

Using a Commercial Truck for Personal Conveyance

The following is a summary of federal guidelines for the use of a commercial truck in an “off duty” status for personal reasons. Company policies may vary and may place limits on personal conveyance, may prohibit it entirely, and/or may require pre-authorization each time it is used.

BEFORE using personal conveyance, you must:

- Be relieved from work and all responsibility for performing work
- Ensure you’re not too ill or fatigued to continue driving
- Ensure the movement will not benefit the company
- Ensure you are following company policies

ACCEPTABLE as personal conveyance (if allowed under company policy):

- Driving from an en-route lodging (e.g., motel or truck stop) to and from restaurants, entertainment facilities, stores, etc., for personal reasons.
- Commuting between your home and a terminal or a trailer drop lot, as long as you’re able to get enough rest at home to prevent fatigue.
- Driving to the first reasonably available and safe location to get your required 10 hours of rest if you run out of hours while loading or unloading and need to move the vehicle.
- Moving your vehicle at the request of a safety official during your off-duty time.
- Transporting personal property while you are off duty, if authorized by the company.
- Driving home from a remote jobsite or “base camp” where you were stationed for a period of time (such as when working for a construction or utility company).

Note: A vehicle may be driven for personal conveyance even if there is cargo on board, including hazmat, if allowed under company policy. If you are inspected during personal conveyance, log your inspection time “on duty.”

NOT ACCEPTABLE as personal conveyance:

- Driving back to your normal work-reporting location or home after dropping your last load at a receiver.
- Driving that “enhances the operational readiness” of the company. For example, skipping a nearby rest area so you can get closer to the next loading/unloading point or other scheduled work destination.
- Continuing a trip to fulfill a business purpose. This includes bobtailing or pulling an empty trailer to retrieve another load, repositioning a commercial vehicle (tractor or trailer) at the company’s direction, or continuing to drive after running out of hours while under dispatch (except as noted above to travel from receiver/shipper to the nearest available rest area).
- Driving to or from a facility for maintenance or to get fuel.
- After delivering a trailer, returning to the point of origin under the direction of the company to pick up another trailer.
- Driving to get rest after being placed out of service for exceeding the hours-of-service limits, unless told to do so by an enforcement officer at the scene.
- Driving to a company terminal or home from a shipper or receiver after loading or unloading.