

The Commerce Commission has adopted new regulations to improve the safety and convenience of commercial vehicles in the territory. The full rules can be downloaded here, or obtained from the Department of Commerce on the second floor of the Executive Office Building, or from the MCSAP Office at the Department of Public Safety in Fagatogo. Some highlights from the new rules are as follows:

- A rule amending the definition of “commercial vehicle” to include pickup trucks carrying placardable amounts of hazardous materials;
- A rule setting the application fee for the Certificate of Convenience at \$20;
- A rule prohibiting tint on commercial vehicles;
- A rule requiring drivers of commercial passenger vehicles to post photo identification of the driver;
- A rule prohibiting smoking in commercial passenger vehicles;
- A rule setting forth new requirements for signage and roof signs for taxis (Jan. 1);
- A rule requiring commercial passenger vehicles to be able to provide their rate schedule to passengers upon request;
- A rule setting a maximum occupancy limit in buses, and prohibiting passengers from standing, or sitting on the floor or steps of the bus;
- A rule adding safety belts to the safety check for commercial vehicles (Jan. 1);
- A rule requiring emergency exits at least 2’ wide and 4’ tall in the rear of buses (Jan. 1);
- A rule prohibiting the use of buses less than ¾ tons carrying capacity from commercial operations outside of the area between the canneries and the hospital and limiting them to the main road, and up to the hospital (Jan. 1);
- A rule to adopt the rules found in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49 Part 107, Subparts F and G, concerning the regulation of cargo tank and cargo tank vehicle manufacturers and the registration of persons who transport hazardous materials; and
- General rewording, renumbering, and reorganization of the rules.

These rules will go into effect on October 1, 2012, with the exception of those noted above as going into effect on January 1, 2013. The Commission will not approve any application for a new commercial vehicle or renewal for 2013 unless the vehicle fully complies with all rules in effect on January 1, 2013.