CLIENT ALERTS & INSIGHTS

Glossary of Transportation Law Terms

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Authors: Jonathan R. Todd, Christopher C. Razek, Deedra Thompson

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Highly regulated operational sectors often have bountiful, and sometimes conflicting, defined terms that make all the difference in legal matters. The domestic and international transportation and logistics sector is no different.

The term “commercial motor vehicle” is a classic example of this day-to-day impact in commercial environments as well as the risk of error by using conflicting terms. Commercial motor vehicle is defined at least seven times across Title 49. The definitions are triggered by different activities and equipment types-and their correct application makes all the difference between compliance and noncompliance.

This glossary is a curated list of key transportation law terms. It is intended to serve as a valuable tool in managing precise terminology across the dominant Titles of the United States Code (USC) governing the sector. Those Titles include 14 (Cost Guard, Air), 19 (Customs), 46 (Ocean), and 46 (Surface, Water). Close attention to the applicability of a Title, Chapter, Part, and Section are of course critical to determining whether a term in fact applies to the mode and operation under review. This glossary also includes corresponding definitions under the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) where appropriate for understanding those USC definitions.

View the full glossary of transportation law terms.

Benesch’s Transportation & Logistics Practice Group includes a deep bench of dedicated transportation and logistics attorneys who spend every day advising on the federal statutes and regulations impacting all aspects of business operations.

Jonathan Todd is Vice Chair of Benesch's Transportation & Logistics Group. He can be reached at 216.363.4658 or jtodd@beneschlaw.com.

Christopher C. Razek is a Managing Associate in the Group. He can be reached at 216.363.4413 or crazek@beneschlaw.com.

Sara Mishic is a Paralegal in the Group. She can be reached at 216.363.4611 or smishic@beneschlaw.com.

Deedra Thompson, a 2024 Summer Associate at Benesch, contributed to this article.