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American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators

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## FMCSA Issues Final Rule on Military CDL Reciprocity

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has issued a [final rule](#) that allows, but does not require, State Driver Licensing Agencies (SDLAs) to waive requirements for the commercial learner's permit (CLP) knowledge test for qualified military personnel. The rule includes the option for a SDLA to waive the tests required for a passenger carrier (P) endorsement, tank vehicle (N) endorsement, or hazardous material (H) endorsement, with proof of training and experience.

The combination of this action with previous actions taken by the agency provides SDLAs the option to waive both the CDL knowledge and driving skills tests for certain current and former military service members who received training to operate CMVs (commercial motor vehicles) during active-duty, National Guard, or reserve service in military vehicles that are comparable to CMVs. FMCSA has indicated that it is developing guidance and sample documents that SDLAs can use to verify an applicant's required training and testing in the appropriate vehicle.

AAMVA in collaboration with FMCSA and the US Army, Employment Partnership Office and the Department of Defense, had previously developed a standardized [Application for Military Skills Waiver form](#). This document addresses all of the issues captured through regulation - including which violations can deny the waiver; identifying the specific type(s) of vehicle which the service member was licensed to drive; and, an endorsement by the service member's commanding officer of the safe driving record. For a list of the states which currently offer the skills test waiver for military drivers [see this map](#).

The rule is effective as of November 27, 2018 and is the result of section 5401 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (P.L. 114-94).

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For questions about AAMVA's Government Affairs, please contact Cian Cashin at [ccashin@aamva.org](mailto:ccashin@aamva.org)



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4401 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 700, Arlington, VA 22203

