

New Medical Certification Requirements
Guide for New Jersey Commercial Driver License (CDL) Holders
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is changing?

The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) will add medical certification status and medical examiner's certificate information to Commercial Driver License System (CDLIS) record.

2. When does this change start?

In July 2012, the MVC will begin to collect self-certifying and medical certificate information for new and existing CDL holders.

3. What is not changing?

The driver physical qualification requirements are not changing.

4. How do I comply with the new requirements for making my medical certification part of my CDL driving record?

Starting in July 2012, when you apply for a CDL you will be required to self-certify as to what type of commercial operation is applicable by signing a self-certifying affidavit. Based on that self-certification, most drivers will need to provide the MVC with a current medical examiner's certificate and show any variance you may have to obtain or keep your CDL. All current CDL holders should wait until they receive a notice from the MVC before they submit an affidavit.

5. What are CDL holders required to do?

You must determine what type of commerce you operate in. You must then certify to the MVC which 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 New Jersey. **Please Note:** New Jersey regulations require a medical certificate for intrastate drivers.
- Intrastate excepted: You are an Intrastate excepted driver and do not have to meet the medical requirements for New Jersey.

6. How do I determine which type of commercial motor vehicle (CMV) operation I should self-certify to the MVC?

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 three 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.

Intrastate commerce is when you drive a CMV within a state and you do not meet any of the descriptions above for interstate commerce. A typical intrastate holder makes local delivery of items that originated in New Jersey.

Step 2: Once you decide that you operate or will operate in interstate commerce or intrastate commerce, you must decide whether you operate (or expect to operate) in a non-excepted or excepted status. This decision will tell you which of the four types of commerce you must self-certify.

- **You operate in excepted interstate commerce** when you drive a CMV in interstate commerce only for the following excepted activities: as a federal, state or local government employee; to transport human corpses or sick or injured persons; fire truck or rescue vehicle drivers during emergencies and other related activities; in custom harvesting on a farm or to transport farm machinery and supplies used in the custom harvesting operation to and from a farm or to transport custom harvested crops to storage or market; beekeeper in the seasonal transportation of bees; operated by a farmer, but is not a combination vehicle (power unit and towed unit), and is used to transport agricultural products, farm machinery or farm supplies (no placardable hazardous materials) to and from a farm and within 150 air-miles of the farm; as a private motor carrier of passengers for non-business purposes ; or to transport migrant workers.

If you answered yes to one or more of the above activities as the type of operation in which you drive, you operate in **excepted interstate commerce** and do not need to submit a medical examiner's certificate.

- **You operate in non-excepted interstate commerce** if you answered no to all of the above activities. You are required to submit a current medical examiner's certificate, commonly referred to as a medical certificate or DOT card, to the MVC. Most CDL holders who drive CMVs in interstate commerce are **non-excepted interstate commerce** drivers.

Intrastate Commerce:

- You operate in **excepted intrastate commerce** when you drive a CMV only in intrastate commerce activities and you meet any of the exceptions listed above.
- **You operate in non-excepted intrastate commerce** when you drive a CMV only in intrastate commerce but are required submit a medical certificate to meet New Jersey's medical certification requirements.

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.

Step 3: Provide the MVC with your self-certification affidavit of your operating status. The affidavit is located on the back of the notice you received from the MVC. It must be completed in full and mailed to the MVC in the enclosed self-addressed envelope. If required, be sure to include a clear copy of your up-to-date medical certificate. If you self-certify to non-excepted interstate or non-excepted intrastate on or after July 2012 you must provide the MVC with either the original or copy of your current medical examiner's certificate.

7. What if I am an existing CDL holder and my license does not expire between July 2012 and January 30, 2014?

A. You will receive a notice and self-certification affidavit in the mail from the MVC. Upon receipt you will be responsible for the three steps noted above and must provide the MVC with your self-certification affidavit of operating status no later than January 30, 2014.

8. After I provide the MVC with my unexpired medical examiner's certificate, do I still have to carry an original or copy of my medical examiner's certificate?

Yes. Until January 30, 2014, you will still have to carry an original or copy of the medical examiner's certificate and provide a copy to your employer for your driver qualification file.

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

You must have a new medical examination and obtain a new medical certificate. You must then mail the new medical examiner's certificate to the MVC at the address below. You are also responsible for applying to FMCSA for a renewal of your variance.

10. What happens if my medical examiner's certificate or variance expires before I provide the MVC with a new one?

The MVC will notify you that you are no longer medically-certified to operate a CMV in non-excepted Interstate or intrastate commerce. If the MVC still does not receive a valid medical certificate, we will remove all your CDL privileges and downgrade your license to a basic driver license.

11. What if I change the type of commercial motor vehicle operation I drive?

You will have to mail a revised self-certifying affidavit to the address below.

12. How can I reinstate my CDL privileges after being downgraded?

If the medical examiner's certificate has expired, you must get a new physical, have the doctor complete the certificate and submit it to the MVC. If the variance has expired, you must renew it with FMCSA. The MVC may require retesting and additional fees to reinstate your CDL privileges. You may also change your type of driving in order to self-certify to an operating category that does not require a medical certificate.

13. I currently have a passenger endorsement on my CDL and submit a medical physical (long) form every two years; do I still need to submit the long form?

Yes, in New Jersey the long form must be submitted for passenger endorsement holders in addition to the medical certificate. After February 1, 2014 the long form will no longer be required.

14. I received a notice but no longer need a CDL. What should I do?

You should visit your nearest MVC Agency and have your CDL downgraded to a basic driver license.

15. Do I still need to provide my employer with a copy of my medical certificate?

At this time yes, but beginning in January 2014 your employer will be required to obtain a copy of your medical certification from the MVC.

16. Will the expiration period of a medical certificate change with this program?

No, the medical certificate expiration date will not change.

17. I have read all the FAQs but I'm unclear about these requirements. Who can I contact to explain what I need to do?

You should contact your employer with any questions you have regarding this program. You can also call the MVC CDL Unit at 609-292-7500 (extension 5077) and someone will be able to assist you.

18. Due to my medical condition, my physician said he/she could not sign the medical certificate. I need to keep my job and can still drive safely. Does the state provide waivers?

No, federal regulations prohibit someone from operating a CMV without submitting a medical certificate.

19. I do not use my CDL but want to retain it, is there a way I can keep my CDL?

No, federal regulations prohibit someone from holding a CDL without submitting a medical certificate unless they operate in "excepted" commerce.

20. While operating a CMV, I only leave NJ once or twice a year. Is this considered interstate operations?

Yes, if you travel outside NJ while operating a CMV, you are considered an interstate driver.

21. I already submitted a valid medical certificate but it expired and I have to submit a new one, what address should I send it to?

All medical certificates and/or self- certifying affidavits should be sent to: New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission CDL Unit PO Box 685 Trenton, NJ 08666.