



TEAMSTERS Safety & Health **FACTS**

Safety and Health Department, International Brotherhood of Teamsters
25 Louisiana Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001 ♦ 202/624-6960 ♦ ibtsafety@teamster.org

Pennsylvania CDL Drivers Driver Certification and Medical Certification Requirements

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) recently amended its regulations (FMCSRs) to require interstate commercial driver's license (CDL) holders who are subject to the physical qualification requirements of the FMCSRs to provide a current original or copy of their medical certificate to the State Driver's License Agency (SDLA). In Pennsylvania, drivers will have to provide this information to Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT). PennDOT is required to record this information on the Commercial Driver License Information System (CDLIS) driver record.

Current CDL Holders with a Medical Certification:

Starting on January 30, 2012, if a CDL driver:

- Renews a CDL
- Applies for a higher class of CDL
- Applies for a new endorsement on a CDL, or
- Transfers a CDL from another state

Drivers who possess Pennsylvania-issued CDLs must notify PennDOT of the driver category to which he/she is classified, based on the categories as defined in the regulation (see below for information on categories). The SDLA must receive this information no later than January 30, 2014, unless the driver is involved in one of the actions described above.

Additionally, each driver will be required to submit a copy of his/her medical certification to PennDOT prior to January 30th 2014. If a driver fails to submit a copy of the medical certificate the CDL license will be downgraded, this means that PennDOT will remove the CDL driving privileges from his/her driver license and the driver will no longer be permitted to legally operate a commercial motor vehicle. Drivers in the State of Pennsylvania who have had the commercial

designation removed (downgraded to a non-commercial driver's license) will be required to apply for a commercial learner's permit and complete all required testing and training, including that which is necessary for CDL endorsements, prior to being reissued a commercial driver's license and endorsements.

Current CDL Holders with a Non-driving Position

If a driver is not currently working as a professional driver in the State of Pennsylvania he/she must still submit a current copy of the medical certification to PennDOT.

To avoid the loss of the commercial driving designation and the requirement to apply for a learner's permit, drivers should self-certify as either "Excepted Interstate" or "Excepted Intrastate" transportation. If and when the driving type changes, drivers will be required to resubmit the Self-Certification Form (DL-11CD) and submit a valid Medical Examiner's Certificate.

Please note that making this change to the driving record will automatically disqualify the CDL holder from operating in any form of Non-excepted transportation. Once drivers are able to renew their Medical Examiner's Certificate, they must submit it along with an updated Self-Certification Form (DL-11CD).

Current CDL Holders not able to obtain Medical Certification

If a driver is currently unable to obtain a medical certification due to a disability or other medically unqualified condition he/she must change their driving type using the Self Certification Form (DL-11CD) to "Excepted Interstate" or "Excepted Intrastate" transportation.

It is important to note that drivers must complete this step to avoid the loss of the commercial driving designation. The State of Pennsylvania will require drivers to re-apply for the commercial learner's permit, complete CDL knowledge testing, CDL skills testing, all knowledge testing for current CDL endorsements and pay all associated fees before the driving status is reinstated.

CATEGORIES

Category 1: Non-Excepted Interstate: A person must certify that her or she operates or expects to operate in interstate commerce, is both subject to and meets the qualification requirements under 49 CFR part 391, and is required to obtain a medical examiner's certificate by §391.45.

- All Class A, B, and C drivers who do NOT fall under any of the other categories
- All Class A, B, and C drivers granted a medical variance, federal vision or diabetes exemptions, or Skill Performance Evaluation certificate (SPE) (V restriction)

Category 2: Excepted Interstate: A person must certify that he or she operates or expects to operate a commercial vehicle in interstate commerce (across state lines) but engages in operations exclusively excepted under 49 C.F.R. 390.3(f), 391.2, 391.68 or 398.3. And, that her or she is excepted from all or parts of the medical qualification requirements of 49 CFR 391, and is therefore not required to obtain a medical examiner's certificate.

- (1) All school bus operations as defined in §390.5;
- (2) Transportation performed by the Federal government, a State, or any political subdivision of a State;
- (3) The occasional transportation of personal property by individuals not for compensation nor in the furtherance of a commercial enterprise;
- (4) The transportation of human corpses or sick and injured persons;
- (5) The operation of fire trucks and rescue vehicles while involved in emergency and related operations;
- (6) The operation of commercial motor vehicles designed or used to transport between 9 and 15 passengers (including the driver), not for direct compensation;
- (7) The operation of commercial motor vehicles designed or used to transport between 9 and 15 passengers (including the driver) for direct compensation, provided the vehicle is not being operated beyond a 75 air-mile radius from the driver's normal work-reporting location;
- (8) Either a driver of a commercial motor vehicle used primarily in the transportation of propane winter heating fuel or a driver of a motor vehicle used to respond to a pipeline emergency;
- (9) Farm custom operations;
- (10) Apiarian industries; or
- (11) Farm vehicle driver except a farm vehicle driver who drives an articulated (combination) commercial motor vehicle, as defined in §390.5.

Category 3: Non-Excepted Intrastate: A person must certify that her or she operates only in intrastate commerce and therefore is subject to State driver qualification requirements.

Category 4: Excepted Intrastate: A person must certify that her or she operates in intrastate commerce, but engages exclusively in transportation or operations excepted from all or parts of the State driver qualification requirements.