

Unveiling the Secrets: Your Step By Step Guide To Becoming a Trucker

Have you ever dreamt of hitting the open road, exploring new destinations, and enjoying the freedom of the great outdoors? If so, becoming a trucker might just be the perfect career choice for you. With a rapidly growing trucking industry and a shortage of qualified drivers, now is the perfect time to embark on this adventurous journey.

Step 1: Research and Understand the Trucking Industry

Before you dive headfirst into pursuing a career as a trucker, it's essential to do thorough research about the industry. Familiarize yourself with the various types of trucks, job opportunities, required licenses, and necessary qualifications.

Reach out to experienced truckers and industry professionals to gain insights into the realities and challenges that come with this profession.

Step 2: Fulfill the Minimum Requirements

Now that you have a good understanding of the trucking industry, it's time to meet the minimum requirements. These may include being at least 21 years old, possessing a valid driver's license, and having a clean driving record. Additionally, you may need to pass a physical examination and drug test to ensure you are fit for the job.

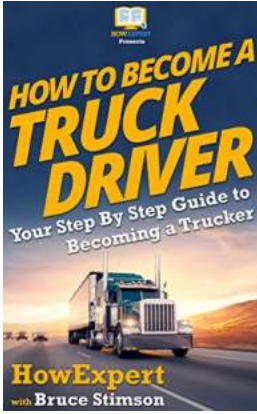
How To Become a Truck Driver: Your Step-By-Step Guide to Becoming a Trucker

by Bradford M. Smith (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 1840 KB



Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 55 pages
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Step 3: Obtain a Commercial Driver's License (CDL)



CDL-1 - TEXAS COMMERCIAL DRIVER LICENSE APPLICATION

NOTICE: All information on this application must be in INK. Applications held for 90 days only. DPS CANNOT REFUND PAYMENT ONCE APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED.

Select one: Original Renewal Change
Commercial Driver License Number (If Applicable) _____

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

ASSIGNED # _____
RESTRICTIONS _____
ENDORSEMENTS _____

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Name: _____
Suffix: _____ Birth Surname (Maier): _____ SSN: _____
Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy): _____ Sex (select one): Male Female Height: _____ Ft. _____ In. Weight: _____ Lbs.
Eye Color (select one): Blue Brown Gray Hazel Green Black Maroon Pink
Hair Color (select one): Black Red Gray Brown Blonde Bald White
Race (select one): (AI) Alaskan or American Indian (AP) Asian or Pacific Islander (BK) Black (W) White
Ethnicity (select one): (H) Hispanic Origin (O) Not of Hispanic Origin (U) Unknown
Place of birth: City: _____ State: _____ County: _____ Country: _____
Father's Last Name: _____ Mother's Maiden Name: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

Residence Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ County: _____
Mailing Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ County: _____
Home Phone: _____ Other Phone: _____ Email: _____

In the event of injury or death would you like to provide up to two (2) emergency contacts? If yes, please list:

a) Name _____ Phone Number _____ Address _____
b) Name _____ Phone Number _____ Address _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Indicate the type of license and any applicable endorsements and/or airbrake requirements you are applying for.

CLASS **CLP** **ENDORSEMENTS** **AIRBRAKES**
 Class A - CDL Class A Class B Class C Double/Triple Trailer Tank Vehicle Vehicle with Airbrakes
 Class B - CDL Class B CLP holders must wait 14 days after issuance of CLP to take the Skills Test Passenger Hazardous Materials Vehicle without Airbrakes
 Class C - CDL Class C School Bus Must be a U.S. Citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident

WHAT IS INTERSTATE OR FOREIGN COMMERCE?

- Trade, traffic, or transportation in the United States which is between a place in a state and a place outside of such state (including a place outside of the United States); or
- Between two places in a state through another state or a place outside of the United States; or
- Between two places in a state as part of trade, traffic or transportation, originating or terminating outside the state or the United States.

WHAT IS INTRASTATE COMMERCE?

- Transportation of property (a commodity) where the point of origin and destination are totally within one state and no state line or international boundary is crossed.
- The Bill of Lading will be an indicator as to whether a shipment or commodity is interstate or intrastate.
- If there is no Bill of Lading, the origin and destination of the shipment will be an indicator.

REQUIRED INFORMATION FROM ALL APPLICANTS

YES NO

1. Will you be operating a commercial motor vehicle in INTERSTATE or FOREIGN commerce?
If Yes, you must be able to certify to the CDL-4, Qualification of Interstate Driver Certification OR Complete CDL-10, Certificate of Federal Physical Exemption, if you are eligible. If No, you must be able to certify to the CDL-5, Qualifications of Intrastate Driver Certification.
2. Do you meet the qualification requirements to have your knowledge and/or skills test waived? If yes, complete form CDL-3, 3A, or 3B.
3. Are you a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States?
4. If you answered no to question #3, are you a Refugee, Asylee, or U.S. National?
5. If you are a U.S. citizen, would you like to register to vote? If registered, would you like to update your voter information?
I understand that giving false information to procure a voter registration is perjury, and a crime under state and federal law. Conviction of this crime may result in imprisonment up to 180 days, a fine up to \$2,000, or both.
PLEASE READ ALL THREE STATEMENTS TO AFFIRM BEFORE SIGNING.
I am a resident of the county provided above, and a U.S. citizen; I have not been finally convicted of a felony, or if a felon, I have completed all of my punishment including any term of incarceration, parole, supervision, period of probation, or I have been pardoned; And I have not been determined by a final judgment of a court exercising probate jurisdiction to be totally mentally incapacitated or partially mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.
By providing my electronic signature, I understand the personal information on my application form and my electronic signature will be used for submitting my voter's registration application to the Texas Secretary of State's office. Wanting to register to vote, I authorize the Department of Public Safety to transfer this information to the Texas Secretary of State.
6. Do you want to support the Glenda Dawson Donate Life Texas donor registry? If yes, please indicate a donation amount of \$1 or more \$ _____00.
7. Do you want to support survivors of sexual assault? If yes, please indicate a donation amount of \$1 or more \$ _____00 to help fund the testing of sexual assault evidence collection kits (rape kits).

CDL-1 (Rev. 5/2020)

APPLICATION CONTINUED ON BACK

The heart and soul of a trucker's career lie in obtaining a Commercial Driver's License (CDL). This license allows you to operate different types of commercial vehicles, including heavy-duty trucks and buses. You will need to study and pass both a written and practical exam to obtain your CDL. Consider enrolling in a reputable truck driving school to receive proper training and guidance.

Step 4: Gain Experience through Apprenticeship or Entry-Level Positions

Once you have your CDL, it's time to gain valuable experience. You can consider an apprenticeship program or entry-level positions offered by trucking companies. These opportunities allow you to hone your skills, learn from experienced drivers, and gradually familiarize yourself with the ins and outs of the trucking industry.

Step 5: Prepare for the Road: Safety and Preparation

Before hitting the road, ensure that you are well-prepared and prioritize safety at all times. Develop a routine for conducting pre-trip inspections, familiarize yourself with truck maintenance, and always adhere to traffic laws and regulations. Take advantage of resources and training programs provided by your employer or industry associations to enhance your knowledge and skillset.

Step 6: Specialize and Explore Different Opportunities

As you become more experienced, you may consider specializing in a specific area of trucking that interests you. Options include long-haul trucking, hazardous materials transportation, refrigerated goods transportation, or even becoming an owner-operator. Research and explore the options available within the industry to further develop your career and maximize your earning potential.

Step 7: Stay Current with Industry Changes and Opportunities

The trucking industry is constantly evolving, with technological advancements, regulatory changes, and new opportunities emerging. To stay ahead of the game, make sure to stay informed and adapt to industry trends. Attend workshops, seminars, and conferences, and maintain regular communication with fellow truckers and industry professionals to keep yourself updated.

Step 8: Maintain a Healthy Lifestyle and Work-Life Balance

Trucking can be demanding, both physically and mentally. To ensure a long and successful career, it's important to prioritize your health and maintain a healthy work-life balance. Create a routine that includes regular exercise, nutritious meals, and sufficient rest. Strive to establish a support system, as the nature of trucking may require you to spend significant time away from home and loved ones.

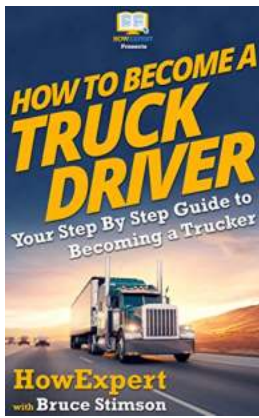
Step 9: Embrace New Challenges and Seek Continuous Improvement

As you progress in your career, embrace new challenges and seek opportunities for continuous improvement. Be open to learning new skills, adopting new technologies, and expanding your horizons within the industry. The trucking profession offers vast room for growth and advancement – seize these opportunities to enhance your skills and increase your earning potential.

Step 10: Enjoy the Journey and Embrace the Freedom of the Open Road

Congratulations! You have now become a part of the vibrant trucking community. Embrace the freedom, independence, and endless opportunities that come with being a trucker. Travel to new places, encounter diverse cultures, and build lifelong connections along the way. Remember, the journey is just as important as the destination.

Becoming a trucker is an exciting and rewarding career path for those who seek adventure, independence, and the thrill of the open road. By following this step-by-step guide and constantly adapting to industry changes, you can establish a successful and fulfilling career as a trucker. So, gear up, hit the accelerator, and embark on your journey toward a truly unique and unforgettable profession.



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Let's talk about the money, most truck drivers can expect to earn \$30,000-\$40,000 in their 1st year. I know some drivers who work as Solo drivers and decide to give up their apartments so they can stay in the truck all year long and save money. They still take days off from time to time, and stay with friends, family or rent a hotel for a few days so they can take a break. Once you have 6 months experience you may be able to find a job that pays more money. I've seen motivated drivers earning in the \$60,000 range in their 1st year. The money is there to earn if you look for it. Too many drivers get complacent and they stay with the same company in the same position making low wages for years and years. Sometimes all you need to do to increase your income is switch positions within the company. If the company you work for doesn't offer anything that will take you to the next level then find another company that will. I know a Walmart driver who earns \$100,000 year and he's home every night and weekend.

Companies pay you in cents per mile (CPM) so the more mileage you drive the more you earn is company drivers can make anywhere from \$30,000 to around \$100,000 per year. Stay away from company lease options, 99% of the time only

the company does well with this type of position. They will make their lease program sound perfect, touting how you will be your own boss and make lots of money. Drivers often find themselves making just enough to cover the WEEKLY truck lease payment. If you want to truly be your own boss as a owner operator of your own truck then save up the money to buy a used truck cash or you may be able to find a 3rd party (not company sponsored) lease program. I have seen a couple of decent 3rd party lease programs, these will allow you to contract with any company you want. So if you're not making enough money with one company then you can easily switch to another. Owner operators can make anywhere from \$50,000 - \$250,000 per year.

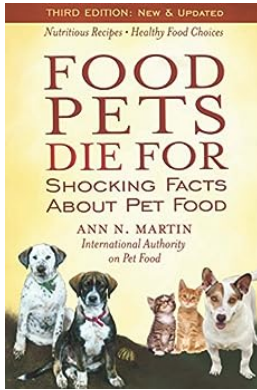
About the Expert

I have been driving a truck full time for over 4 years at the time of this publishing. I have been a company driver for 3 of those years and an owner/operator for a bit over one.

In the 4+ years that I've been driving I have spent one year driving most of the lower 48 states. I haven't made it up to North Carolina, and a few other states in the northeast but all of the others I have. For the last two years I have been truck driving with my team from Los Angeles to the Kansas City area and back. We did that twice a week. After doing that for about a year I was able to get a driving position working nights and being home every day. I did that for almost year.

I left there because the company did a pathetic job of maintaining their equipment. I was afraid of getting stopped by law enforcement. So I left them and got my own truck to take care of. Now I am contracted with a carrier to move their freight and it works out a lot better.

HowExpert publishes quick 'how to' guides on all topics from A to Z by everyday experts.



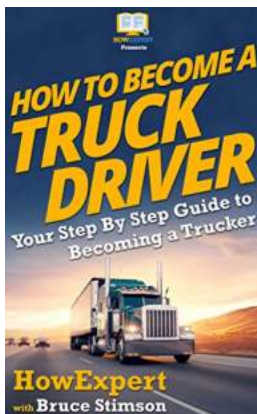
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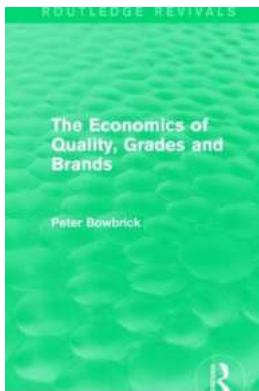
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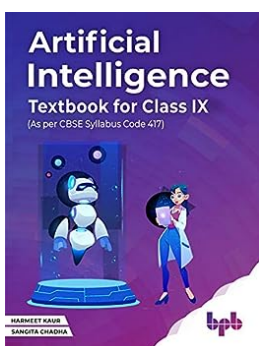
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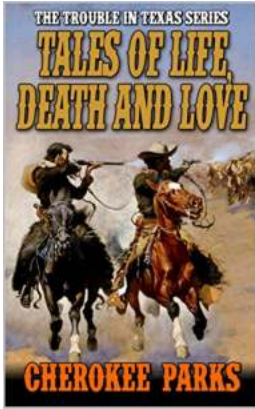
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