

## ACD Codes: Standardizing CDL Charges

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In this video we will explain how the federal regulations for commercial drivers align with state statutes, and how they are standardized for cross state communication.

CDL cases are those where the driver has a commercial license, or should have had a CDL, and the charges align with federal driver disqualification regulations. These regulations found in 49 C.F.R. §383.51 are grouped into four tables- Major, Serious, Railroad-Highway Grade Crossing and Violating Out of Service Orders.

The type of charges within these tables range from speeding to trafficking and can be infractions, misdemeanors or felonies as defined by state law. Because state laws are different, there needs to be a standard way to share what offense a driver is convicted of, regardless of a specific state's statute. That way states of conviction can give the state of record the information they need. So if a New Mexico driver is convicted of a DUI in Wisconsin, the Wisconsin driver license agency can communicate across state lines and ensure the proper federally mandated disqualification is applied by the New Mexico driver agency.

The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (or AAMVA) and state driver license agencies have identified and standardized the charges in the four tables through the AAMVA Code Dictionary (ACD) Manual. This standardization groups and labels offenses into categories and assigns them a code. Like A20, for driving under the influence.

AAMVA and the states update this manual to reflect changes to federal laws and based on driver agency requests. The list of ACD codes is found in Appendix A of the Manual. Federal regulations require jurisdictions to impose a disqualification for CDL drivers convicted of certain offenses based on the associated ACD code. These disqualification details are found in Appendix C of the ACD Manual.

On the NCSC Commercial Driving Resource Center website, there is an interactive set of tables that outline the driver disqualification information found in Appendix C. This tool allows users to explore the different disqualifying charges, the conditions that apply, and the accompanying term for disqualification. The charges listed in the tables are broad descriptions, like "under the influence of alcohol" or "leaving the scene of an accident."

In each state, the driver license agency maps the state statutes to the ACD codes in what is called an equivalency table. A state may have multiple statutes mapped to a single ACD code and may have no applicable statutes for some ACD codes.

The ACD code becomes the common language to relay conviction data between states. Here is an example of how one ACD code can be mapped to different statutes, depending on the state.

But why does this matter for courts?

Although it is the driver license agency's responsibility to map the statutes to the ACD codes, it is critical for courts to send statute data to the SDLA with sufficient information and detail so that they can translate and categorize the data properly.

In some states, the courts have worked with the SDLA to develop a table that is incorporated into a court's case management system. This helps to standardize court data to meet the SDLA's requirements. Sending accurate data fields such as vehicle type and including statute subsections, ensures the driver agency has the information it needs.

NCSC has an Excel file available for download that outlines the CDL disqualification charges. This is the same information from the interactive tables, but in a flat file format that includes the ACD codes. This file may assist conversations with the driver license agency to help map what data needs to be sent. Court staff may also find this file helpful in the development of internal performance measures to monitor CDL cases.

Although the state driver license agency has the ultimate responsibility in disqualifying commercial driving licenses, the agency is dependent upon the courts to provide complete and accurate data.

Understanding all the stakeholders' roles in this process can support the timely exchange of information and leads to improved public safety.

This series of videos presents guidance on multiple strategies to assist courts in improving the processing of commercial driving cases. A transcript of this video and a supplemental resource guide with additional information is available on the Commercial Driving Resource Center Website.