

## Medical Certification – New Requirements

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A Federal Rule effective January 30, 2009, required states to implement procedures by which interstate CDL drivers would provide proof of their medical certification to state departments of motor vehicles who would, in turn, record that information on the CDL driver's license and in a national databank. The target date for state compliance was January 30, 2012, or risk the loss of federal funds. While the Federal Government modified and/or loosened compliance deadlines a little bit upon realizing that many states were going to miss the initial January 30, 2012, compliance deadline, Pennsylvania need not worry because the passage of Act 1 of 2012 allows Pennsylvania to meet necessary compliance deadlines and avoid the loss of Federal revenues. Here is what Act 1 of 2012 means for drivers holding a Pennsylvania commercial driver's license.

- All persons holding a Pennsylvania commercial driver's license will receive and must complete and submit to PennDOT a Self-Certification Form. This form will be provided to drivers by PennDOT on a staggered basis beginning in March 2012. PennDOT's proposed schedule of providing drivers with the self-certification form can be found at [http://www.dmv.state.pa.us/pdotforms/dl\\_forms/Self\\_Certification\\_Notification.pdf](http://www.dmv.state.pa.us/pdotforms/dl_forms/Self_Certification_Notification.pdf). This self-certification form will be sent to drivers at their address of record in PennDOT's driver license records. As such, drivers should make certain that their current mailing address is on file with PennDOT.
- The Self-Certification Form requires CDL holders to certify whether they provide intrastate or interstate transportation services, and whether they are excepted from providing a medical examiner's certificate. Note that, although the Federal law only applies to interstate operations, Pennsylvania's Act 1 of 2012 has extended the requirement to provide a medical examiner's certificate to non-excepted intrastate transportation providers as well. PennDOT's Self-Certification Form, which is known as a DL-11CD, can be found at [http://www.dmv.state.pa.us/pdotforms/dl\\_forms/DL-11CD.pdf](http://www.dmv.state.pa.us/pdotforms/dl_forms/DL-11CD.pdf). The second page of this form clearly categorizes the applicable exceptions.
- Beginning in March 2012, PennDOT will be sending initial notifications to Pennsylvania CDL holders, advising them of their obligation to self-certify. CDL holders should be getting this initial notice approximately six months prior to their current CDL expiring.

**Employers of CDL holders may want to consider keeping a list of when their employees' CDL licenses expire so that they can remind them and keep track of their having completed and submitted the necessary self-certification and, if applicable, medical examiner's certificate to PennDOT.**

- CDL holders should submit the self-certification and, if applicable, the medical examiner's certificate at least 30 days prior to the expiration date of their current driver's license. If

drivers fail to do so, PennDOT will send the CDL holder one additional notice, which will arrive approximately one month prior to their current license expiration date.

- If a CDL holder fails to provide PennDOT with their completed self-certification form and, if applicable, the medical examiner's certificate before the expiration of their current CDL, the individual's commercial designation will be removed. For that individual to again secure a CDL, they will need to secure a commercial learner's permit and complete all relevant testing.
- PennDOT will provide CDL holders with a written receipt acknowledging that it received the CDL holder's self-certification and, if applicable, medical examiner's certificate, within fifteen days of the CDL holder's submission of that material. If a CDL holder does not receive that receipt within fifteen days of their submission, follow up with PennDOT is necessary.
- Driver licenses are valid for four years; medical examiner's certificates are valid for up to two years. As such, CDL holders will be required to update their medical examiner's certificate with PennDOT prior to renewing their CDL. Approximately 60 days prior to the expiration of a CDL holder's medical examiner's certificate, PennDOT will be sending CDL holders a notice that they are required to submit a new medical examiner's certificate to PennDOT, in order to keep the commercial designation on their license. A CDL holder's failure to do so will result in the removal of the commercial designation on the individual's driver's license.
- Regardless of whether it is included on their driver's license, CDL holders must continue to carry separate proof of their medical qualifications with them through January 30, 2014.
- PennDOT's complete Fact Sheet regarding the Self-Certification and Medical Examiner's Certificate Program can be found at: [http://www.dmv.state.pa.us/pdotforms/fact\\_sheets/Self Cert Med Exam Cert Fact Sheet.pdf](http://www.dmv.state.pa.us/pdotforms/fact_sheets/Self Cert Med Exam Cert Fact Sheet.pdf)

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