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## Know the Facts – Your CDL Holder Medical Certificate

### What is the National Registry Program?

The National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (National Registry) program was developed by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to improve highway safety and driver health. It requires all medical examiners who wish to perform physical examinations for CDL holders to be trained and certified in FMCSA physical qualification standards.

### How will the National Registry program impact me?

If you are a CDL holder, you already need to have a valid medical certificate signed by a medical examiner. The only change is that after May 21, 2014, you will need to go to a certified medical examiner for your medical certificate.

### How often do I have to obtain a medical certificate?

All CDL holders must have a physical examination at least every 2 years; however, the medical examiner may determine that you need more frequent examinations (for example, annually or every 6 months). The National Registry program does not change how often you need to obtain a medical examination; it only requires that you go to a certified medical examiner.

### How do I find a certified medical examiner?

You can find certified medical examiners in your area by following these three simple steps:

1. Go to the National Registry website at <https://nationalregistry.fmcsa.dot.gov>
2. Click on the U.S. map to bring up a list of certified medical examiners in your area. You can search by ZIP Code, State, or examiner name.
3. Choose a certified medical examiner from the list and call to make an appointment. It is recommended that you print the page with the certified medical examiner's information as verification to keep for your records.

### When does this change take effect?

The National Registry Final Rule was published on April 20, 2012. The program became effective May 21, 2012. After May 21, 2014, all CDL holders must have their medical examination performed by a certified medical examiner listed on the National Registry.

### Why is the National Registry program necessary?

The National Registry program is necessary to ensure that medical examiners can effectively determine if your physical qualification meets FMCSA's standards. The National Registry program will help reduce the occurrence of crashes, injuries, and fatalities involving large trucks and buses by making sure you are physically and mentally able to perform your job safely.