
New DOT and CDL Requirements Part 1

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration passed rule making that combines the DOT medical with the CDL license. While there are numerous changes to the requirements, the bottom line is that the main requirements are still in place.

The medical qualifications have not changed and CDL holders must still be medically qualified to operate a commercial motor vehicle and it is the individual's responsibility to ensure that their DOT is kept current. Employers are still responsible to know that their drivers meet the medical requirements and that their drivers have a valid DOT medical on file at all times.

The biggest change with the new rule making is that there will now be a way for the DMV to systematically track expired or invalid DOT medical cards and by the means of a new licensing status, prohibit an individual from driving a CMV when they are not medically qualified due to an expired or invalid DOT medical card. The DMV is now responsible for collecting, storing, enforcing and providing the DOT information upon demand to employers, prospective employers and law enforcement.

The new rule requires the creation of a new status, "Medically Certified Status" that must be tracked by the DMV. The certification status will either be set to blank, "Certified" or "Not Certified" and this status will be separate from the document or driving status.

It is the responsibility of the CDL driver to certify himself or herself. The following is the

recommended choice for county CDL drivers: A. Non-excepted Interstate - A person must certify that he 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 examiners certificate by §391.45

New drivers will need to provide the self-certification and medical demographic information when they make application at a driver license office for their CDL license or permit. Prior to January 30, 2014, existing CDL holders, depending on the expiration date of their CDL license, may or may not need to make license application at this time, but may just need to submit to the DMV their self certification and medical demographic information for the entry of that information.

What This Means For Counties

- These changes only affect CDL holders and do not affect drivers of CMVs under 26,001 lbs GVWR.
- The DMV is now responsible for the collection, storage, enforcement and release of DOT information.
- Individuals must provide to the DMV a copy of their DOT medical every time the DOT medical is updated.
- Employers must place in their employees DQ file a copy of the CDLIS MVR every time an individual updates their DOT.

New DOT and CDL Requirements *Part 2*

- DOT medicals can be walked into any driver license office or can be mailed or faxed to the CDL unit.
- Employers can purchase the new CDLIS MVR from either the DMV or a third party vendor. If it is purchased from the DMV, the cost is still \$2.20.
- Upon expiration of the DOT medical card, an individual can no longer legally drive a CMV and they have 10 days to provide a new DOT medical to the DMV to avoid a possible license cancellation process being started.
- Individuals have an additional 20 days to provide an updated DOT medical card to the DMV before their entire license is cancelled and they have no driving privileges.
- Driving without a valid DOT medical card or driving on a canceled CDL because there is not a valid DOT medical card on file with the DMV may be considered an Out of Service violation.
- The DMV will accept the DOT medical card from the individual, the employer or the individual's doctor. All they require is that the information in the card be legible.
- DOT medical cards must be completely filled out, free from incorrect dates, cross outs, white outs or any other type of change. The DMV will not accept a DOT medical card with any of these errors.
- Compliance will always be in the form of an updated DOT medical card or a downgrade to a regular license.
- The new rules do not change any of the medical requirements contained in the physical or what qualifies or disqualifies a driver.
- The expiration time frames of the DOT medical cards have not changed. (Every two years)

The fax number for the DOT medical card and self-certification is (303) 205-5709. Documents can be mailed to Colorado Dept. of Revenue, Attn: CDL Unit Room 154, 1881 Pierce St., Lakewood, CO 80214.

For further information, contact the Department of Revenue general customer service phone number: (303) 205-5613 or call your CTSI Loss Prevention representative at (303) 861-0507.