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FMCSA Publishes Medical Examiner's Certification Integration Final Rule

On April 23rd, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) published its Medical Examiner's Certification (MEC) Integration [final rule](#). This rule requires commercial driver medical examiners to use a new form (MCSA-5875) starting December 22, 2015 and as of June 22, 2018, report results of all examinations to FMCSA by midnight of the next calendar day following the examination. FMCSA will then electronically transmit driver identification, examination results, and restriction information from these examinations to State Driver's Licensing Agencies (SDLAs). FMCSA will also transmit medical variance information for all CMV drivers electronically to the SDLAs. To support member operations, AAMVA is in discussions with FMCSA to explore a direct connection between CDLIS, AAMVANet, and the Medical Examiner reporting system.

Section VII (beginning on page 22802) provides a section-by-section explanation of regulatory changes to the 2008 Med-Cert final rule made through this rule. There are numerous changes states should be aware of, including Section 383.73(o) which would change the timeframe for states posting the MEC information to the CDLIS driver record. States currently have 10 calendar days to post the MEC information. In the new rule, states will have one business day to post the MEC to the CDLIS driver record after electronically receiving it. This requirement will be effective once the electronic platform to send and receive MEC information is operational and no earlier than June 22, 2018. The final rule also affirms the existing requirement that when a driver's MEC has been invalidated, the SDLA must change the driver's status on the CDLIS record to "not certified" and begin the process for downgrading the CLP/CDL. Amendments made to Section 384.301 adds a new paragraph giving states 3 years after the effective date to come into substantial compliance with the new CDL requirements.

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While most of the final rule provisions take effect June 22, 2018, the provision requiring the State to update the medical status to "not certified" when the medical certification is voided by FMCSA goes into effect on the effective date of the final rule (June 22, 2015). In these instances, FMCSA will directly contact the SDLA to notify them of the change in medical status.

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