

TIPS for Commercial Truck Driving

This tip sheet is for reference only. Refer to the EA Guidelines for more information.

1. A strong interest in Truck Driving

The majority of Long Haul Trucking Companies pay by the "MILE". Work is usually scheduled 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Drivers could be gone as little as 1 day to as much as 7 days a week, up to 6 to 8 weeks at a time. Drivers normally don't get paid when they aren't on the road, which means when they are waiting to get unloaded, stuck in weather etc., they aren't making any money.

2. Choosing a school

Companies that hire from the schools have mostly stated that it doesn't matter whether it is the Fast Track or Community College. Some feel 22 + weeks is a little long. Most companies use a Drive Test along with the interview process, and have their own OJT when they hire new employees. However, all applicants must have the appropriate CDL License.

Truck Vendors and Schools offering Truck Driving

Trans Union Truck Driver Training
Tacoma (253)922-0870

Commercial Driver Services
Lakewood (888)558-7120

Check Ride Truck
Woodinville (425)402-8200

Bates Technical College

South Seattle Community College

3. Good driving record

Driving records are very important. Most companies won't hire a person with more than 2 tickets that are 5 to 10 mph over the limit in last 3 years. DUI's and Reckless Driving or other major infractions must be 10 years or older to even be considered

4. Important Medical information

People need to pass both a Physical and a Drug Test prior to going to a driving school and being hired by a Company. The following "may" restrict you from getting a Commercial Drivers License: Previous Heart Attack, High Blood Pressure, Insulin Controlled Diabetes, Amputated Limbs. Vision must be correctable in both eyes.