 CFR part 350-399](#)), drivers must be able to provide this exemption document to enforcement officials, and drivers must be in possession of a valid driver's license.

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**Contact**

Direct questions or concerns regarding this memorandum or changes to the email distribution list to the Information Policy and Liaison Section at (916) 657-7732 or via email at [jaglaw@dmv.ca.gov](mailto:jaglaw@dmv.ca.gov).

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*Serenity Thompson*

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