
Know the Facts – Your CDL Holder Medical Certificate

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.

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

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.

What kind of conditions may disqualify me from holding a CDL?

According to the Colorado Division of Motor Vehicles the following medical conditions may prevent you from holding a CDL.

- Poor vision
- Diabetes requiring insulin
- Seizures
- Heart problems
- Respirator issues
- Alcohol abuse
- Drug use, including marijuana

These are only examples of medical conditions that may prevent you from safely operating a vehicle, each person's situation is determined by a certified medical examiner on a case-by-case basis.

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. Enter your city, state, or zip code into the search box to find a certified medical examiner in your area. Note, you may also search by medical examiner name or number by clicking on the Advanced Search option.
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.

What This Means for Counties

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. For more information about this topic, contact CTSI at 303 861 0507. 