

New York Labor Law  
Article 25-C

**The New York State Commercial Goods Transportation Industry Fair Play Act**

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§ 862. Short title. This article shall be known and may be cited as the "New York state commercial goods transportation industry fair play act".

§ 862-a. Definitions. As used in this article:

1. "Commercial goods transportation contractor" means any sole proprietor, partnership, firm, corporation, limited liability company, association or other legal entity that compensates a driver who possesses a state-issued driver's license, transports goods in the state of New York and operates a commercial motor vehicle as defined in subdivision four-a of section two of the transportation law.
2. "Commercial goods transportation contractor" includes a general commercial goods transportation contractor or a commercial goods transportation subcontractor.
3. "Commercial goods transportation services" means the transportation of goods for compensation by a driver who possesses a state-issued driver's license, transports goods in the state of New York, and operates a commercial motor vehicle as defined in subdivision four-a of section two of the transportation law.
4. "Department" means the department of labor.
5. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of labor.
6. "Employer" means any commercial goods transportation contractor which compensates a person classified as an employee under section eight hundred sixty-two-b of this article.

§ 862-b. Presumption of employment in the commercial goods transportation industry. 1. Any person performing commercial goods transportation services for a commercial goods transportation contractor shall be classified as an employee of the commercial goods transportation contractor unless payment for such services is reported on a Federal Income Tax form 1099 if required by law and either the person is a separate business entity under subdivision two of this section or all of the following criteria are met, in which case the person shall be an independent contractor:

- (a) the individual is free from control and direction in performing the job, both under his or her contract and in fact;
- (b) the service must be performed outside the usual course of business for which the service is performed; and

(c) the individual is customarily engaged in an independently established trade, occupation, profession, or business that is similar to the service at issue.

2. A business entity, including any sole proprietor, partnership, firm, corporation, limited liability company, association or other legal entity that may also be a commercial goods transportation contractor under this section shall be considered a separate business entity from the commercial goods transportation contractor where all the following criteria are met:

(a) the business entity is performing the service free from the direction or control over the means and manner of providing the service, subject only to the right of the commercial goods transportation contractor for whom the service is provided to specify the desired result or federal rule or regulation;

(b) the business entity is not subject to cancellation or destruction upon severance of the relationship with the commercial goods transportation contractor;

(c) the business entity has a substantial investment of capital in the business entity, including but not limited to ordinary tools and equipment;

(d) the business entity owns or leases the capital goods and gains the profits and bears the losses of the business entity;

(e) the business entity may make its services available to the general public or others not a party to the business entity's written contract referenced in paragraph (g) of this subdivision in the business community on a continuing basis;

(f) the business entity provides services reported on a Federal Income Tax form 1099, if required by law;

(g) the business entity performs services for the commercial goods transportation contractor pursuant to a written contract, under the business entity's name, specifying their relationship to be as independent contractors or separate business entities;

(h) when the services being provided require a license or permit, the business entity pays for the license or permit in the business entity's name or, where permitted by law, pays for reasonable use of the commercial goods transportation contractor's license or permit;

(i) if necessary, the business entity hires its own employees without the commercial goods transportation contractor's approval, subject to applicable qualification requirements or federal or state laws, rules or regulations, and pays the employees without reimbursement from the commercial goods transportation contractor;

(j) the commercial goods transportation contractor does not require that the business entity be represented as an employee of the commercial goods transportation contractor to its customers; and

(k) the business entity has the right to perform similar services for others on whatever basis and whenever it chooses.

3. The failure to withhold federal or state income taxes or to pay unemployment compensation contributions or workers' compensation premiums with respect to an individual's wages shall not be considered in making a determination under this section, except as set forth in paragraph (f) of subdivision two of this section.

4. An individual's act of securing workers' compensation insurance with a carrier as a sole proprietor, partnership or otherwise shall not be binding on any determination under this section.

5. When a business entity meets the definition of a separate business entity pursuant to subdivision two of this section, the separate business entity will be considered a commercial goods transportation contractor subject to all the provisions of this article in regard to the classification of individuals performing services for it.

§ 862-c. Notice to persons receiving remuneration from commercial goods transportation contractors and commercial goods transportation subcontractors. 1. Every commercial goods transportation contractor shall post in a prominent and accessible place on the site where commercial goods transportation activity is conducted a legible statement, provided by the commissioner, that describes the responsibility of independent contractors to pay taxes required by state and federal law, the rights of employees to workers' compensation, unemployment benefits, minimum wage, overtime and other federal and state workplace protections, and the protections against retaliation and the penalties in this article if the contractor fails to properly classify an individual as an employee. This notice shall also contain contact information for individuals to file complaints or inquire with the commissioner about employment classification status. This information shall be provided in English, Spanish or other languages required by the commissioner.

2. Within thirty days of the effective date of this article, the commissioner shall create the notice described in subdivision one of this section and post the notice on the department's website for downloading by commercial goods transportation contractors.

3. Commercial goods transportation contractors who violate this section shall be subject to a civil penalty of up to one thousand five hundred dollars for a first violation, and up to five thousand dollars for a subsequent violation within a five year period.

§ 862-d. Violations and penalties. 1. Any commercial goods transportation contractor who willfully fails to properly classify an individual as an employee as provided under section eight hundred sixty-two-b of this article shall be subject to the civil and criminal penalties provided under this section. The civil penalties set forth in this section shall be imposed as follows: by the commissioner where such penalty is based on a violation of this chapter; by the chair of the workers' compensation board where such penalty is based on a violation of the workers' compensation law; and by the commissioner of taxation and finance when such penalty is based on a violation of the tax law, provided that no more than one civil penalty under this section may be imposed per employee per incident of misclassification.

(a) The workers' compensation board shall provide a copy of any order relating to the misclassification of an employee, the intentional and material underpayment or concealment of payroll, or the failure to secure workers' compensation in the commercial goods transportation industry to the commissioner and commissioner of taxation and finance no later than seven days after the issuance of the order.

(b) Notwithstanding the secrecy provisions contained in articles nine-A and twenty-two of the tax law, the department of taxation and finance shall provide a copy of any assessment for failure to pay business, corporate or personal income tax by an employer in the commercial goods transportation industry arising out of the misclassification of an employee to the commissioner and chair of the workers' compensation board no later than seven days after the issuance of the assessment.

(c) Upon the issuance of an order or determination by the commissioner for a violation and penalties under this article, the commissioner shall provide a copy of the order to the chair of the workers' compensation board and the commissioner of taxation and finance no later than seven days after the issuance of the order.

2. For the purposes of this section, the term "willfully violates" means a commercial goods transportation contractor knew or should have known that his or her conduct was prohibited by this section.

3. Any commercial goods transportation contractor who willfully violates section eight hundred sixty-two-b of this article shall be subject to a civil penalty of up to twenty-five hundred dollars for the first violation per misclassified employee and to a civil penalty of up to five thousand dollars for each subsequent violation per misclassified employee within a five year period.

4. In addition to civil penalties, the criminal penalties imposed on a commercial goods transportation contractor who willfully violates the provisions of this article shall be a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished for a first offense by imprisonment for not more than thirty days or a fine not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars and for a subsequent offense by imprisonment for not more than sixty days or a fine not to exceed fifty thousand dollars.

5. If the commercial goods transportation contractor is a corporation, any officer of such corporation or shareholder who owns or controls at least ten percent of the outstanding stock of such corporation who knowingly permits the corporation to willfully violate the provisions of this article shall also be in violation of this article and the civil and criminal penalties herein shall attach to such officer upon conviction.

6. Any commercial goods transportation contractor subject to civil penalties under this article shall also be subject to any other applicable penalties or remedies provided by law for failure to pay any other statutory payment or coverage obligations, including but not limited to, unemployment insurance, workers' compensation insurance, or business, corporate or personal income tax, as follows:

(a) for failure to pay unemployment insurance tax, the penalties imposed by section five hundred seventy of this chapter.

(b) for intentional and material understatement or concealment of payroll or failure to secure workers' compensation insurance, the penalties imposed by paragraph (d) of subdivision one of section fifty-two of the workers' compensation law, and for failure to keep a true and accurate record pursuant to section one hundred thirty-one of the workers' compensation law, the penalties of section one hundred thirty-one of the workers' compensation law.

(c) for failure to pay business, corporate or personal income tax, the penalties imposed by section six hundred eighty-five and one thousand eighty-five of the tax law.

7. Any commercial goods transportation contractor or any officer or shareholder who owns or controls at least ten percent of the outstanding stock of such corporation that has been convicted of a misdemeanor shall be subject to debarment and be ineligible to submit a bid on or be awarded any public works contract with the state, any municipal corporation, public benefit corporation, public authority or public body for a period of up to one year from the date of such conviction or final determination, or up to five years in the event of any subsequent violation.

8. Any substantially owned affiliated entity of a commercial goods transportation contractor, as defined by paragraph g of subdivision five of section two hundred twenty of this chapter, shall be subject to the same civil penalty provided under this article for a violation of such provision.

9. Any penalties imposed under this section by the commissioner shall be appealed to the industrial board of appeals in accordance with article three of this chapter. Any penalties imposed under this section by the workers' compensation board or commissioner of taxation and finance shall be appealed in the same manner as the underlying violation.

10. Nothing in this section shall limit the availability of other remedies at law or in equity for a violation of this article.

11. Any fee or penalty assessed for a violation of this article shall be deposited into the department's fee and penalty account.

§ 862-e. Retaliation. 1. It is a violation of this article for an employer or any agent of any employer, to retaliate through discharge or in any other manner against any person in the terms of conditions of his or her employment for exercising any rights granted under this article for:

(a) making, or threatening to make, a complaint to an employer, co-worker or to a public body that rights guaranteed under this article have been violated;

(b) causing to be instituted any proceeding under or related to this article; or

(c) providing information to, or testifying before, any public body conducting an investigation, hearing or inquiry into any such violation of a law, rule or regulation by such employer.

Nothing in this section shall limit the commissioner's authority under section two hundred fifteen of this chapter, or any other statute.

2. Any act of retaliation under this section shall subject an employer to the civil penalties under section eight hundred sixty-two-d of this article, or to a private cause of action, or both.