CDL Medical Card and National Medical Registry

Bill Quade
Associate Administrator, Enforcement and Program Delivery

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MedCert Timeline

- Final Rule published  December 1, 2008
- Final Rule effective   January 30, 2009
- State Compliance      January 30, 2012
Amendment keeps in effect until January 30, 2014, the requirement that interstate drivers subject to the CDL regulations and the Federal physical qualification requirements, must retain paper copies of their medical examiner's certificate.

Interstate motor carriers are also required to retain copies of their drivers' medical certificates.
• Rule *does not extend the compliance dates* for States to collect and to post to the CDLIS driver record data from a CDL holder's medical self-certification and medical examiner's certificate.

• This action taken to ensure the medical qualification of CDL holders until all States are able to post the medical self-certification and medical examiner's certificate data on CDLIS record.
All CDL holders engaged in interstate commerce and subject to Part 391 must:

- Prior to initial issuance of CDL
- Starting 3 years after effective date
- Provide original/copy of medical examiner’s certificate to SDLA
- **Current CDL holders** – No later than 5 years after effective date
The State

- Record medical certification status for all CDL holders
- Record medical certificate data on driver record for Interstate CDL holders
- Don’t issue a CDL if “not certified”
- Provide information to authorized users and their agents
• Update medical certification status within ten (10) calendar days

• Medical variance - Place restriction on CDL

• Downgrade CDL within 60 days if “not certified”

• Notify driver of downgrade
• Verify medical status on motor vehicle record

• Place in driver qualification (DQ) file

• Place copy of any medical variance in DQ file

• Perform verification when employed and at least annually
1. Medical certification data for CDL holders who certify they operate in Excepted Interstate (EI) or Excepted Intrastate (EA) commerce categories must not be sent in CDLIS messages
   
   **FMCSA Agrees**

2. Medical certification data for CDL holders who certify as being in a Non-Excepted Interstate (NI) commerce category must be sent in CDLIS messages
   
   **FMCSA Agrees**

3. Medical certification data for CDL holders who certify as being in a Non-Excepted Intrastate (NA) commerce category must be sent in CDLIS messages if the source jurisdiction has that data on record
   
   **FMCSA agrees note it brings up concerns**
The Reason for a National Registry

- Make highways safer
- Save lives by -
  - reducing crashes
  - reducing injuries
  - reducing fatalities involving large trucks and buses
• Requires all Medical Examiners be trained, tested and certified

• Ensures
  o Medical Examiners know FMCSA regulations and drivers role
  o Drivers are properly examined to safely operate commercial vehicles in interstate commerce
Benefits

• 1st step in phased in implementation of improved medical fitness program
• Links to other medical initiatives
• Requires drivers to update medical certifications
• Will eventually provide access to roadside law enforcement officials providing medical certification status
Certified Medical Examiners

Medical professionals

- Doctors of medicine or osteopathy
- Advanced practice nurses
- Physician assistants
- Chiropractors
- Other medical professionals
New Regulations for the Medical Examiner

- Complete National Registry Program training
- Successfully pass the Medical Examiner test

FMCSA must now

- Provide medical exams
- Issue Medical Certifications
- Inclusion on the National Registry
Additional Requirements:

- State licensed, certified, or registered
- Completion of training
  - FMCSA Core Curriculum specifications
- Pass the FMCSA Medical Examiner Certification Test
  - Administered by an authorized, private-sector testing organization

Maintain Medical Examiner Certification

- Refresher training at least every 3 years
- Re-certify every 6 years
A new rule will provide for the inclusion of additional data elements for medical certification cards including need for exemptions;

A new rule is needed to ensure the of driver medical certification data to the SDLA which will eliminate fraud and negate the need for a driver to carry a paper card; and

Consideration of the new rule is beginning.
Medical Examiner Candidate Handbook
- Obtain certification
- Training requirements
- Certification testing
- Maintain certification

Medical Examiner Handbook
- FMCSA medical standards and guidance

Sample Curriculum
- Training outline for training providers
- FMCSA regulations and guidance
National Registry Website

www.nrcme.fmcsa.dot.gov

- Criteria on finding an accredited training organization
- FMCSA training requirements
- List of authorized testing organizations
- Locate a Certified Medical Examiner
- Download
  - brochures
  - fact Sheets
  - posters
The CLP Final Rule
Summary of Changes

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• Some sections and paragraphs changed to accommodate Med Cert final rule (Dec. 1, 2008)
• The term “Non-resident” changed to “Non-domiciled” for CDL and CLP (383.5)
• Added definition of “Manual transmission” (383.5)
• Does not incorporate by reference AAMVA’s “2005 CDL Test System”, July 2010 version (383.9)
• States must use an FMCSA pre-approved State Testing system that is comparable to AAMVA’s “2005 CDL Test System”, July 2010 version (383.131 and 383.133)

• Clarifies that knowledge and skills tests apply to both CDLs and CLPs (383.23)

• Allows school bus (S) and tank vehicle (N) endorsements on CLP under certain conditions (383.25, 383.71, 383.73 and 383.93) – no passengers and empty tank.
Clarifies that test examiners, other students and CDL holder accompanying CLP holder are not passengers.

CDL holder seeking upgrade only needs a CLP, if upgrade requires a skills test (383.25)

Table 1 to 383.71 reflects updated list of documents acceptable to show legal status for CLP and CDL.
• 383.71(f)(2)(i) reflects updated list of documents acceptable for non-domiciled CLP and CDL

• Changes CLP renewal period from 90 days to 180 days 383.73(a)(3)

• Changes State requirement to re-test suspect drivers within 30 days of notifying drivers to a driver making an appointment with 30 days for next available date and time for test(s) (383.73)
- Exception to 2 staff members checking and verifying documents for SDLA offices with only one staff member – supervisor within 1 business day (383.73)

- Changes from annual to every 2 years for States to conduct inspections and oversight of 3rd party testers

- Adds requirement that driving schools cannot skills test their own students – 50 mile exception (383.75)
• Removes requirement that 3rd party testers must conduct at least 50 skills tests annually
• Provides alternative to decertification of skills test examiners who do not conduct at least 10 skills test annually – take refresher training or State examiner ride along (383.75)
• Removes the prohibition on banking the passing scores of parts of the skills test.
• Allows states to use black and white engraved photographs on a CDL (383.151)