



SAFETY DIRECTOR BULLETIN



CDL MEDICAL CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW JERSEY PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Commercial Driver License (CDL) medical certification requirements vary by operation type. While many CDL holders are required to maintain a valid Medical Examiner's Certificate, certain employees of State and local governmental entities may qualify for an exception when operating under specific conditions.

Public entities should understand that an employee's status as a Municipal, County, or State employee does not automatically exempt them from all medical certification requirements. The driver's specific operation and self-certification status must also be considered.

Public Entity Employees and Medical Certification Exceptions

An individual may qualify for an exception from certain medical certification requirements when applicable criteria are met, including circumstances in which the individual:

- Is employed by the state or a political subdivision of the state (ex., MUA, DPW)
- Operates a Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) exclusively within the state (intrastate commerce) and qualifies for an applicable exemption from medical certification requirements
- Completes and submits the required CDL Holder Self-Certification information to the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (NJMVC).

The CDL Holder Self-Certification

CDL holders must accurately self-certify their type of commercial operation with the NJMVC. The driver's self-certification status is an important part of determining whether medical certification information must be maintained with the driver's CDL record.

Employers should ensure that drivers understand the type of operation they perform and that their self-certification accurately reflects their current duties.

Interstate Operations: An Important Limitation

Public entity employers and CDL holders must understand the potential consequences of operating outside of New Jersey.

An employee who qualifies for an applicable intrastate exception while operating a CMV for a Municipal, County, or State agency should not assume that the same exception applies when operating across state lines.

Operating a CMV outside of New Jersey may be considered interstate commerce, and different Federal medical qualification requirements may apply.

Before operating a CMV outside of New Jersey, employers and drivers should verify:

- Whether the planned operation is considered interstate commerce.
- Whether the driver must maintain a valid Medical Examiner's Certificate.
- Whether the driver's CDL self-certification status remains accurate for the operation being performed.
- Whether the driver meets all applicable Federal and State requirements before beginning the trip.

Official Government Business Does Not Automatically Eliminate Interstate Requirements

- A common misunderstanding is that a Municipal, County, or State employee is automatically exempt from medical certification requirements when traveling on official government business.
- Consider the nature and location of the operation. Crossing a state line may change the regulatory requirements applicable to the driver and the CMV operation.
- Employers should establish procedures to identify drivers who may be assigned to interstate operations and verify their qualifications before making those assignments.

Key Points

- Government employment alone does not automatically exempt a CDL holder from medical certification requirements.
- Certain public entity employees may qualify for an exception when they meet the applicable criteria.
- CDL holders must complete the required NJMVC self-certification accurately.
- Operating exclusively within New Jersey may be treated differently than operating across state lines.
- Before assigning a driver to operate outside of New Jersey, verify that the driver meets all applicable interstate qualification requirements.
- When in doubt, verify the driver's qualification status before operating the CMV.