



Individual Disability Insurance

Long-Term | Income Protection+

# Occupation Playbook



## Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Driver

Occupation Class 2A



≈2.2 million jobs\*



\$57,440/year median pay\*



**Market Note:** Large market with higher hazard; design must align with underwriting reality and affordability.

## Target Clients



### Regional Driver

- ✓ **Age & Gender:** 35, M
- ✓ **Employment:** W-2
- ✓ **Income:** \$70,000
- ✓ **Background:** Truck driver with consistent routes and steady earnings



### Owner Operator

- ✓ **Age & Gender:** 45, M
- ✓ **Employment:** 1099
- ✓ **Income:** \$90,000
- ✓ **Background:** Driver with income impacted by operating and business expenses

## Recommended Income Protection+ Case Design

### Policy Foundation

- **Maximum Benefit Period:** 5 Years  
(realistic for higher hazard classes)
  - **Elimination Period:** 90 Days
  - **Renewal Type:** Guaranteed Renewable
  - **Policy Type:** Accident & Sickness
  - **Total Disability Definition:**  
Own Occupation and Not Working for two  
years then Any Gainful Occupation
- .....

### Suggested Riders

- Catastrophic Disability Benefit Rider

Other Riders to Consider:

- Residual Disability Rider
- Benefit Increase Rider (no cost)

## Why This Design Works

- **Keep the design placeable:** benefit period and definition should match higher hazard occupations realities.
- Focus on household protection and affordability to **reduce lapse risk.**
- **Catastrophic Rider** can add meaningful value for severe claims without complex design.

## Placement Assistance



### Underwrites Cleanly When:

- Keeping benefit conservative and aligning elimination period to savings and cash flow
- Being prepared with documentation for owner-operators (income after expenses matters)
- Avoiding over-customization; simplicity improves placement



### Triggers Friction When:

- Higher hazard occupation classes apply for long benefit periods with aggressive benefits
- When owner-operators ignore expenses in their quoted income
- Selecting riders that are unavailable for the class/state or adding riders late



### Talk Track

*"For drivers, the goal is coverage that issues and stays on the books. We keep the design simple, affordable, and aligned with occupational hazards so the household gets reliable protection."*

## Target Premiums



**Regional  
Driver** | 35, M

Monthly Benefit Amount

**\$4,500**

- Base Monthly Benefit Amount = \$2,250
- Catastrophic Rider Benefit Amount = \$2,250

**\$51.<sup>93</sup>** /mo



**Owner  
Operator** | 45, M

Monthly Benefit Amount

**\$6,000**

- Base Monthly Benefit Amount = \$3,000
- Catastrophic Rider Benefit Amount = \$3,000

**\$118.<sup>80</sup>** /mo

Quoted rates are based on non-tobacco.

# Pre-Underwriting Checklist

## Before You Quote

- ☐ Confirm occupation duties (time-split) align with the intended occupation class; do not rely on title alone.
- ☐ Confirm employment type: W-2, 1099, business owner, or multiple income sources.
- ☐ Confirm tobacco status and basic health history flags (height/weight, meds, recent treatments) to avoid re-quoting.
- ☐ Confirm existing employer benefits (STD/LTD), especially for teachers and hospital-employed professionals.

## Before You Design

- ☐ Select the most appropriate Total Disability Definition option for the occupation and protection goal.
- ☐ Set a conservative base Monthly Benefit that fits financial underwriting guidelines; use the Benefit Increase Rider (no cost) for growth.
- ☐ Choose Elimination Period to coordinate with employer STD or client savings strategy (commonly 90 or 180 days).
- ☐ Select riders that match the occupation's risk and client's need.

## Before You Submit

- ☐ Ensure the application, occupational duties, and illustration match (inconsistency triggers underwriting follow-up).
- ☐ Be ready with financial documentation if the case is 1099/self-employed or if benefits are being pushed higher.
- ☐ Avoid post-submission redesign unless underwriting requires it; frequent changes slow the case and can impact pricing.
- ☐ Set expectations with the client on underwriting steps and timeline up front.

\* U.S. Market Snapshot (BLS), May 2024

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