

# Commercial Vehicle Pass System

**Paula J Hammond, P.E.**  
Secretary of Transportation

**Barbara Ivanov**  
Co-director, Freight Systems Division



# What is the commercial vehicle pass system?

The commercial vehicle (CV) pass system is a new way of supporting freight movement by safely and efficiently authorizing emergency, essential and other goods delivery to and through affected areas during a highway disruption of two to seven days duration.



Sample of pass.

# ***Why do we have the CV pass system?***

Keeping freight moving during major transportation disruptions is critical to the state's economy and jobs, and ensures that the essential needs of our citizens are met.

Washington is the first state that has developed a program to prioritize emergency AND essential goods during major disruptions and closures. This program makes the state's priorities clear to shippers and trucking companies and helps them plan ahead for major disruptions.



## ***When will it be used?***

The state will implement the CV pass system when major truck freight highways are closed or severely restricted, and a limited-capacity highway detour is available nearby. CV passes will be issued based on the highway detour's capacity and the priority of goods carried. Passes will not be issued until the detour route has been determined to be safe, potentially on the second or third day after the highway closure.



# What are the CV pass priority categories?

CV passes will be categorized according to the following prioritized order:

- **Category A: Emergency supplies** – Goods related to disaster relief for the affected communities and the recovery of transportation, energy and other public services. The specific types of goods will be determined by the Washington State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during the event and posted online.
- **Category B: Essential supplies**
  - Healthcare supplies
  - Food and water
  - Fuel
  - Perishable goods: livestock and feed for livestock
  - Cash
  - Empty trucks resupplying essential goods
  - Parcel trucks
- **Category C: All other goods** – CV passes will be made available on a first-come, first-served basis if the detour has available capacity.



# ***How can trucking companies and shippers start using the commercial vehicle pass system?***

WSDOT's Commercial Vehicle Pass System website

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/CommercialVehicle/detourpass.htm>

has a link to request a detour pass. The pass request page will only be activated for pass requests when a major highway closure has occurred and a limited-capacity detour route has been established.

We held training sessions for the new CV Pass System throughout the state this winter. WSDOT listened to trucking companies and shippers as they voiced concerns about information privacy and the way company records were held in our first version of the CV Pass System. Adjustments were made to the first version of the pass system and pre-entered company information will no longer be accessible on our Web page. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Trucking companies, shippers and consignees may request individual pass(es) during a highway disruption. When the system authorizes an individual commercial vehicle pass, you will print the pass and display it in the truck's window.

## ***How will the CV pass system work?***

- CV passes will be authorized in real-time based on the prioritized categories. They will be issued for a three-hour time window on a specific date, and trucks arriving before or after that time period will not be allowed access to the detour.
- CV passes will only be valid for the date and time period indicated on the pass, and if conditions change and a safe detour is no longer available, they will be revoked. Under those conditions, WSDOT will notify the pass holder via e-mail.
- Once a pass is authorized on-line and printed at the users' location, the commercial vehicle driver may proceed to the highway traffic control check point any time during the three-hour window on the date indicated on the CV pass. The CV pass will be affixed to the truck cab window and used to authorize entry onto detours at highway checkpoints.
- Random spot checks will be administered at vehicle check points to enforce the system. If a commercial vehicle doesn't display a valid pass and appears at the check point, they will not be allowed access to the detour and will be turned around.

## ***How will the CV pass system be enforced?***

The National Guard, Washington State Patrol and WSDOT will staff traffic control points to verify that the CV pass displayed in the truck window authorizes the truck's use of the detour for that particular date, time and route. Those without valid passes will be turned around.

The WSP will conduct spot inspections of bills of lading to ensure compliance. Spot checks will be used since 100 percent inspection of each truck to verify the contents would slow traffic to a full stop. Truck drivers should be prepared for wait lines at check points and have their bill of lading documents on hand for spot checks.



**Questions?**

Contact:  
**Barbara Ivanov**

[IvanovB@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:IvanovB@wsdot.wa.gov)  
360-705-7931

