

Truck types

By Jen Peake | CIEDA Marketing Specialist



Creek Travel Plaza (CTP) sees a variety of trucks every day. In a convenient spot on Interstate 65, at exit 54, the truck stop is a highway mecca for many long-haul truckers.

Most people think of the trucking industry as being 18-wheelers. But did you know that not all over-the-road drivers drive the big, long 18-wheel trucks? Some trucks are small and resemble moving vans. Some trucks are enclosed while others might be completely open.

Here is a list of some different trucks that make up the industry and often can be seen at CTP:

Big rig (18-wheeler or semi-truck)

These trucks are the same kind of vehicle with different slang names. They refer to trucks that have a tractor unit and one or more semi-trailers to haul freight. Trucks that transport multiple automobiles are classified in this category, as well as the typical 18-wheelers and some dump trucks.



Cab over

A cab over truck is one that has a vertical front, or flat face, with the cab of the truck sitting above or over the front axle. The most common of this style would be the fire truck. Many tour buses and RVs also are cab over trucks.



Dump truck

These vehicles transport loose materials, such as dirt, sand, gravel, etc. Some dump trucks are also cab over trucks but with a different purpose. Dump trucks have a hinged trailer that lifts out so the contents of the trailer can be "dumped" at the transport location.



Bobtail

A bobtail truck is one that has no trailer and is short, like the tail of a bobcat. Drivers "bobtail" usually after dropping off a trailer and returning to a warehouse or other destination to pick up another trailer.



Reefer

Reefers are those that have a refrigerated unit built directly on the truck frame or is transported by a trailer. These trucks deliver a vast assortment of things that need refrigerating. The most common item seen in reefer trucks is ice cream, but reefers also transport human organs for transplants, blood and plasma, flowers and much more.



Grain hopper



A grain hopper is a trailer pulled by a semi-tractor and used to haul bulk commodity products. These trucks are used extensively throughout the U.S. to transport agricultural products as well as any other commodity that can be hauled in bulk and loaded and unloaded through the trailer.