

761—607.3(321) Definitions. The definitions in Iowa Code section 321.1 apply to this chapter of rules. In addition, the following definitions are adopted:

“*Air brake system*” means a system that uses air as a medium for transmitting pressure or force from the driver’s control to the service brake. “Air brake system” shall include any braking system operating fully or partially on the air brake principle.

“*Air over hydraulic brakes*” means any braking system operating partially on the air brake and partially on the hydraulic brake principle.

“*Automatic transmission*” means any transmission other than a manual transmission.

“*CDLIS*” means “commercial driver’s license information system” as defined in Iowa Code section 321.1.

“*Commercial driver’s license downgrade*” or “*CDL downgrade*” means the same as defined in 49 CFR Section 383.5 (October 1, 2024).

“*Commercial motor vehicle*” or “*CMV*” as defined in Iowa Code section 321.1 does not include a motor vehicle designed as off-road equipment rather than as a motor truck, such as a forklift, motor grader, scraper, tractor, trencher or similar industrial-type equipment. “Commercial motor vehicle” also does not include self-propelled implements of husbandry described in Iowa Code section 321.1(32).

“*Controlled substance*” as used in Iowa Code section 321.208 means a substance defined in Iowa Code section 124.101.

“*Hazardous materials*” means any material that has been designated as hazardous under 49 U.S.C. Section 5103 and is required to be placarded under 49 CFR Part 172, Subpart F, or any quantity of a material listed as a select agent or toxin in 42 CFR Part 73.

“*Manual transmission*” means a transmission utilizing a driver-operated clutch that is activated by a pedal or lever and a gear-shift mechanism operated either by hand or by foot. All other transmissions, whether semi-automatic or automatic, will be considered automatic.

“*Medical examiner*” means a person who is licensed, certified or registered, in accordance with applicable state laws and regulations, to perform physical examinations. The term includes but is not limited to doctors of medicine, doctors of osteopathy, physician assistants, advanced registered nurse practitioners, and doctors of chiropractic.

“*Medical examiner’s certificate*” means a certificate completed and signed by a medical examiner under the provisions of 49 CFR Section 391.43 and includes medical examiner’s certificate information provided electronically by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration pursuant to 49 CFR Section 383.71 and 49 CFR Section 383.73.

“*Medical variance*” means a driver has received one of the following from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration that allows the driver to be issued a medical certificate:

1. An exemption letter permitting operation of a commercial motor vehicle pursuant to 49 CFR Part 381, Subpart C; 49 CFR Section 391.62; or 49 CFR Section 391.64.
2. A skill performance evaluation certificate permitting operation of a commercial motor vehicle pursuant to 49 CFR Section 391.49.

“*National drug and alcohol clearinghouse*” means the database maintained by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration as defined in 49 CFR Section 382.107 (October 1, 2024).

“*Passenger vehicle*” means either of the following:

1. A motor vehicle designed to transport 16 or more persons including the operator.
2. A motor vehicle of a size and design to transport 16 or more persons including the operator that has been redesigned or modified to transport fewer than 16 persons with disabilities. The size of a redesigned or modified vehicle shall be any such vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,001 or more pounds.

“*School bus*” means a commercial motor vehicle used to transport pre-primary, primary, or secondary school students from home to school, from school to home, or to and from school-sponsored events unless otherwise provided in Iowa Code section 321.1(69). “School bus” does not include a bus used as a common carrier.

“*Self-certification*” means a written certification of which category of type of driving an applicant for a commercial driver’s license engages in or intends to engage in, from the following categories:

1. Non-excepted interstate. The person certifies that the person operates or expects to operate in interstate commerce, is both subject to and meets the qualification requirements under 49 CFR Part 391 effective October 1, 2024, and is required to obtain a medical examiner's certificate by 49 CFR Section 391.45 effective October 1, 2024.

2. Excepted interstate. The person certifies that the person operates or expects to operate in interstate commerce but engages exclusively in transportation or operations excepted under 49 CFR Section 390.3(f), 391.2, 391.68 or 398.3 effective October 1, 2024, from all or parts of the qualification requirements of 49 CFR Part 391 effective October 1, 2024, and is therefore not required to obtain a medical examiner's certificate by 49 CFR Section 391.45 effective October 1, 2024.

3. Non-excepted intrastate. The person certifies that the person operates only in intrastate commerce and is subject to state driver qualification requirements.

4. Excepted intrastate. The person certifies that the person operates only in intrastate commerce, but engages exclusively in transportation or operations excepted from all or parts of the state driver qualification requirements as set forth in Iowa Code section 321.449.

"State," as used in this chapter and in "another state" in Iowa Code section 321.174(2), "former state of residence" in Iowa Code section 321.188(5), or "any state" in Iowa Code section 321.208(1), means one of the United States or the District of Columbia unless the context means the state of Iowa.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 321.1, 321.174, 321.188, 321.191, 321.193, 321.207 and 321.208.

[ARC 9579C, IAB 10/1/25, effective 11/5/25]