

236893

Gigetta Spear
3037 186th Street
Lansing, IL 60438
(708) 889-0734

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKETS

2003 MAR 13 P 2:20

March 12, 2003

U.S. Department of Transportation
Room PL 401
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590-0001
Fax (202) 493-2251

FMCSA-2002-12334-14

To Whom It May Concern:

This is in response to the new Graduated Commercial Drivers License that is being considered.

1) Do you think a Graduated Commercial License is needed?

Response: Yes, this would give the needed experience.

2) Should the issuance of a GCDL be lined to enrollment in a Commercial Drivers License Program:

Response: Yes, that way the regulations are in place.

3) Should the curricula of a Commercial Driver's License program have to meet certain standards in order for a student to be eligible for a GCDL while in training?

Response: Yes, without the same standards we can have less then qualified drivers. All drivers should have the same qualifications to start.

4) How much training and experience should new drivers receive before "graduating" to an unrestricted Commercial Driver's License?

Response: I believe that in order to get good experience, a multiple list of things should be met. The driver should have to have at least 1 year all weather driving, not just city, but over the road as well. The driver should have to pull different loads at this time, not just vans, containers, tanks or flatbeds. Then the driver should be tested and at that time either pass or fail, fail meaning starting over again.

5) Should an applicant's past driving record be considered in issuing a GCDL?

Response: Yes, if the driver can not drive a car without speeding tickets or accidents why put him on the road with 80,000 lbs.

6) How many accidents and convictions should cause an applicant to be denied a GCDL?

Response: It would depend on the severity. A fatality should deny the applicant all together. An accident that was with injury should depend on the severity of the injuries. Also a factor should be if there were any accidents in concurrence with a DUI. If that is the case the driver should never get a GCDL or CDL, unless a rehab can be proven and a time span proven with no reoccurrence.

7) Should penalties for drivers hold a GCDL be more severe than for CDL holders?

Response: No, I believe that the severity should go for either one. The GCDL holder should know better because of his training program, and the CDL holder should know better because he is a professional and knows what is expected of him.

8) How much passenger car or light truck experience should an applicant have before being issued a GCDL?

Continue 001

Response: I believe no one should be able to apply for a GCDL before they are at least 20. I believe that then if they complete the program, they should be able to then drive by 21 if they complete and pass the program. This would mean they have at least 5 years car driving and 1 year truck driving with the program.

9) What types of restrictions should apply to entry level drivers operating with a GCDL?

Response: I believe they should have to have at least 3 years car driving experience, no more than 3 speeding tickets (1-10 mph over the speed limit), and no serious accidents. I believe they should look at the previous 3 years driving history.

10) Should a fully licensed CDL driver be required to accompany a driver with a GCDL?

Response: Yes, for at least the first year. The only way a driver will fully learn is from a qualified CDL driver. Someone with at least 5 years over the road experience. This is like any thing else. You learn from experience, so you would have to drive, but you need the benefit of someone who has the experience to learn what to do.

11) What is the minimum age an applicant should be eligible for a GCDL?

Response: Twenty, that way he could have a job by twenty-one.

12) What is the minimum age an applicant should be eligible to receive an unrestricted license?

Response: Twenty-one, that way the driver should have a year experience and be able to competently drive the equipment and earn an income.

Gigetta Spear
Page Three

13) How much testing should be given before an applicant should be can receive an unrestricted CDL?

Response: I think the driver should be tested, while in training, at least once a month. If the driver were to be tested this way, any problems could be caught and corrected before a bad habit takes form.

14) What other factors should FMCSA address with regards to a Graduated Commercial License program?

Response: I believe a criminal background check should be done on anyone applying for a GCDL. I also believe that they should have to go through some character testing.

15) What costs would you anticipate incurring if a GCDL program in implemented?

Response: I believe this could be done with grants and loans. This could be worked like a college program. What could also be done is to get larger trucking companies to work with the government for this program, offer some breaks for their help, give incentives to the senior drivers for their time and knowledge and give the facilities for the testing, you might find you can have better drivers. Not only because of the training, which is a huge factor, but also because of the screening and getting only the best candidates for drivers before hand.

I am a Safety Supervisor for a small flatbed carrier. I see many drivers who are not qualifiable because of experience level, accidents, speeding tickets, and past drug and alcohol history. I also go out to the local driving school for high school students. I teach them how to share the highways with tractor trailers. We as a society fall short on that when we teach our children how to driver. The government takes no measure to make sure the state supplies some sort of program for this. They teach them how to share the road with motorcycles and trains, but not tractor trailers. This is sad when 75% of all car-tractor trailer accidents are caused because of the car. This is due to the lack of education supplied to them when they learn to drive. I believe we need to take more responsibility for this and start a program that would do this for our kids, the next drivers of our world be it car or tractor trailer.

Thank you for your time and interest in my opinion.

Sincerely,



Gigetta Spear

Gigetta Spear
Page Two