

## Changes Coming to the F, G and Z Endorsements

Effective July 11, 2016, Federal regulations and New York State law are amended to change the term “farm vehicle” to “covered farm vehicle”, to define covered farm vehicles, and to include a new “Covered Farm Vehicle designation” requirement.

Under the new law, a covered farm vehicle is defined as a vehicle or combination of vehicles registered in this state which must:

- have a covered farm vehicle designation (Designation as a New York State Covered Farm Vehicle (form CFV-1))
- be operated by the owner or operator of a farm or ranch, or an employee or family member of an owner or operator of a farm or ranch
- be used to transport agricultural commodities, livestock, machinery or supplies to or from a farm or ranch
- **not** be used for for-hire motor carrier operations, exclusive of operation by a tenant pursuant to a crop share agreement to transport the landlord’s crop
- **not** be used to transport hazardous materials.

Where can a covered farm vehicle be operated?

1. A single or combination covered farm vehicle weighing over 26,000 pounds may only be operated in New York State and within 150 air miles of a person’s farm or ranch.
2. A covered farm vehicle weighing 26,000 pounds or less may be operated anywhere within New York State and in any other state as long as the state honors the Covered Farm Vehicle designation.

If a vehicle displays a “FARM” plate, it may only be operated within 25 miles of the farm.

What effect does this have on license holders operating vehicles over 26,000 lbs. with an F or G endorsement?

If a driver currently has an F or G endorsement, or are applying for one, effective July 11, 2016, they must have a Designation as a New York State Covered Farm Vehicle form (CFV-1). The CFV-1 serves as proof that the individual has the Covered Farm Vehicle designation and are exempt from needing a CDL to operate a covered farm vehicle. A copy of form CFV-1 in each covered farm vehicle, as it indicates to law enforcement personnel that the driver is exempt from CDL requirements and the above-mentioned federal regulations. This vehicle may only be operated in New York State and within 150 air miles of the individual’s ranch or farm.

What effect does this have on license holders operating covered farm vehicles weighing 26,000 lbs. or less?

Effective July 11, 2016, drivers must have a Designation as a New York State Covered Farm Vehicle form (CFV-1). The CFV-1 serves as proof that the individual has the Covered Farm Vehicle designation and are exempt from needing a CDL to operate a covered farm vehicle. A copy of form CFV-1 must be maintained in each covered farm vehicle that a farm operates, as it indicates to law enforcement personnel that the driver is exempt from CDL requirements and the above-mentioned federal regulations. This vehicle may be operated anywhere in United States, as long as the state honors the covered farm vehicle designation.

The Covered Farm Vehicle designation means that the driver is exempt from needing a commercial driver license (CDL) to operate a covered farm vehicle. It also means the driver is exempt from federal regulations related to:

- Hours of Service
- Medical certification
- Drug testing
- Inspection, repair and maintenance requirements (State requirements still apply)

A copy of the CFV-1 designation will be available for free at local DMV offices as well as online.

### **Elimination of the Z Endorsement**

Under the amendments to state law, a person transporting hazardous materials will not be allowed to operate a Covered Farm Vehicle. In the past, farmers were able to transport hazardous materials with a Z endorsement on their license, but the new law eliminated the Z endorsement. On **July 11, 2016**, the “Z” endorsement will be removed from an individual’s license record.

If an individual no longer transports farm hazardous materials and wishes to obtain a new license document without the “Z” endorsement, they may apply for a replacement license after July 11, 2016.

If an individual wishes to continue to transport farm hazardous materials on or after July 11, 2016, they must first obtain a commercial driver’s license (CDL), and undergo a criminal history check. In order to transport hazardous materials, farmers will need a commercial driver license (CDL) with a H (hazardous materials) endorsement.

To receive a H endorsement, drivers must take the appropriate written tests, and depending on which vehicle class you are applying for (CDL A, B or C), individuals may be required to obtain a commercial learner permit (CLP) and take and pass a skills test in a representative vehicle. Drivers may also be required to pass a written test for the “H” hazardous materials endorsement. Drivers must also complete an Application for a Hazardous Materials Endorsement (HAZ-44), and make a copy of one or more of the legal status documents that are listed on the form.

The individual must contact MorphoTrust Enrollment Solutions to schedule fingerprinting. Fingerprinting is done by appointment only. In addition, individuals must complete Request for NYS Fingerprinting Services – Information Form (HAZ-600), and bring it to the appointment along with your NYS CDL and one of the second proofs of ID that are listed on form HAZ-600.

These regulations were adopted by New York State to comply with federal transportation requirements. For more information relating to Covered Farm Vehicles, please visit the Department of Motor Vehicles website at: <https://dmv.ny.gov/commercial-drivers/covered-farm-vehicle>.