

# **New Medical Certification Requirements A Guide for Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Holders General Information**

**Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration  
November 2011**

**What is changing?** State driver licensing agencies (SDLAs) will be adding your medical certification status and the information on your medical examiner's certificate to your Commercial driver's license system (CDLIS) record.

**When does this change start?** This change starts on January 30, 2012

**What is not changing?** The driver physical qualification requirements are not changing.

**What are CDL holders required to do?**

1. You must determine what type of commerce you operate in. You must certify to your SDLA to one of the four types of commerce you operate in as listed below,
  - **Interstate non-excepted:** You are an Interstate non-excepted driver and must meet the Federal DOT medical card requirements (e.g. – you are “not excepted”).
  - **Interstate excepted:** You are an Interstate excepted driver and do not have to meet the Federal DOT medical card requirements.
  - **Intrastate non-excepted:** You are an Intrastate non-excepted driver and are required to meet the medical requirements for your State.
  - **Intrastate excepted:** You are an Intrastate excepted driver and do not have to meet the medical requirements for your State.
2. If you are subject to the DOT medical card requirements, provide a copy of each new DOT medical card to your SDLA prior to the expiration of the current DOT medical card.

**For more detailed information read the following:**

Starting January 30, 2012 and no later than January 30, 2014, all CDL holders must provide information to their SDLA regarding the type of commercial motor vehicle

# **New Medical Certification Requirements A Guide for Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Holders Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

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The following FAQs will help you in determining how to meet the new Federal medical certification requirements:

***Q. What must I do to comply with the new requirements for making my medical certification part of my CDL driving record?***

- A.** Starting on January 30, 2012, when you:
- Apply for a CDL;
  - Renew a CDL;
  - Apply for a higher class of CDL;
  - Apply for a new endorsement on a CDL; **or**
  - Transfer a CDL from another State

You will be required to self certify to a single type of commercial operation on your driver license application form. Based on that self certification, you may need to provide your SDLA with a current medical examiner's certificate and show any variance you may have to obtain or keep your CDL.

***Q. How do I determine which type of commercial motor vehicle (CMV) operation I should self-certify to my SDLA?***

- A.** For the purpose of complying with the new requirements for medical certification, it is important to know how you are using the CMV. To help you decide, follow these steps:

**Step 1:** Do you, or will you, use a CDL to operate a CMV in **interstate** or **intrastate commerce**?

**Interstate commerce is** when you drive a CMV:

- From one State to another State or a foreign country;
- Between two places within a State, but during part of the trip, the CMV crosses into another State or foreign country; **or**
- Between two places within a State, but the cargo is part of a trip that began or will end in another State or foreign country.

CMVs in interstate commerce are **non-excepted interstate commerce** drivers.

If you operate in both **excepted interstate commerce** and **non-excepted interstate commerce**, you must choose **non-excepted interstate commerce** to be qualified to operate in both types of interstate commerce.

**Q. *What should I do with the medical examiner's certificate beginning on January 30, 2014?***

After you provide your SDLA and your employer with the medical examiner's certificate, the medical examiner's certificate will only be valid for the first 15 days after it was issued. Your medical examiner's certificate will be recorded on your driving record and will become the valid version of your medical certification.

**Q. *What if I do not provide my SDLA with my self-certification and if required, my medical examiner's certificate and any required variance document by January 30, 2014?***

- A. Your SDLA will notify you that you are no longer medically certified to operate a CMV in non-excepted Interstate commerce. The SDLA will then remove all your CDL privileges from your license.

**Q. *What should I do when my medical certificate and/or variance is about to expire?***

- A. You must have a new medical examination and obtain a new medical certificate. You must then provide the SDLA the new medical examiner's certificate. You are also responsible for applying to FMCSA for a renewal of your variance.

**Q. *What happens if my medical examiner's certificate or variance expires before I provide my SDLA with a new one?***

- A. Your SDLA will notify you that you are no longer medically certified to operate a CMV in non-excepted Interstate commerce. The SDLA will then remove all your CDL privileges from your license.

**Q. *How can I get back my CDL privileges?***

- A. If the medical examiner's certificate has expired, you must obtain a new one and provide it to your SDLA. If the variance has expired, you must renew it with FMCSA. Your State may require retesting and additional fees to get back your CDL privileges. If allowed by your SDLA, you may also change your self-certification to an operating category that does not require a medical certificate.