



NATC Advisory Bulletin

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has recently announced a change in the requirements and deadlines regarding the CDL/Medical certificate merger. See below:

FMCSA Announces One-Year Extension of Paper Medical Certificate Requirement for Commercial Bus and Truck Drivers

The Federal Motor Carrier Administration (FMCSA) today announced that it is extending by one year, until Jan. 30, 2015, a requirement that interstate commercial driver's license (CDL) holders retain paper copies of their medical examiner's certificate and continue to make the document available for review upon request at the roadside by federal and state commercial motor vehicle inspectors. In Dec. 2008, FMCSA issued a Final Rule modernizing, streamlining, and simplifying recordkeeping obligations for drivers, carriers and state governments by requiring that a driver's medical certification record be merged with state-issued CDLs. States received support from FMCSA to implement the necessary IT system upgrades and merge the records into one, online database – the Commercial Driver's License Information System (CDLIS). FMCSA announced the one-year extension today to protect commercial drivers from being cited for violations because some states are not yet in full compliance with the new system. For a copy of the Federal Register announcement, see: www.FMCSA.DOT.gov.

The states are in varying stages of compliance with the new regulation. Some are up and fully functional, and have been for some time, while others are just beginning the process. Even though the FMCSA has extended the requirement for the driver to carry the medical certificate, no extensions to the state mandated requirements have yet been granted. The regulations still require the state to declare "not-certified" any driver who has not presented their medical to the state by January 30, 2014. Roadside inspectors are required to check the CDL status of every driver they inspect. If the driver's CDL status is returned as "not-certified" the driver must be placed out of service. Please ensure that your CDL drivers have completed the process of providing their current medical certificate to the state. Even if they have done this, because of the above extension they must still carry their medical certificate on their person.

Remember all the above applies to CDL drivers only...non-CDL drivers are not affected by any of these changes and must have their medical certificate in their possession while operating commercial motor vehicles.