

**NATIONAL REGISTRY OF
CERTIFIED MEDICAL
EXAMINERS**

PERIODIC TRAINING

Resource Version Disclaimer

This version of the National Registry 5-year periodic training is being provided as a resource for training organizations to incorporate into the National Registry Medical Examiner training, they provide.

This document is only intended for use as a reference document and cannot be used by Medical Examiners to meet the 5-year periodic training requirement. When due for the 5-year periodic training, Medical Examiners are notified through their National Registry account and provided with the training modules to be completed.

**NATIONAL REGISTRY OF
CERTIFIED MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

PERIODIC TRAINING

MODULE 1

**INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW OF
THE FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER
SAFETY REGULATIONS**

Periodic Training

Module 1

Introduction and Overview of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations

Introduction

This module will help you, the Medical Examiner (ME), to be proficient in:

1. Identifying, explaining, and providing examples of the applicable Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) and using current clinical best practices when you conduct a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) driver's physical qualification examination.
2. Explaining how the applicable FMCSRs and current clinical best practices affect your responsibilities as an ME preparing for, conducting, and documenting the results of a CMV driver's physical examination.

Topic 1.1: FMCSA and the Responsibilities of Medical Examiners and Drivers

This topic will assist you in reviewing your knowledge of FMCSA's mission and your responsibilities as a certified ME listed on the National Registry.

There will be a knowledge check regarding the information covered in the section to test your knowledge.

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Mission

FMCSA was established as a separate administration within the U.S. Department of Transportation on January 1, 2000, pursuant to the Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999.

The primary mission of FMCSA is to reduce crashes, injuries, and fatalities involving large trucks and buses.

FMCSA develops, implements, and enforces Federal regulations aimed at improving safety on our Nation's highways. FMCSA also ensures the uniform application of regulations.

FMCSA's Medical Program's Division Mission

The FMCSA's Medical Programs Division promotes safety through medical regulations and guidelines that ensure commercial CMV drivers operating in interstate commerce are physically qualified to do so.

The Medical Programs Division oversees regulations developed by FMCSA regarding physical qualification of interstate CMV drivers under its statutory authority.

The term CMV driver includes both commercial driver’s license (CDL) and non-CDL holders as described in the table below.

<p>CDL driver holds a license to operate a CMV that 1) weighs 26,001 lbs. or more; or (2) is designed or used to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver, or (3) is of any size and is used in the transportation of hazardous materials as defined in 49 CFR 383.5.</p> <p>These drivers have a Commercial Driver’s License Information System (CDLIS) Motor Vehicle Record (MVR) maintained by the State Driver’s Licensing Agency (SDLA) that includes a medical certification status and required medical variances.</p>	<p>Non-CDL driver holds a license to operate a CMV that 1) weighs 10,001 lbs. or more; or (2) is designed or used to transport more than 8 passengers (including the driver) if the passengers pay for their transportation; or (3) is designed or used to transport more than 15 passengers, including the driver, if the passengers do not pay for their transportation; or (4) requires placarding for hazardous materials as prescribed by the Secretary of Transportation.</p> <p>These drivers do not have a Commercial Driver’s License Information System (CDLIS) Motor Vehicle Record (MVR) maintained by the State Driver’s Licensing Agency (SDLA).</p>
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Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations

Regulations

The FMCSRs are regulations promulgated by FMCSA under its statutory authority. These regulations are legally binding on the public subject to their provisions, and FMCSA has the authority to compel compliance with the FMCSRs. These regulations function to ensure uniform application of the law and provide details of how the law is to be followed.

The FMCSRs under 49 CFR 391.41(b) provide the basic driver Physical Qualification Standards that must be met. The standards provide absolute disqualifying standards and those that allow for a discretionary determination by the ME. As defined in the regulations, there are two conditions that absolutely disqualify a driver.

Aside from these disqualifying conditions, you, as the ME, must use your medical knowledge and current clinical best practices to determine whether a driver meets the physical qualification standards.

Guidance

FMCSA’s resources and the Medical Advisory Criteria are guidance intended to provide recommendations and information to assist MEs in applying the FMCSRs.

Unlike regulations, the recommendations and other guidance are not legally binding on the public.

Rather, such guidance is strictly advisory, not mandatory, and intended to provide information that helps to support the application of the standards in the regulations or to serve as a reference.

Additional Resources

For a list of additional resources, see the Medical Resource Table on the FMCSA website at <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/regulations/medical/medical-regulations-and-guidance-resource-links>. This table provides quick access through links to the FMCSRs relevant to the physical qualification of interstate CMV drivers as well as other available resources including Medical Review Board (MRB) taskings and recommendations, and evidence reports.

Medical Advisory Criteria

The Medical Advisory Criteria in Appendix A to 49 CFR 391 are provided as an appendix to the regulations and provide information that is directly relevant to the physical qualification examination.

The Medical Advisory Criteria was established after consultation with physicians, States, and industry representatives, and in some areas, after consideration of recommendations from FMCSA's Medical MRB and Medical Expert Panels (MEPs).

FMCSA Informational Reports

FMCSA provides evidence reports and medical expert panel reports about medical conditions that may impact a driver's physical qualification.

Reports prepared for the Agency are made available to the public as a form of information sharing; reports represent a point in time and are not regulation. If the Agency adopts recommendations included in a report it would be reflected in the FMCSRs.

The content in these reports is informational and should not be treated as regulatory in nature. However, certified MEs may consider the information in these reports as a tool to assist them in making a physical qualification determination.

MEs may access these reports through the MRB's website or through the Medical Resource Table on the FMCSA website.

Again, these reports are provided to help the ME make a physical qualification decision, represent a point-in-time, and should not be treated as regulations.

Responsibility of the Medical Examiner

The certified ME has the sole authority to determine if a driver is physically qualified to operate a CMV in interstate commerce and to issue the original paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, to qualified drivers as proof of medical certification.

The FMCSA relies on MEs to assess and certify whether a driver is physically qualified to operate a CMV in interstate commerce. It's important that MEs understand the physical qualification standards in the FMCSRs and how these relate to the mental and physical demands of operating a CMV.

MEs should consider the driver's medical history, response to treatment, current medications, current clinical best practices, and knowledge of the duties and responsibilities of commercial drivers. MEs are encouraged to consult with specialists and request additional information to determine the driver's qualifications.

When a medical variance (i.e., exemptions, skill performance evaluation certificates, and grandfathered exemptions issued by FMCSA) is required and the certifying ME has determined the driver meets all of the other physical qualification standards under 49 CFR 391.41(b) except for requiring a medical variance, the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, is not valid until the driver receives the required medical variance from FMCSA. The ME is required to check the appropriate box on the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, that states only valid when accompanied by the required medical variance.

MEs listed on the National Registry are subject to performance reviews by FMCSA to ensure their compliance with the FMCSRs. This includes review of the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, and the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, from physical qualification examinations performed. MEs are required to retain the original Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, and a copy of the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, for at least 3 years from the date of the examination. The ME must also make all records and information in these files available to an authorized representative of FMCSA or an authorized Federal, State, or local enforcement agency representative, within 48 hours after the request is made.

Who Needs to Have an Exam?

The following individuals must be medically examined and certified as physically qualified to operate a CMV, according to 49 CFR 391.45 *Persons who must be medically examined and certified*:

- (a) Any person who has not been medically examined and certified as physically qualified to operate a CMV;
- (b) Any driver who has not been medically examined and certified as qualified to operate a CMV during the preceding 24 months unless the driver is required to be examined and certified in accordance with paragraph (c), (d), (e), (f) or (g) of this section;
- (c) Any driver authorized to operate a CMV only with an exempt intra-city zone pursuant to 49 CFR 391.62, Limited exemptions for intra-city zone drivers, if such driver has not been medically examined and certified as qualified to drive in such a zone during the preceding 12 months;
- (d) Any driver authorized to operate a CMV only by operation of the exemption in § 391.64, if such driver has not been medically examined and certified as qualified to drive during the preceding 12 months;
- (e) Any driver who has diabetes mellitus treated with insulin for control and who has obtained a medical examiner's certificate under the standards in 49 CFR 391.46, *Physical qualification standards for an individual with diabetes mellitus treated with insulin for control*, if such driver's most recent medical examination and certification as qualified to drive did not occur during the preceding 12 months;
- (f) Any driver who does not satisfy, with the worse eye, either the distant visual acuity standard with corrective lenses or the field of vision standard, or both, in § 391.41(b)(10)(i) and who has obtained a medical examiner's certificate under the standards in § 391.44, if such driver's most recent medical examination and certification as qualified to drive did not occur during the preceding 12 months;

- (g) Any driver whose ability to perform his/her normal duties has been impaired by a physical or mental injury or disease, and
- (h) On or after June 23, 2025, any person found by a medical examiner not to be physically qualified to operate a CMV under the provisions of paragraph (g)(3) of § 391.43 *Medical examination; certificate of physical examination*.

Medical Examiner Responsibilities for Examining Interstate and Intrastate Drivers

Certified MEs conduct physical qualification examinations and determine whether interstate CMV drivers are qualified according to the physical qualification standards listed in the FMCSRs.

CMV drivers can operate in interstate or intrastate commerce. As interstate drivers, they can either drive through more than one state or the cargo they carry can go through more than one State. With intrastate operations, the driver and the cargo they carry remains within the State. Another scenario that meets the definition of intrastate operations would be if the driver is employed by a municipality.

For now, just keep in mind that intrastate drivers need to meet the standards set forth by their particular State. However, most States have adopted the FMCSRs as their basic physical qualification standards.

To determine whether to apply the Federal or State standards, the ME should ask the CMV driver whether they drive in or intend to drive in interstate or intrastate commerce. If in doubt, the ME should apply the Federal standards for interstate drivers.

Exempt intracity zone drivers do not need to comply with the Federal physical qualification standards, unless required by their State or employer.

When Examining Interstate Drivers, Intrastate Drivers, and Drivers Employed by a Municipality

Certified MEs listed on the National Registry are trained and certified in performing examinations for interstate CMV drivers according to the FMCSRs.

However, MEs who choose to perform driver examinations for intrastate drivers who are in one of the few States that may not have adopted the FMCSRs or those States that have applied more stringent physical qualification standards are required to comply with State regulations and statutes for performing those examinations, to include being knowledgeable of State medical waivers. It is the responsibility of the ME conducting intrastate exams to ensure that they are properly trained in State regulations and statute requirements. If examinations for intrastate drivers are not conducted according to the State requirements, the SDLA may not accept the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, issued and may require the driver to return to the ME or to get another examination.

The FMCSRS do not require the ME to upload results of intrastate examinations into the National Registry. However, if an ME chooses to enter intrastate examination results to the National Registry using the CMV Driver Medical Examination Results Form, MCSA-5850, FMCSA will transmit the results to the SDLA. This will occur once the electronic connection with the SDLAs has been established under the Medical Examiner's Certification Integration final rule. FMCSA will act as a conduit only and will not verify the examination results.

What Happens After the Exam?

CLP/CDL applicants/holders are required to provide the SDLA with their Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, for posting to their CDLIS record. Once provided to the SDLA, the driver may carry their Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, as proof of certification for the first 15 days after it was issued. In addition, some SDLAs also require CLP/CDL applicants/holders to provide a copy of their Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875.

Non-CDL holders are NOT required to provide the SDLA with their Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, but are required to carry it with them at all times when operating a CMV.

Responsibility of the Driver

Interstate CMV drivers must comply with the physical qualification standards under 49 CFR 391.41 *Physical qualifications for drivers*, and are subject to medical certification prior to expiration of the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, or if they experience a change in their physical or mental health status.

Interstate CMV drivers are required to obtain their physical qualification examination and obtain an original paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, from an ME listed on the National Registry, as noted under 49 CFR 391.43(a) *Medical examination; certificate of physical examination*. However, the motor carrier may require drivers to have their physical qualification examination conducted by the motor carrier's preferred MEs who are listed on the National Registry.

Drivers are required to provide a photo ID at the time of the physical qualification examination.

Drivers are required to disclose an accurate and complete health history on the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, and in discussions with the certified ME during any physical qualification examination.

Drivers are required to provide the certified ME medical information from Treating Clinicians as requested during the physical qualification examination.

Drivers who have been determined to be qualified by a certified ME listed on the National Registry will receive the original paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876. This form is proof of medical certification and the following actions must be taken:

<p>CLP/CDL applicants/holders must provide this form to their SDLA prior to the expiration of their current Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, and can carry it with them as proof of medical certification for the first 15 days after it was issued.</p> <p>Note: Some SDLAs also require CLP/CDL applicants/holders to provide a copy of their Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875.</p>	<p>Non-<u>CDL</u> holders must carry the original, or a copy, of their current Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, while operating a CMV in interstate commerce as proof that they are physically qualified.</p>
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Upcoming Regulatory Changes Affecting Drivers

On June 23, 2025, FMCSR changes occur that will require MEs to take different actions.

The chart below outlines the changes that will occur.

Before June 23, 2025	Beginning June 23, 2025
All qualified CMV drivers, to include CLP/CDL and non-CDL drivers are issued the original paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, as proof of medical certification.	CLP/CDL applicants/holders will no longer be issued the original paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, as proof of medical certification. MEs will continue to provide non-CDL holders with the original paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876.
CLP/CDL applicants/holders must provide the SDLA with their Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, for posting to the driver's CDLIS MVR.	Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, information for CLP/CDL applicants/holders will be electronically transmitted from the National Registry to the SDLA for posting to the driver's CDLIS MVR.
For CDL holders, motor carriers must verify that the ME who signed and issued the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, is listed on the National Registry. A Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, that has not been signed and issued by a certified ME is not valid.	Motor carriers will no longer be required to verify that the ME who signed and issued the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, is listed on the National Registry. For non-CDL holders, however, motor carriers will still need to verify that the ME who signed and issued the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, is listed on the National Registry. A Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, that has not been signed by a certified ME is not valid.

These changes will be covered in greater detail in Module 2: Recent Changes to FMCSRs.

Topic 1.1: Knowledge Check

Question 1: Use of Resources Provided by FMCSA

True or False: Medical evidence and medical expert panel reports provided by FMCSA about certain medical conditions—such as obstructive sleep apnea, traumatic brain injury, and stroke—outline specific laboratory ranges that must be used to qualify a driver and are regulatory in nature:

- a. True
- b. False

The correct answer is b. False. Medical evidence and medical expert panel reports provided by FMCSA about conditions that could impair a driver's physical qualification are provided as resources to help MEs,

but these resources are not regulation. This information is not legally binding, but certified MEs may consider the information in these reports as a tool to assist them in making a physical qualification determination.

Certifying MEs consider the medical history of the driver, the driver's response to treatment, current medications, applicable regulations, current clinical best practices, and knowledge of the duties and responsibilities of commercial driving, and then decide on a case-by-case basis whether the driver should be medically certified to safely operate a CMV.

Question 2: Responsibility of the Medical Examiner

A driver comes to your office for an examination. Which of the following may you consider as you conduct this examination to determine whether the driver meets the physical qualification standards to safely operate a CMV in interstate commerce?

- a. The driver's medical history, response to treatment, and current medication regimen
- b. Current clinical best practice guidelines
- c. Laboratory and anatomical reference ranges prescribed by FMCSA
- d. Consultation with the driver's primary care provider and Treating Clinicians

The correct answers are a, b, and d. FMCSA relies on MEs to assess and certify drivers. The ME may consult with specialists and request additional information to help make that determination. MEs consider the medical history of the driver, the driver's response to treatment, current medication regimen, current clinical best practices, and knowledge of the duties and responsibilities of CMV drivers in order to determine whether the driver meets the physical qualification standards to safely operate a CMV.

Question 3: Responsibility of the Medical Examiner

True or False: MEs who perform driver physical qualification examinations are expected to fully understand and apply the physical qualification standards in the FMCSRs.

- a. True
- b. False

The correct answer is a. True.

Question 4: ME Compliance

You are contacted by a representative of the FMCSA who requests driver examination forms for an examination you performed two years ago. You have since changed employers and are no longer working for the company at which you conducted the examination. Who is responsible for providing the documentation FMCSA requested?

- a. You, the examining ME
- b. The driver
- c. The driver's employer
- d. The driver's SDLA
- e. Your former employer

The correct answer is a. You the examining ME. According to FMCSRs, you are responsible for retaining the original Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, and a copy of the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, for at least three years from the date of the examination. This regulatory requirement does not prohibit an ME from maintaining all records and information in these files at his or her former or current employer's medical records department, as long as the ME continues to have the ability to request that the employer provide all records and information in these files to FMCSA or an authorized Federal, State, or local enforcement agency representative. MEs continue to be responsible for providing the files and records when requested, even if they are maintained at an employer's medical records department. You must make all records and information in these files available within 48 hours of a request.

Question 5: Role of the Driver — CDL Vs. Non-CDL

A driver either holds a CDL or is a non-CDL driver. Identify whether each of the following drivers is a CDL or non-CDL driver:

1. Avery Smith operates a vehicle that is 34,000 pounds and has a CDLIS MVR that is maintained by the SDLA.
 - a. CDL
 - b. Non-CDL

2. Jo Smith operates a vehicle that is 12,000 pounds and does not have a CDLIS MVR maintained by the SDLA.
 - a. CDL
 - b. Non-CDL

The correct answers are:

For statement 1: a. CDL

For statement 2: b. non-CDL

Question 6: What Are the FMCSRs

True or False: FMCSA has the authority to compel compliance with its regulations. These regulations function to ensure uniform application of the law and to provide details of how the law is to be followed.

- a. True
- b. False

The correct answer is a. True. The FMCSRs are regulations promulgated by FMCSA under its statutory authority. These regulations are legally binding on the public subject to their provisions, and FMCSA has the authority to compel compliance with the FMCSRs. These regulations function to ensure uniform application of the law and provide details of how the law is to be followed.

Question 7: Who Receives the Original Paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876

True or False: After June 23, 2025, only non-CDL drivers will be provided the original paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, as proof of medical certification.

- a. True
- b. False

The correct answer is a. True. Beginning June 23, 2025, CLP/CDL applicants/holders will no longer be issued the original paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, as proof of medical certification. MEs will continue to provide non-CDL holders with the original paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876.

Topic 1.2: Physical Qualifications for Drivers

This topic will help you review your knowledge of the 13 physical qualifications standards for CMV drivers described in the FMCSRs, which include two absolute standards for disqualifying drivers.

There will be a knowledge check regarding the information covered in the section to test your knowledge.

Note: SPE and medical exemptions are covered in the second half of this module.

Physical Qualifications for Drivers

FMCSA relies on the certifying ME to evaluate and determine whether an underlying medical condition, medication, or combination of medications and substances used by a driver will impair their ability to safely operate a CMV. In addition, FMCSA requires the certifying ME to record and report results of physical qualification examinations performed.

The following FMCSRs are related to these tasks:

- 49 CFR 391.41 *Physical qualifications for drivers*
- 49 CFR 391.43 *Medical examination: certificate of physical examination*
- 49 CFR 391.44 *Physical qualification standards for an individual who does not satisfy, with the worse eye, either the distant visual acuity standard with corrective lenses or the field of vision standard, or both.*
- 49 CFR 391.45 *Persons who must be medically examined and certified*
- 49 CFR 391.46 *Physical qualification standards for an individual with diabetes mellitus treated with insulin for control*
- 49 CFR 391.49 *Alternative physical qualification standards for the loss or impairment of limbs*
- 49 CFR 391.64 *Grandfathering for certain drivers who participated in a vision waiver study program.*

In this section, we will review the physical qualification standards for drivers set out in 49 CFR 391.41, and how you have the ability to use discretion in applying some of the standards.

Physical Qualifications for Drivers

49 CFR 391.41(b) *Physical qualifications for drivers* lists 13 physical qualifications that a CMV driver must meet to be deemed medically qualified and issued a Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876. The regulation states:

(b) A person is physically qualified to drive a commercial motor vehicle if that person -

(1) Has no loss of a foot, a leg, a hand, or an arm, or has been granted a skill performance evaluation certificate pursuant to [§ 391.49](#);

(2) Has no impairment of:

(i) A hand or finger which interferes with prehension or power grasping; or

(ii) An arm, foot, or leg which interferes with the ability to perform normal tasks associated with operating a commercial motor vehicle; or any other significant limb defect or limitation which interferes with the ability to perform normal tasks associated with operating a commercial motor vehicle; or has been granted a skill performance evaluation certificate pursuant to [§ 391.49](#);

(3) Has no established medical history or clinical diagnosis of diabetes mellitus currently treated with insulin for control, unless the person meets the requirements in [§ 391.46](#);

(4) Has no current clinical diagnosis of myocardial infarction, angina pectoris, coronary insufficiency, thrombosis, or any other cardiovascular disease of a variety known to be accompanied by syncope, dyspnea, collapse, or congestive cardiac failure;

(5) Has no established medical history or clinical diagnosis of a respiratory dysfunction likely to interfere with his/her ability to control and drive a commercial motor vehicle safely;

(6) Has no current clinical diagnosis of high blood pressure likely to interfere with his/her ability to operate a commercial motor vehicle safely;

(7) Has no established medical history or clinical diagnosis of rheumatic, arthritic, orthopedic, muscular, neuromuscular, or vascular disease which interferes with his/her ability to control and operate a commercial motor vehicle safely;

(8) Has no established medical history or clinical diagnosis of epilepsy or any other condition which is likely to cause loss of consciousness or any loss of ability to control a commercial motor vehicle;

(9) Has no mental, nervous, organic, or functional disease or psychiatric disorder likely to interfere with his/her ability to drive a commercial motor vehicle safely;

(10)

(i) Has distant visual acuity of at least 20/40 (Snellen) in each eye without corrective lenses or visual acuity separately corrected to 20/40 (Snellen) or better with corrective lenses, distant binocular acuity of at least 20/40 (Snellen) in both eyes with or without corrective lenses, field of

vision of at least 70° in the horizontal meridian in each eye, and the ability to recognize the colors of traffic signals and devices showing standard red, green, and amber; or

(ii) Meets the requirements in [§ 391.44](#), if the person does not satisfy, with the worse eye, either the distant visual acuity standard with corrective lenses or the field of vision standard, or both, in [paragraph \(b\)\(10\)\(i\)](#) of this section;

(11) First perceives a forced whispered voice in the better ear at not less than 5 feet with or without the use of a hearing aid or, if tested by use of an audiometric device, does not have an average hearing loss in the better ear greater than 40 decibels at 500 Hz, 1,000 Hz, and 2,000 Hz with or without a hearing aid when the audiometric device is calibrated to American National Standard (formerly ASA Standard) Z24.5 - 1951;

(12)

(i) Does not use any drug or substance identified in [21 CFR 1308.11](#) Schedule I, an amphetamine, a narcotic, or other habit-forming drug; or

(ii) Does not use any non-Schedule I drug or substance that is identified in the other Schedules in [21 CFR part 1308](#) except when the use is prescribed by a licensed medical practitioner, as defined in [§ 382.107 of this chapter](#), who is familiar with the driver's medical history and has advised the driver that the substance will not adversely affect the driver's ability to safely operate a commercial motor vehicle; and

(13) Has no current clinical diagnosis of alcoholism.

Physical Qualifications for Drivers - 49 CFR 391.44

On January 21, 2022, the FMCSA published the Qualifications of Drivers; Vision Standard final rule, allowing individuals who do not satisfy, with the worse eye, either the existing distant visual acuity standard with corrective lenses or the field of vision standard, or both, to be physically qualified to operate a CMV without obtaining an exemption from FMCSA (87 FR 3390). The new alternative vision standard eliminates the need for a Federal vision exemption program and allows certified MEs, in consultation with an ophthalmologist or optometrist and utilizing the new Vision Evaluation Report, Form MCSA-5871, to evaluate and determine whether to grant a Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, for up to one year. For additional information about the new alternative vision standard, you can view an informational webinar that provides an overview of the final rule at <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/regulations/medical/new-vision-standard-overview-webinar>.

As referenced in 49 CFR 391.41(b) *Physical qualifications for drivers*, 49 CFR 391.41(b)(10), to be qualified, a driver must have distant visual acuity of at least 20/40 (Snellen) in each eye without corrective lenses or visual acuity separately corrected to 20/40 (Snellen) or better with corrective lenses, distant binocular acuity of at least 20/40 (Snellen) in both eyes with or without corrective lenses, field of vision of at least 70° in the horizontal meridian in each eye, and the ability to recognize the colors of traffic signals and devices showing standard red, green, and amber; or meet the requirements in § 391.44 if the person does not satisfy, with the worse eye, either the distant visual acuity standard with corrective lenses or the field of vision standard, or both, in paragraph (b)(10)(i). Below are some details of 49 CFR 391.44; *Physical qualification standards for an individual who does not satisfy, with the worse eye, either the distant visual acuity standard with corrective lenses or the field of vision standard, or both.*

For individuals to be qualified under 49 CFR 391.44, in addition to the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, the certified ME must receive the Vision Evaluation Report, Form MCSA-5871, signed and dated by an ophthalmologist or optometrist and begin the physical qualification examination within 45 days after the ophthalmologist or optometrist signs and dates the Vision Evaluation Report, Form MCSA-5871.

Although the ophthalmologist or optometrist provides information on the Vision Evaluation Report, Form MCSA-5871, it is the responsibility of the certifying ME to ensure all of the requirements under 49 CFR 391.44 are followed. In doing so, the ME should be aware of the disqualifying provisions. The individual is not physically qualified to operate a CMV if:

- His or her distant visual acuity is not at least 20/40 (Snellen), with or without corrective lenses, and the field of vision is not at least 70° in the horizontal meridian, in the better eye.
- He or she is not able to recognize the colors of traffic signals and devices showing standard red, green, and amber.
- His or her vision deficiency is not stable.
- Sufficient time has not passed since the vision deficiency became stable to allow the individual to adapt to and compensate for the change in vision.

The final rule also requires individuals physically qualified under the alternative vision standard for the first time to complete a road test conducted by the employer before operating in interstate commerce. When required, this road test is administered by the motor carrier, after the ME has conducted the physical qualification examination and issued a Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, so the ME has no role in this requirement.

At least annually, an individual who does not satisfy, with the worse eye, either the distant visual acuity standard with corrective lenses or the field of vision standard, or both, in § 391.41(b)(10)(i) must be medically examined and certified by an ME as physically qualified to operate a CMV in accordance with § 391.43. The examination must begin not more than 45 days after an ophthalmologist or optometrist signs and dates the Vision Evaluation Report, Form MCSA-5871.

Physical Qualifications for Drivers - 49 CFR 391.46

As referenced in 49 CFR 391.41(b) *Physical qualifications for drivers*, 49 CFR 391.41(b)(3), to be qualified, a driver must not have an established medical history or clinical diagnosis of diabetes mellitus currently requiring insulin for control; unless the person meets the requirements in 49 CFR 391.46. Below are some details of 49 CFR 391.46; *Physical qualification standards for an individual with diabetes mellitus treated with insulin for control*.

For individuals diagnosed with insulin-treated diabetes mellitus, in addition to the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, the certified ME must receive the Insulin-Treated Diabetes Mellitus Assessment Form, MCSA-5870 within 45 days after it is signed by the Treating Clinician.

Although the Treating Clinician provides information related to the treatment of the driver's diabetes mellitus, it is the responsibility of the certifying ME to ensure all of the requirements under

49 CFR 391.46 are followed. In doing so, the ME should be aware of the disqualifying provisions. The individual is not physically qualified to operate a CMV if:

- He or she is not maintaining a stable insulin regimen and not properly controlling his or her diabetes mellitus.
- He or she has been diagnosed with severe non-proliferative diabetic retinopathy or proliferative diabetic retinopathy.

In addition:

- The individual is not physically qualified to operate a CMV up to the maximum 12-month period under 49 CFR 391.45(e) until he or she provides the Treating Clinician with at least the preceding 3 months of electronic blood glucose self-monitoring records while being treated with insulin.
- The individual who does not provide the Treating Clinician with at least the preceding 3 months of electronic blood glucose self-monitoring records while being treated with insulin is not physically qualified to operate a CMV for more than 3 months. If 3 months of compliant electronic blood glucose self-monitoring records are then provided by the individual to the Treating Clinician and the Treating Clinician completes a new Insulin-Treated Diabetes Mellitus Assessment Form, MCSA-5870, the ME may issue a Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, that is valid for up to the maximum 12-month period allowed by 49 CFR 391.45(e).

Physical Qualifications for Drivers - Disqualifying Conditions

From that list of 13 standards, there are two standards that if not met, are considered absolute disqualifiers. In other words, the ME has no discretion in making a physical qualification decision. These two standards are:

- 49 CFR 391.41(b)(8) *Epilepsy/Seizures, or any condition likely to cause loss of consciousness; and*
- 49 CFR 391.41(b)(11) *Hearing*

For conditions other than these two absolute disqualifiers, it is up to the ME's discretion whether a condition is likely to impair safe driving.

Drivers who do not meet any of the two standards listed above but are otherwise qualified to drive may qualify to receive an exemption from FMCSA to operate a CMV in interstate commerce.

If an ME finds that the driver meets all the other physical qualification standards, the ME should issue the driver a Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, with the only when "Accompanied by a waiver/exemption" box checked and specify the type of waiver/exemption (i.e., hearing, seizure). The Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, is not valid until the driver obtains approval of the required exemption and is issued the exemption document.

Exemptions will be covered in greater detail later in the training.

Medications

The ME must consider whether medications, and or substances a driver is taking, will impair the driver's ability to safely operate a CMV.

As described in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(12), a person is physically qualified to drive a CMV if they do not use any drug or substance identified in 21 CFR §1308.11 Schedule I, an amphetamine, a narcotic, or other habit-forming drug.

With that said, MEs may disqualify drivers who take any medication or combination of medications and substances that may interfere with safe driving.

The FMCSRs **do not** include a list for prohibited medications by manufacturer name. All medications must be assessed by the ME to determine the risk of adverse side effects which include, but are not limited to, dizziness, drowsiness, and sleepiness, and the direct impact those potential side effects have on safe CMV operation.

The ME may confer with the driver's treating medical specialist who is familiar with the driver's health history and verify, if applicable, completion of substance abuse treatment. FMCSA provides an optional form, the 391.41 CMV Driver Medication Form, MCSA-5895, that the ME may use to obtain additional information from the driver's prescribing physician regarding medications prescribed to the driver.

However, the final decision to certify the driver rests with the certifying ME.

Drug Testing Requirements

DOT-mandated testing for controlled substances is not part of the physical qualification examination process and is not mandated by FMCSA. Such testing falls under 49 CFR 40, which mandates the drug and alcohol testing procedures for conducting workplace drug and alcohol testing for the Federally regulated transportation industry.

MEs are not prohibited from conducting non-DOT drug/alcohol testing as a part of the medical certification process (e.g., to confirm a clinical diagnosis of alcoholism, or if the driver reports past use of illicit drugs) to assist in making a qualification determination.

The non-DOT drug and or alcohol testing process does not require the use of a certified Substance Abuse Professional (SAP) under the provisions of Part 40 or 49 CFR § 382 *Controlled substances and alcohol use and testing* of the FMCSRs. Drivers may be required to provide documentation from a professional qualified to render a substance abuse evaluation or an opinion concerning successful treatment received from an appropriate rehabilitation program.

Topic 1.2: Knowledge Check

Question 1: Disqualifiers

The absolute disqualifying conditions listed in 49 CFR 391.41(b) *Physical qualifications for drivers* are:

- a. Use of multiple medications that are not identified in 21 CFR §1308.11 as *Schedule I*

- b. Epilepsy/seizure or any condition likely to cause loss of consciousness or any loss of ability to control a CMV or inadequate hearing
- c. Diagnosis of diabetes mellitus treated with insulin
- d. None of the above

The correct answer is b. Epilepsy or inadequate hearing. These conditions are absolute disqualifiers. In other words, you must disqualify a driver that has one of these conditions. For other conditions that could impair a driver's ability to drive, such as those listed in options a. and c., it is at your discretion to decide whether a driver is physically qualified.

Question 2: Length of Certification

In conducting an examination of a driver diagnosed with diabetes mellitus that is treated with insulin for control, you reviewed input from the Treating Clinician on the Insulin-Treated Diabetes Mellitus Assessment Form, MCSA-5870, reviewed urine and serum laboratory results, and determined that the driver has maintained a stable regimen and their diabetes is adequately controlled. You can certify this individual up to a timeframe that does not exceed:

- a. 6 months
- b. 12 months
- c. 24 months
- d. At the ME's discretion

The correct answer is b. 12 months. Drivers diagnosed with diabetes that require insulin for control may be certified for up to the maximum 12-month period under 49 CFR 391.45(e).

Question 3: Medication List

True or False: The FMCSRs provide a list of prohibited medications by name.

- a. True
- b. False

The answer is b. False. The FMCSRs do not include a list for prohibited medications by name. The Agency relies on the certifying ME to evaluate and determine whether an underlying medical condition, medication, or combination of medications and substances used by an individual driver will impair his or her ability to safely operate a CMV. MEs may disqualify a driver who takes any medication or combination of medications and substances that may impair or interfere with safe driving practices. All medications must be assessed to determine the potential risk of adverse side effects, which include, but are not limited to, dizziness, drowsiness, and sleepiness, and the direct impact the potential side effects have on CMV driving and operation safety.

Question 4: Hearing

If hearing is tested using a calibrated audiometric device, what is the maximum allowable hearing loss in the better ear for a person who is physically qualified to drive?

- a. 35 decibels
- b. 45 decibels
- c. 40 decibels
- d. 42.5 decibels

The correct answer is c. 40 decibels. A person is physically qualified to drive a CMV if they first perceive a forced whisper in the better ear at not less than five feet with or without the use of a hearing aid or if tested with an audiometric device, they must not have an average hearing loss in the better ear of more than 40 decibels at 500 Hz, 1000 Hz, and 2000 Hz with or without a hearing aid. The audiometric device must be calibrated to the American National Standard Z24.5 – 1951.

Question 5: Controlled Substances

FMCSA mandates that drivers be tested for controlled substances as part of the physical qualification examination process:

- a. By the ME
- b. By the motor carrier employing the driver
- c. Neither of the above

The correct answer is c. Neither of the above. DOT-mandated testing for controlled substances is not part of the physical qualification examination process and is not mandated by FMCSA. Such testing falls under 49 CFR 40, which mandates the drug and alcohol testing procedures for conducting workplace drug and alcohol testing for the Federally regulated transportation industry.

MEs are not prohibited from conducting non-DOT drug/alcohol testing as a part of the medical certification process (e.g., to confirm a clinical diagnosis of alcoholism, or if the driver reports past use of illicit drugs) to assist in making a qualification determination.

The non-DOT drug and or alcohol testing process does not require the use of a certified SAP under the provisions of Part 40 or 49 CFR § 382 *Controlled substances and alcohol use and testing* of the FMCSRs. Drivers may be required to provide documentation from a professional qualified to render a substance abuse evaluation or an opinion concerning successful treatment received from an appropriate rehabilitation program.

Topic 1.3: Laboratory and Anatomical Reference Ranges

This topic will help you review when and how to use additional laboratory and anatomical reference ranges.

There will be a knowledge check regarding the information covered in the topic so you can test your knowledge.

Using Laboratory and Anatomical Reference Ranges to Determine Driver Physical Qualification

With the exception of the two absolute disqualifying standards, FMCSA does not establish or regulate specific laboratory and anatomical reference ranges for determining driver physical qualification.

FMCSA does, however, provide information on specific medical conditions you may consider when making a physical qualification determination. You may choose to use the information provided in these resources or any other current clinical best practices when making a qualification decision.

When to Request Additional Diagnostic Testing for a Condition

On the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, and during the examination, the driver is required to fully disclose their medical history and report conditions that the ME should be aware of, and consider, in making a qualification decision.

A complete history provides the ME the opportunity to identify potential issues that may require further assessment or consultation with the treating medical professional before rendering a qualification decision.

In the Driver Health History Review section of Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, the ME is required to identify and comment on all medical history and any yes or not sure responses provided by the driver in the Driver Health History section of the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875.

If the ME suspects a driver may have a medical condition that could impair their ability to safely operate a CMV but requires additional information related to the condition, the ME may consult with specialists to gather any additional information and/or request any additional evaluations needed to determine whether a driver is physically qualified.

You might consider requesting an additional evaluation when:

- The condition or the severity of the condition is unclear; or
- The potential treatment or control of a medical condition may affect the driver's ability to safely operate a CMV.

Examples of additional diagnostic testing that are not required by regulation, include, but are not limited to:

- Cardiac stress testing
- Drug and alcohol testing
- Sleep study for obstructive sleep apnea (OSA)
- Pulmonary function testing

Example of when Additional Diagnostic Testing/Evaluation is needed - when a driver is spilling glucose into his/her urine

The following is an example of when an ME should consult with the Treating Clinician to obtain additional information to make a physical qualification determination.

A driver presents for a physical qualification examination. During the examination, a laboratory urine result is found to be positive for glucose. The ME should consult with the Treating Clinician to obtain additional information concerning a diagnosis of diabetes. This request could include information such as recent serum and urine laboratory results, and any diagnosis of diabetes. Review of this information would indicate whether the driver has been diagnosed with diabetes, and if so, if it has been properly treated and is adequately controlled. The ME should consider all relevant information and make a qualification decision based on medical judgement, and the circumstances of each individual driver.

Example of when Additional Diagnostic Testing may be considered - when a driver is suspected of having OSA

OSA is another example of when an ME might consider additional evaluation to make a physical qualification determination.

The FMCSRs, 49 CFR 391.41(b) *Physical qualifications for drivers*, do not include a physical qualification standard for weight, neck circumference or body mass index for a driver diagnosed with, or with suspected OSA.

The FMCSRs do not include requirements for MEs to screen CMV drivers for OSA or provide requirements regarding whether to refer a driver for OSA testing. The FMCSRs also do not include preferred diagnostic testing methods, preferred treatment methods, or requirements by which to assess compliance for OSA treatment. When making a medical certification determination, the ME may consider the driver's responses to the questions about sleep disorders on the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, and readily identifiable risk factors for OSA identified during the physical examination.

Qualifying determination decisions to refer drivers with risk factors for OSA to a sleep specialist, rest with the medical judgment of the ME.

Considerations for an ME when making a physical qualification determination should include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- Does the driver report or the ME identify multiple risk factors for or symptoms of OSA?
- Are symptoms reported likely to interfere with the driver's ability to control and drive a CMV safely?
- If a driver is diagnosed with moderate-to-severe OSA, has treatment been shown to be adequate, effective, safe, and stable?

In addition to current clinical best practices, for additional guidance on certification of drivers with moderate-to-severe OSA, one source MEs could consider is the November 21, 2016 OSA advisory recommendations. They are available at <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/advisory-committees/mrb/final-mrb-task-16-01-letter-report-mcsac-and-mrb>.

Topic 1.3: Knowledge Checks - Laboratory and Anatomical Reference Ranges

Question 1: When to Request Additional Diagnostic Testing

As an ME, you may request additional diagnostic testing as part of a physical qualification examination in the following circumstances (select all that apply):

- a. When the condition or severity of a condition is unclear
- b. When the potential treatment or control of a medical condition may affect the driver's ability to safely operate a CMV

- c. To assess whether disqualifying conditions—hearing loss and epilepsy/seizure meet the thresholds defined by FMCSA

The correct answers are a and b. In the case of hearing loss and epilepsy/seizure, the current standards are absolute, providing no discretion to the ME.

Question 2: Discretionary Decisions

In the case of absolute disqualifying conditions, the ME has no discretion in making a qualification decision. In making a discretionary determination, not to include absolute disqualifying conditions, a ME should (select all that apply):

- a. Consider whether a particular condition would interfere with the driver’s ability to safely operate a CMV.
- b. Seek further testing and evaluation for medical conditions of which the ME is unsure.
- c. Consider resources, current clinical best practices, and advisory criteria provided by FMCSA.
- d. Automatically disqualify the driver.

The correct answers are a, b, and c. An ME’s responsibility during the physical qualification examination is to determine whether a driver has a disease or disorder that interferes with their ability to safely operate a CMV, increases the risk for sudden death, or increases the risk for the onset of gradual or sudden incapacitation, thus endangering public safety. In making this determination, MEs may request additional medical information from the Treating Clinician to be used in conjunction with other resources and current clinical best practices.

Question 3

What are the weight, neck circumference, and BMI requirements listed in the FMCSRs for drivers with or suspected OSA?

- a. 170 lbs. in men and 150 lbs. in women
- b. Neck circumference of 25.5 cm in men and 32 cm in women
- c. 22-29 BMI in Adults
- d. None of the above

The correct answer is d, none of the above. The FMCSRs, 49 CFR 391.41(b) *Physical qualifications for drivers*, do not include a physical qualification standard for weight, neck circumference or body mass index for a driver diagnosed with, or with suspected OSA. Qualifying determination decisions to refer drivers with risk factors for OSA to a sleep specialist, rest with the medical judgment of the ME.

Question 4

During an examination for a driver, a laboratory urine result is found to be positive for glucose. How should the ME determine if the driver is physically qualified?

- a. Consult the laboratory reference ranges developed by FMCSA for diabetes mellitus
- b. Immediately disqualify the driver because diabetes is a disqualifying condition under 49 CFR 391.41(b) *Physical qualifications for drivers*
- c. Determine that the driver is qualified for one year

- d. The ME should consult with the Treating Clinician to obtain additional information concerning a diagnosis of diabetes and if so, if it has been properly treated and is adequately controlled.

The answer is d. The ME should consult with the Treating Clinician to obtain additional information concerning a diagnosis of diabetes. This request could include information such as recent serum and urine laboratory results, and any diagnosis of diabetes. Review of this information would indicate whether the driver has been diagnosed with diabetes, and if so, if it has been properly treated and is adequately controlled. The ME should consider all relevant information and make a qualification decision based on medical judgement, and the circumstances of each individual driver.

Topic 1.4: Medical Variances

This topic will review medical variances which include medical exemptions, Skill Performance Evaluation (SPE) Certificates, and grandfathered drivers who previously participated in the vision waiver study program, and the process by which drivers can apply for and be granted these medical variances.

There will be a knowledge check regarding the information covered in the topic so you can test your knowledge.

Medical Variances

Under 49 CFR 391.41 *Physical qualifications for drivers*,

- (3) A person is physically qualified to drive a commercial motor vehicle if:
 - (i) That person meets the physical qualification standards in [paragraph \(b\)](#) of this section and has complied with the medical examination requirements in [§ 391.43](#); or
 - (ii) That person obtained from FMCSA a medical variance from the physical qualification standards in [paragraph \(b\)](#) of this section and has complied with the medical examination requirement in [§ 391.43](#).

Medical variances are defined as an exemption from part 391, an SPE Certificate which is an alternative physical qualification standard for the loss or impairment of limbs as outlined in 49 CFR 391.49, and drivers grandfathered who participated in the vision waiver study program (March 31, 1996) as outlined in 49 CFR 391.64.

Drivers who require either an exemption or SPE Certificate must have both the signed Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, and an exemption or SPE Certificate. The two documents together allow the driver to be qualified to operate a CMV in interstate commerce.

Medical Exemptions

A medical exemption provides temporary relief from one or more regulations for interstate CMV drivers. An individual may apply for an exemption from any of the qualification standards listed in 49 CFR 391.41 *Physical qualifications for drivers*. FMCSA has the following two established exemption programs.

- Epilepsy and Seizure Exemption Program [49 CFR 391.41(b)(8)]
- Hearing Exemption Program [49 CFR 391(b)(11)]

Federal exemptions provide drivers who do not meet the requirements in the regulations with an opportunity to seek an exemption on a case-by-case basis.

FMCSA’s decision to grant or deny applications for exemptions from the regulation is based on an individualized assessment of each applicant’s medical information.

The Agency is required to publish exemption requests in the Federal Register for public comment, review the comments received, and publish the Agency’s final decision.

Under the FAST Act, FMCSA may grant an exemption from the FMCSRs for a five-year period if it finds “such exemption would likely achieve a level of safety that is equivalent to or greater than the level that would be achieved absent such exemption.” The statute also allows the agency to renew exemptions at the end of the five-year period. FMCSA grants medical exemptions from the FMCSRs for a two-year period to align with the maximum duration of a driver’s medical certification.

As discussed above, requests for medical exemptions are considered and issued through the FMCSA Medical Programs Division, not by the ME.

Exemptions—Responsibility of the ME

As with any medical variance, as an ME, you are involved in the exemption process by determining if the driver is otherwise medically qualified, meaning that the driver meets all the other physical qualification standards except for the requirement for the specific exemption.

It is your responsibility to indicate that a driver must apply for and obtain an exemption from the specific standard and specify the type of exemption required (i.e., hearing or seizure), by selecting “Accompanied by a waiver/exemption” and specifying the type of exemption required on the Medical Examination Determination section of the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875.

You are also responsible for indicating on the Medical Examiner’s Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, that the Medical Examiner’s Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, is only valid when accompanied by a waiver/exemption by selecting “Accompanied by a waiver/exemption” and specifying the type of exemption required. The Medical Examiner’s Certificate, Form MCSA-5876 will not be valid until the driver receives an exemption from FMCSA.

By checking this box on the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, you certify that the driver:

- Fails to meet the hearing or seizure standard;
- Meets all other physical requirements cited in 49 CFR 391.41(b); and
- Must also have a valid Federal medical exemption to drive.

The Medical Examiner’s Certificate is not valid until the driver applies for and is issued the exemption.

The application process for an exemption differs for each exemption program, and may include requests for medical examination information, and motor vehicle records which drivers must submit with their application. If driver's request additional information, you may direct them to the medical page on the FMCSA website.

Please note that on January 21, 2022, FMCSA published the Qualifications of Drivers; Vision Standard final rule. This final rule eliminated the need for a Federal Vision Exemption Program and allows certified MEs, in consultation with an ophthalmologist or optometrist, to issue a Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, to individuals with monocular vision under the alternative vision standard.

Exemptions - "Grandfathering"

Grandfathered exemptions are for drivers who participated in FMCSA's Vision Waiver Study Program that ran from 1992 to 1996. At the conclusion of the waiver program, approximately 1,900 drivers received a letter confirming participation in the program and granting a continued exemption from the vision standard, as long as the driver continues to meet the other physical qualification standards and can meet the vision qualification requirements with one eye. The driver who was grandfathered also must have an annual physical qualification examination and an annual eye examination by an ophthalmologist or optometrist. The driver must provide the ME with a copy of these results during the physical qualification examination. The ME is responsible for reviewing the results of the evaluation conducted by an ophthalmologist or optometrist as part of the physical qualification examination; determining if the driver is otherwise qualified under 49 CFR 391.41; and issuing a Medical Examiner's Certificate, MCSA-5876 for up to 12 months.

To obtain a copy of the letter from FMCSA identifying the driver as a participant in the vision waiver program, the driver may call (202) 366-4001 or email fmcamedical@dot.gov.

Elimination of the Vision Grandfather Provision (49 CFR 391.46(b))

Due to the publication of the Qualifications of Drivers; Vision Standard final rule, the vision grandfather provision will be eliminated on March 22, 2023. Any Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, issued under the vision grandfather provision is void and MEs no longer need to check the box on the Medical Examiner's Certificate associated with 49 CFR 391.64.

Exemptions - Interstate Versus Intrastate

Please note that medical exemptions issued by FMCSA are for drivers who operate in or intend to operate in interstate commerce.

For intrastate only drivers, FMCSA does not have authority to grant exemptions from intrastate requirements of individual States. Drivers must contact their SDLA to obtain information regarding State medical waivers. Therefore, exemptions issued by FMCSA do not provide regulatory relief for drivers who plan to limit their operations to intrastate commerce.

As discussed earlier in this training, if you choose to perform a physical qualification examination for an intrastate only driver who is licensed in a State that has variances from the FMCSRs, it is your responsibility to understand any relevant State requirements.

FMCSA will not process applications for medical exemptions for drivers that intend to only operate in intrastate commerce.

SPE Certificate

The SPE certificate is for interstate CMV drivers with an amputation or a fixed-limb impairment that interferes with safe operation of a CMV, and the impairment is not related to a progressive condition. Receipt of the SPE Certificate demonstrates that the driver is qualified to operate a CMV in interstate commerce. The SPE certificate is issued for up to a two-year period and is renewable.

Amputations and fixed-limb impairments are addressed under 49 CFR 391.41(b):

A person is physically qualified to drive a commercial motor vehicle if that person -

- (1) Has no loss of a foot, a leg, a hand, or an arm, or has been granted a skill performance evaluation certificate pursuant to [§ 391.49](#);
- (2) Has no impairment of:
 - (i) A hand or finger which interferes with prehension or power grasping;

The applicant must demonstrate precision prehension (the ability to turn switches on and off) and power grasp prehension (the ability to hold on to and maneuver the steering wheel) separately with each upper limb. Power grasp is the clamping force produced by wrapping the fingers of both hands around the steering wheel against the counter-pressure offered by the palm and thumb or by use of a type of assistive device.

- (ii) An arm, foot, or leg which interferes with the ability to perform normal tasks associated with operating a commercial motor vehicle; or any other significant limb defect or limitation which interferes with the ability to perform normal tasks associated with operating a commercial motor vehicle; or has been granted a skill performance evaluation certificate pursuant to [§ 391.49](#);

When evaluating a driver, it should be noted that under § 391.41(b)(1) only drivers with loss of all five fingers are considered to have the loss of a hand. Drivers with the loss of fewer than all fingers should be medically evaluated under § 391.41(b)(2) to determine whether there is an impairment, defect, or limitation of a limb. This is an important distinction because an amputation under § 391.41(b)(1) is always medically disqualifying, whereas a condition classified as an impairment is subject to the ME's medical judgment of whether the condition interferes with the normal driving tasks. If the ME determines that the condition does interfere with normal driving tasks, the driver examination forms should be filled out accordingly and the driver should submit an SPE Certificate application.

To be eligible for an SPE certificate, a driver with loss of a hand or arm must have a prosthesis that allows the driver to demonstrate precision prehension (e.g., the ability to manipulate knobs and switches) or power grasp prehension (e.g., the ability to hold and maneuver the steering wheel).

Requests for SPE Certificates, application processing, and issuance are coordinated through the FMCSA Service Centers. The application process is described under 49 CFR 391.49 *Alternative physical qualification standards for the loss or impairment of limbs*. If driver's request additional information, you may direct them to the medical page on the FMCSA website.

SPE Certificate—Responsibility of the ME

In addition to determining if an SPE Certificate is needed under 49 CFR 391.41(b)(1) and (2), you must determine if the driver is otherwise medically qualified.

When completing the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, the ME is required to document the specifics of the need for an SPE Certificate including the cause of the limb amputation or impairment.

To certify that a driver requires an SPE Certificate and is otherwise medically qualified, mark the “accompanied by an SPE Certificate” option on the Medical Examiner’s Certificate, Form MCSA-5876.

By checking this box on the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, you certify that the driver:

- Fails to meet one or more of the limb requirements of 49 CFR 391.41(b)(1) or (2);
 - Meets all other physical requirements cited in 49 CFR 391.41(b); and
 - The Medical Examiner’s Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, is not valid until the driver applies for and receives an SPE Certificate.
-

Topic 1.4: Knowledge Check - Medical Variances

Question 1: Types of Exemptions

You are examining a driver, Timothy Parker, who meets the physical qualification standards outlined in the FMCSRs with the exception that he does not meet the hearing standard. How should you fill out the Medical Examiner Determination section of his Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875?

- a. Check the box “determination pending” and require additional evaluation by an optometrist
- b. Check the box “Accompanied by a Skill Performance Evaluation (SPE) Certificate”
- c. Check the box “Qualified by Operation of 49 CFR 391.64 Federal”
- d. Check the box “Accompanied by a _____ waiver/exemption” and indicate “hearing” as the type of exemption

The correct answer is d. Check the box “Accompanied by a _____ waiver/exemption” and indicate “hearing” as the type of exemption. Timothy is responsible for applying for the Federal hearing exemption and can find additional information on how to do so on FMCSA’s website.

Question 2: Who Evaluates Requests for Medical Variances

Medical exemptions provide temporary relief from one or more of the FMCSRs. Requests for a medical exemption are considered by:

- a. The ME
- b. A driver’s SDLA
- c. FMCSA’s Medical Programs Division
- d. The motor carrier employing the driver

The correct answer is c. Requests for medical exemptions are considered and issued through FMCSA's Medical Programs Division, not by the ME.

The role of the ME is to determine if the driver is otherwise qualified if accompanied by the medical exemption.

Question 3: Interstate Drivers Versus Intrastate Drivers

True or False: As an ME, you should determine whether a driver is applying as an interstate or intrastate CMV driver when conducting a physical qualification examination.

- a. True
- b. False

The correct answer is a. True. An SDLA may set its own medical waiver requirements for intrastate CMV drivers. Please note that all Federal exemption programs are for drivers who intend to operate CMVs in interstate commerce. FMCSA does not have authority to grant waivers to drivers from States' intrastate requirements. Therefore, FMCSA exemptions do not permit regulatory relief for drivers who plan to limit their operations to intrastate commerce.

Question 4: SPE Certificate

An interstate CMV driver requires a physical qualification examination, the driver is missing their left arm. You conduct your examination according to the FMCSRs and determine that the driver is otherwise medically qualified. You should take the following actions (select all that apply):

- a. Place the driver in pending determination and request that the driver provide a note from a physiatrist that the left arm is a fixed deficit.
- b. Mark the "accompanied by an SPE Certificate" option on the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876.
- c. Note on the "Driver Health History Review" section of the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875 that driver is missing their left arm and why.
- d. Inform the driver that they must apply for an SPE Certificate from FMCSA and inform them that they can find the application on the FMCSA website.

The correct answers are b c, and d. Based on the physical qualification examination, a missing limb is a fixed deficit, so an SPE Certificate is needed. In addition, the ME is required to provide the specifics regarding the reason the driver needs an SPE Certificate and must inform the driver that they need to apply for an SPE Certificate from FMCSA.

**NATIONAL REGISTRY OF
CERTIFIED MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

PERIODIC TRAINING

**MODULE 2
MAINTAINING CERTIFICATION ON
THE NATIONAL REGISTRY AND
RECENT UPDATES TO THE FMCSRS**

Resource Version Disclaimer

This version of the National Registry 5-year periodic training is being provided as a resource for training organizations to incorporate into the National Registry Medical Examiner training, they provide.

This document is only intended for use as a reference document and cannot be used by Medical Examiners to meet the 5-year periodic training requirement. When due for the 5-year periodic training, Medical Examiners are notified through their National Registry account and provided with the training modules to be completed.

Periodic Training

Module 2

Maintaining Certification on the National Registry and Recent Updates to the FMCSRs

Introduction

This module will help you, the Medical Examiner (ME), understand how to maintain your certification as an ME as well as, review recent regulatory changes related to the National Registry.

Topic 2.1: How to Maintain Your Certification and Listing on the National Registry

There will be a knowledge check regarding the information covered in the topic so you can test your knowledge.

Why did FMCSA establish the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners?

The FMCSA established the National Registry in 2012 to improve highway safety and driver health by requiring that MEs be trained and certified so they can determine effectively whether a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) driver meets FMCSA's physical qualification standards outlined in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs).

Before the National Registry was established, there was no required training program for the medical professionals who conduct driver physical qualification examinations. As a result, some of the medical professionals who conducted these examinations may have been unfamiliar with the physical qualification standards outlined in the FMCSRs and how to apply them.

As a certified ME, you already know that MEs are required to attend an accredited training program and pass a certification test to be listed on the National Registry.

Now that you are a certified ME, there are regulatory requirements that you must meet to maintain your certification. Non-compliance with 49 CFR 390.103 through 390.115 may result in removal from the National Registry.

Maintaining Certification as an ME

To maintain listing on the National Registry, you must comply with regulatory and general requirements including ME profile updates, periodic training, recertification, records retention, and reporting requirements. Failure to meet the regulatory requirements is grounds for removal from the National Registry.

MEs must:

- Adhere to the requirements of 49 CFR 390.111(a) *Requirements for continued listing on the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners*:
 - Report to FMCSA, any changes in the registration information submitted under §390.103(a)(2) within 30 days of the change (e.g., practice and employer address, phone number, email address, or expiration date of a medical license) by updating your National Registry profile.
 - Continue to be licensed, certified, registered, and authorized to perform physical examinations, in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations in each State where they perform driver examinations.
 - Maintain documentation of State licensure, registration, or certification to perform physical examinations for each State where the ME performs driver examinations.
 - Retain certificates of completion for all required training.
 - Make certificates and licensure documentation available to an authorized representative of FMCSA or of any Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency within 10 days of a request for regular eligibility audits, or within 48 hours of a request for investigations.

ME Profile Updates

During the auditing and monitoring of ME National Registry accounts, FMCSA has identified areas of concern regarding MEs not adhering to the regulatory requirements to update their profiles when changes occur such as:

- Not updating the expiration date for a medical license in their National Registry profile when the medical license has been renewed
 - MEs are required to report to FMCSA any changes in the information they provided during registration within 30 days of the change.
- Having a State listed for a practice location that is different from the State(s) listed for medical licensure
 - MEs must continue to be licensed, certified, or registered, and authorized to perform physical examinations, in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations of **each** State in which the ME performs examinations.
- Not providing updates when there is a change to their contact information such as address, phone number, and email address
 - During registration as an ME, you agreed to receive FMCSA information via the email address associated with your National Registry account. The update to your email address is necessary for FMCSA to be able to contact you regarding any information, regulatory changes, or actions that must be taken by you regarding the examinations you

are certified to perform. FMCSA also may need to contact you by phone or mail.

- Not migrating their account to login.gov but using Medical Examiner Administrative Assistants (MEAs) or Third Party Organizations (TPOs) to upload results of examinations on their behalf
 - The use of login.gov is required to meet National Institute of Standards of Technology requirements for secure validation and verification. All National Registry account holders are required to use login.gov to access their National Registry account.

All issues listed above are grounds for removal from the National Registry. FMCSA encourages all MEs taking this training to ensure that their National Registry profile is up to date.

Periodic Training and Recertification

This training satisfies the 5-year periodic training requirement. However, to receive credit for completing the periodic training, once you have completed all four modules, you must print the certification of completion at the end of Module 4, enter your name, sign and date, and save a copy on your computer for upload to your National Registry account. You must then return to the periodic training menu item in your National Registry account to certify that you have completed the training and to upload your certificate of completion.

- The FMCSRs (49 CFR 390.111(a)(5)(i)) require all certified MEs to maintain ME certification by completing periodic training no sooner than four years and no later than five years after the date of issuance of the ME certification credential.

If you continue to be certified and listed on the National Registry, you will be required to complete periodic training by a private sector training organization at that time and pass the certification test, no sooner than 9 years and no later than 10 years after the date of issuance of your ME certification credential, as you did during your initial certification process. FMCSA will issue a new ME certification credential which will be valid for 10 years.

Records Retention

MEs must adhere to the requirements of 49 CFR 391.43(i) *Medical examination; certificate of physical qualification*:

- Each original (paper or electronic) completed Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875 and a copy or electronic version of each Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876 must be retained on file at the office of the ME for at least 3 years from the date of examination.
 - 49 CFR 391.44 requires that when applicable, the completed Vision Evaluation Report, Form MCSA-5871, signed and dated by an ophthalmologist or optometrist be retained as part of the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875.
 - 49 CFR 391.46 requires that when applicable, the Insulin-Treated Diabetes Mellitus Assessment Form, MCSA-5870 be retained and retained as part of the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875.

- The ME must make all records and information in these files available to an authorized representative of FMCSA or an authorized Federal, State, or local enforcement agency representative, within 48 hours after the request is made.

Examination Reporting Requirements

MEs are required to:

- Enter results of examinations performed using the CMV Driver Medical Examination Results Form, MCSA-5850, through their National Registry account, by midnight (local time) of the next calendar day following the examination.
- Report through their National Registry account when no examinations were conducted during any calendar month by close of business on the last day of that month.

Removal from the National Registry

Reasons for removal from the National Registry may include, but are not limited to:

- Providing false information on driver examination forms.
- Issuing a Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876 without performing a complete physical examination.

Note: An examination must be conducted each time a qualification determination is made and a Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, is issued.

- Issuing a Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, to a driver that is not physically qualified.
- Signing a Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, for an examination you did not complete. This includes instances where the examination was completed by another provider or staff member. However, this does not include instances where the driver is placed in determination pending and a certified ME in the same practice conducts the follow-up appointment and signs the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCS-5876.
- Failing to comply with physical examination requirements in 49 CFR 391.43 *Medical examination; certificate of physical examination*. This includes not filling out the driver examination forms completely and correctly.
- Failing to enter results of examinations performed using the CMV Driver Medical Examination Results Form, MCSA-5850, through your National Registry account.
- Failing to report that no examinations were conducted during any calendar month by close of business on the last day of that month through your National Registry account.
- Falsely claiming to have completed training in the physical qualification standards, as required in 49 CFR 390.113 *Reasons for removal from the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners*.

FMCSA may be alerted to issues warranting removal from both external sources and through regular performance monitoring and auditing of MEs.

FMCSA investigates each case and determines whether removal from the National Registry is appropriate.

Additionally, FMCSA will decide on a case-by-case basis whether any prior Medical Examiner's Certificates, Form MCSA-5876, issued by the ME should be voided and if it should notify affected drivers and the appropriate State Driver's Licensing Agency (SDLA).

If fraud is identified, MEs may be subject to investigation by the Office of the Inspector General and criminal prosecution.

Types of Removal from the National Registry

There are three ways an ME may be removed from the National Registry according to 49 CFR 390.115 *Procedure for removal from the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners*. These are:

- Emergency Removal
- Involuntary Removal
- Voluntary Removal

Emergency Removal

In issuing an emergency removal, FMCSA may immediately remove an ME from the National Registry in cases of willful violation of the FMCSRs or in cases where public health, public interest, or safety is an issue.

The ME is notified of the reason or reasons for removal. If the ME is not in agreement with the outcome, the ME has the right to request an administrative review.

The ME's certification credential is invalidated, and the ME is no longer authorized to conduct physical qualification examinations of interstate CMV drivers.

Involuntary Removal

In issuing an involuntary removal, FMCSA may remove an ME from the National Registry by issuing an ME with a Notice of Proposed Removal that states the reason for their removal and specifies any corrective actions the ME must take in order to remain listed on the National Registry.

An ME who has received a Notice of Proposed Removal from the National Registry must submit a written response to FMCSA within 30 days after the notice is issued. The response must indicate either that the ME believes FMCSA has relied on erroneous reasons, in whole or in part, in proposing removal from the National Registry, or that the ME will comply and take any corrective action specified in the notice of proposed removal.

If FMCSA finds that the ME's opposition to the Notice of Proposed Removal is valid, it will withdraw the Notice of Proposed Removal and notify the ME in writing.

If FMCSA determines that the ME's opposition to the Notice of Proposed Removal is partly or completely invalid, the ME must complete the corrective actions specified in the Notice of Proposed

Removal within 60 days after the original notice is affirmed, or after a modified Notice of Proposed Removal is issued.

If the ME does not submit a written response, the removal is effective immediately at the end of the 30 days and the ME is removed from the National Registry. If the ME is not in agreement with the outcome, the ME has the right to request an administrative review.

Voluntary Removal

If an ME would like to be removed from the National Registry, they may request a Voluntary Removal.

To be voluntarily removed from the National Registry, an ME must submit a request through their National Registry account.

Before an ME can be removed, they must certify that they have submitted results of all CMV driver examinations they have conducted.

The removal will become effective immediately.

Reinstatement on the National Registry

If an ME has been removed from the National Registry, they may request reinstatement.

- No sooner than 30 days after removal from the National Registry, the ME may request, with supporting evidence through their National Registry account, to FMCSA to be reinstated.

Topic 2.1: Knowledge Check - How to Maintain Listing on the National Registry

Question 1: General Regulatory Requirements

In order to comply with reporting, training, and recertification requirements, and maintain listing on the National Registry, MEs must: (Select all that apply)

- a. Submit an electronic CMV Driver Medical Examination Results Form, MCSA-5850 for each driver examined by midnight (local time) of the next calendar day following the examination via their National Registry account
- b. Complete periodic training as specified by FMCSA
- c. Pass the National Registry ME certification test every year
- d. Conduct at least one driver examination each month.
- e. Pass the National Registry ME certification test every 10 years

The correct answers are a, b, and e. To maintain your listing on the National Registry, MEs must comply with regulatory and general requirements, and recertification, records retention, and reporting requirements.

Question 2: Emergency Removal from the National Registry

True or False: An ME can be immediately removed from the National Registry in cases where public health, public interest, or safety is an issue?

- a. True
- b. False

The correct answer is a. True. In issuing an emergency removal, FMCSA may immediately remove an ME from the National Registry in cases of willful violation of the FMCSRs or in cases where public health, public interest, or safety is an issue.

Question 3: Removal from the National Registry

True or False: FMCSA may remove an ME from the National Registry for failing to respond to an FMCSA request for records from a driver examination?

- a. True
- b. False

The correct answer is a. True. FMCSA may remove an ME who fails to comply with the requirements for continued listing on the National Registry in 49 CFR 390.111 *Requirements for continued listing on the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners*. One of these requirements is that the ME must provide documentation to FMCSA within 48 hours of a request for investigations and within 10 days of the request for regular audits of eligibility.

Topic 2.2: Medical Examiner's Certification Integration Final Rule

This topic will help you review regulatory changes as a result of the Medical Examiner's Certification Integration Final Rule.

There will be a knowledge check regarding the information covered in the topic so you can test your knowledge.

What is the Medical Examiner's Certification Integration Final Rule?

On April 23, 2015, the FMCSA published the Medical Examiner's Certification Integration Final Rule, which amended some of the regulations related to the medical certification process.

The purpose of the final rule is to facilitate the electronic transmission of driver medical information from FMCSA's National Registry to the SDLAs, implement prescribed driver examination forms, change reporting requirements for MEs, and require specific examination information to be shared with the driver.

The final rule established new requirements that MEs must comply with.

Changes to Driver Examination Forms

Previously, FMCSA allowed results of examinations performed to be recorded “substantially in accordance with” the driver examination forms provided in the regulations.

The Medical Examiner’s Certification Integration final rule made the use of the following two forms mandatory. Therefore, results of CMV driver physical qualification examinations must be recorded on these specific forms:

- Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875
- Medical Examiner’s Certificate, Form MCSA-5876
- CMV Driver Medical Examination Results Form, MCSA-5850 (electronic and available only through the certified MEs National Registry account)

MEs are not required to purchase these forms as they are available on the FMCSA and National Registry websites in a fillable pdf format.

If the ME does not use the required forms (Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875 and Medical Examiner’s Certificate, Form MCSA-5876) they are not in compliance with the regulations, which is grounds for removal from the National Registry.

These forms have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget and are published in 49 CFR 391.43(f)(2) and (h)(2) *Medical examination; certificate of physical examination*, and therefore, must be used “as is.” However, there are a few minor changes that are permissible (see below).

Permissible changes to the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875:

- A bar code may be added to the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875 for purposes of forms management in the ME’s office, as long as it does not obscure any of the content of the form.
- The instructions may be resized, as long as all the content is still legible.
- The instructions can be made available to the driver and the ME separately from the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875.
- The Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, can be filed/stored without the instructions.
- The Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, can be printed in black and white.

Permissible changes to the Medical Examiner’s Certificate, Form MCSA-5876:

- The Medical Examiner’s Certificate, Form MCSA-5876 can be reduced in size, as long as ALL the content is still legible.
- The Medical Examiner’s Certificate, Form MCSA-5876 may be printed in black and white.

Anything other than what is described above is not allowed.

Changes in reporting requirements

Previously, MEs were required to report the results of all CMV drivers' physical qualification examinations on a monthly basis. However, MEs are now required to report the results of all CMV drivers' physical examinations, including examinations in which drivers were found to not be qualified to FMCSA by midnight (local time) of the next calendar day following the examination.

MEs may also report results of examinations performed in accordance with the FMCSRs with any applicable State variances (valid for intrastate only operation).

Changes to reporting when no examinations have been completed

MEs are required to report when no examinations have been completed during the month on the last day of the month.

This is done through your National Registry account using the CMV Driver Medical Examinations menu option and selecting "Report No Exams for the Current Month."

Changes regarding drivers that are not physically qualified

If an ME determines that a driver is not physically qualified to operate a CMV in accordance with 49 CFR 391.41(b) *Physical qualifications for drivers*, they must:

- Inform the person of the determination and why they are not qualified
- Inform the person that this information will be reported to FMCSA

The driver will be required to be medically examined and certified before operating a CMV.

Changes regarding issuance of original paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876

The original compliance date for several provisions of the Medical Examiner's Certification Integration final rule was extended from June 22, 2021, to June 23, 2025. As a result, beginning June 23, 2025, MEs will no longer be required to issue the original paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, to commercial learner's permit (CLP)/commercial driver's license (CDL) applicants/holders as proof of medical certification.

The original paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, may be provided to CLP/CDL applicants/holders upon request. However, the only official record of the CLP/CDL applicant's/holder's qualification status will be the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, information transmitted from the National Registry to the SDLA to be entered in the driver's Commercial Driver's License Information System (CDLIS) record.

MEs will still be required to give non-CDL holders the original paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, as proof of medical certification, in accordance with 49 CFR 391.43(h) *Medical examination; certificate of physical examination*.

How will these changes affect MEs, drivers, SDLAs, and motor carriers?

Regulatory changes implemented as a result of this final rule will allow for the electronic transmission of Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, information from the National Registry to the SDLAs.

On June 23, 2025, FMCSA will begin electronically transmitting Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, information for CLP/CDL applicants/holders from the National Registry to the SDLAs for posting to the driver's CDLIS record. This will be the only official record of the qualification status for CLP/CDL applicants/holders.

For these drivers, the original paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, will no longer be considered official proof of medical certification. This regulatory change impacts MEs, CLP/CDL applicants/holders, and motor carriers in several ways:

MEs

- MEs will no longer be required to provide qualified CLP/CDL applicants/holders with the original paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876.
- MEs should have a policy in place (e.g., retain a copy of each driver's license) to ensure the accuracy of driver's information, specifically the driver's name, license number, licensing State, and date of birth.

CLP/CDL applicants/holders

- CLP/CDL applicants/holders will no longer be required to provide the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, to the SDLA.
- For CLP/CDL applicants/holders, motor carriers will no longer be required to verify that the ME listed on the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, is certified and listed on the National Registry.
- Drivers must provide accurate demographic information (i.e., name, date of birth, license number and licensing State) on the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, to ensure timely submission of their qualification status to the SDLA.
- Physical qualification examinations should be scheduled well before a current Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, expires to prevent a gap in certification. Examination results may take three or more business days to be posted to the driver's CDLIS record.

Motor Carriers

- Motor carriers must use the driver's motor vehicle record from the SDLA to document CLP/CDL applicants'/holders' medical certification status.

If the driver's identifying information (i.e., name, date of birth, license number and licensing State) is missing or incorrect, the system will not be able to match the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, information to the driver's CDLIS record, resulting in an error message back to the ME.

The ME will be responsible for correcting the error. This will delay transmission of the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, information to the SDLA, preventing the driver's CDLIS record from being updated with the most current and accurate information until the correct information is provided by the ME. In addition, this may cause drivers to return to the ME's office to ensure the correct information is provided.

Non-CDL Holders

- Non-CDL holders will not be affected by this change because MEs will still be required to provide these drivers with the original paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876.

Topic 2.2: Knowledge Check - Medical Examiner's Certification Integration Final Rule

Question 1: Invalidated

The driver you are examining is not physically qualified to operate a CMV. You should:

- a. Do nothing because there is nothing to report.
- b. Notify the driver that their license status will be downgraded within 60 days.
- c. Notify the SDLA that the CMV driver is not physically qualified.
- d. Inform the driver that they are not physically qualified, and that this information will be reported to FMCSA.

The correct answer is d. MEs are required to inform drivers when they are not physically qualified, and that this information will be reported to FMCSA.

Question 2: Not Required to Carry MECs after June 23, 2025

True or False: Beginning June 23, 2025, FMCSA will electronically transmit non-CDL holders' Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, information to SDLAs.

- a. True
- b. False

The correct answer is b. False. FMCSA will transmit CDL holders' Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, information. So, while CDL holders will no longer be required to carry the original paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, non-CDL holders are unaffected by the change. They will still be issued a Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, and must carry it with them while driving.

Question 3: Regulatory changes

MEs must: (Select all that apply)

- a. Submit the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876 to the SDLA.
- b. Submit the CMV Driver Medical Examination Results Form, MCSA-5850, by midnight (local time) the next calendar day following the examination.

- c. Continue to provide the original paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876 to all qualified drivers until June 23, 2025.
- d. When a driver is not qualified, inform the driver that they are not physically qualified, and the information will be reported to FMCSA.

The correct answers are b, c, and d. MEs will be required to perform the duties listed in b, c, and d. In addition, MEs may report results of examinations performed in accordance with the FMCSRs with any applicable State variances (valid for intrastate only operations). Beginning June 23, 2025, MEs will no longer be required to issue the original paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, to CLP/CDL applicants/holders as proof of medical certification. A paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, may be provided to CLP/CDL applicants/holders upon request. However, the only official record of the CLP/CDL applicant's/holder's physical qualifications will be Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, information transmitted from the National Registry to the SDLA for entry on the driver's CDLIS record.

**NATIONAL REGISTRY OF
CERTIFIED MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

PERIODIC TRAINING

**MODULE 3
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Resource Version Disclaimer

This version of the National Registry 5-year periodic training is being provided as a resource for training organizations to incorporate into the National Registry Medical Examiner training, they provide.

This document is only intended for use as a reference document and cannot be used by Medical Examiners to meet the 5-year periodic training requirement. When due for the 5-year periodic training, Medical Examiners are notified through their National Registry account and provided with the training modules to be completed.

Periodic Training

Module 3

Frequently Asked Questions

Introduction

This module will provide you with answers to frequently asked questions, and information about how to handle special situations, such as when conducting examinations for international drivers.

Topic 3.1: Conducting Medical Qualification Examinations for Drivers Not Domiciled in or Not a Resident of the United States

There will be a knowledge check regarding the information covered in the topic so you can test your knowledge.

Drivers with a foreign license or no license

Certified Medical Examiners (MEs) may conduct a physical qualification examination on any driver that requests one.

It is not the responsibility of the ME to inquire about where an individual is domiciled in order to perform the examination and issue a Medical Examiner's Certificate, MCSA-5876.

For drivers with a foreign license or no license, the ME should verify the identity of the driver with a photo identification prior to conducting the examination, just as would be done for a U.S. driver.

International CDLs

A commercial driver's license can be issued by a State to an individual not domiciled in the State in certain specified circumstances. 49 U.S.C. 31311(a)(12)(B) and 49 CFR 383.23(b). Therefore, a certified ME does not need to know where an individual is domiciled in order to perform the examination and issue a Medical Examiner's Certificate, MCSA-5876.

It is the responsibility of the State Driver's Licensing Agency (SDLA) to inquire about the driver's domicile, and to determine whether to issue a standard commercial learner's permit (CLP)/commercial driver's license (CDL) or a non-domiciled CLP/CDL. 49 CFR 383.71(f) and 383.73(f).

State of domicile means that State where a person has his/her true, fixed, and permanent home and principal residence and to which he/she has the intention of returning whenever he/she is absent.

Examinations for drivers who do not speak English and/or bring an interpreter

Certified MEs are not required to certify to the level that a driver understands English.

However, MEs should only conduct examinations when they are confident that they can communicate with drivers to the level that allows for a thorough examination to be conducted.

As the signature authority on the Medical Examiner's Certificate, MCSA-5876, MEs can turn the driver away if the level of English is not proficient enough to conduct the examination. Therefore, if the certifying ME cannot obtain a complete medical history to appropriately proceed with conducting a physical qualification examination, with or without an interpreter, the ME should not conduct the examination.

Foreign drivers that require a Federal medical variance

Certified MEs may issue a Medical Examiner's Certificate, MCSA-5876, with the appropriate entry, to a foreign driver who requires a Federal medical exemption or SPE Certificate to be medically qualified.

When this occurs, the ME should tell the driver that FMCSA determines whether to issue a medical exemption or SPE Certificate and to contact FMCSA's Medical Programs Division for additional information.

Reporting CMV driver examination results to the National Registry

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) require MEs to submit to the National Registry, results of commercial motor vehicle (CMV) driver physical qualification examinations for each driver who is required to be examined by an ME listed on the National Registry. 49 CFR 391.43(g)(5)(i)(B).

Instructions for submitting physical qualification examination results for drivers not domiciled in or not a resident of the United States

If conducting an examination of a driver not domiciled in, or not a resident of the United States, enter "None" for the license number, and enter the State where the driver is going to be licensed.

If the driver is not going to apply for a commercial license in the U.S., the examination results do not need to be entered into the National Registry.

Although results of these exams are not uploaded into the National Registry, 49 CFR 390.111(a)(4) allows FMCSA to request the examination results when needed.

Topic 3.1: Knowledge Check

Question 1

A driver, Antoine Smith, comes to your office for an examination. Antoine lives in Canada and has a non-domiciled CDL. Which of the following are you responsible for verifying during his physical examination?

- a. His identity
- b. That he has established residency in the United States
- c. That he has obtained a temporary work visa
- d. None of the above

The correct answer is a. MEs should verify the identity of the driver with a photo ID, prior to conducting the examination, just as they would for a U.S. driver.

Topic 3.2: Frequently Asked Questions

Frequently Asked Questions

In this topic, there will be an overview of questions that FMCSA has received from MEs based on their experiences while conducting driver physical qualification examinations.

Correct answers are provided in bold text.

Alcoholism

Can an ME qualify a driver with a current diagnosis of alcoholism?

- a. Yes
- b. No**

The correct answer is b. no. The FMCSRs (49 CFR 391.43(b)(13) *Physical qualifications for drivers*) states that a driver is qualified if that driver “has no current clinical diagnosis of alcoholism.”

Blood Glucose

What are FMCSA’s mandatory parameters for blood glucose levels or HgbA1C for individuals with non-insulin treated diabetes and insulin-treated diabetes?

- a. Below 5%
- b. Between 7% and 9.5%
- c. None of the above**

The correct answer is c. None of the above. The FMCSA does not establish laboratory reference ranges including clinical threshold levels for blood glucose and HgbA1C. The Treating Clinician establishes individualized, clinically based parameters for blood glucose and HgbA1C levels and determines stable treatment regimen and properly controlled diabetes mellitus for their patients.

For individuals diagnosed with insulin-treated diabetes mellitus, certified MEs should consider the information concerning these levels provided by the driver’s Treating Clinician on the Insulin-Treated Diabetes Mellitus Assessment Form, MCSA-5870, during the medical certification process.

For individuals diagnosed with non-insulin-treated and insulin-treated diabetes mellitus, certified MEs are encouraged to utilize independent medical judgment in requesting additional and current medical information to sufficiently assist them in making a physical qualification determination and for how long to issue a Medical Examiner’s Certificate. An ME may consider the underlying systems and organs affected or symptoms caused to see if the condition would fall within one of the standards. For example, if a driver’s poorly controlled blood sugar levels frequently result in hypoglycemic episodes, the ME could consider §391.41(b)(8) and whether the condition is likely to cause of loss of consciousness.

Cardiac Aneurysm

What are the certification guidelines regarding an aortic aneurysm?

- a. more than 4 cm
- b. less than 4 cm
- c. **None of the above**

The correct answer is c. None of the above. There is no mention of measurements that address aneurysm size in the regulations under 49 CFR 391.1(b). Anatomical reference ranges are not developed or regulated by the Agency.

The FMCSA relies on MEs to assess and certify whether a driver is physically qualified to operate a CMV in interstate commerce. The ME may consult with specialists and request additional evaluation to assist the ME in deciding whether a Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, can be issued. Certifying MEs consider the medical history of the driver, the driver's response to treatment, current medication regimen, the applicable regulations, current clinical best practices, and knowledge of the duties and responsibilities of commercial driving decide on a case-by-case basis whether the driver should be medically certified.

Diabetes

An individual with insulin-treated diabetes mellitus must be medically examined and certified no later than 60 days after the treating clinician signs and dates the Insulin-Treated Diabetes Mellitus Assessment Form, MCSA-5870, true or false?

- a. True
- b. **False**

The correct answer is b. False. At least annually, but no later than 45 days after the treating clinician signs and dates the Insulin-Treated Diabetes Mellitus Assessment Form, MCSA-5870, an individual with insulin-treated diabetes mellitus must be medically examined and certified by an ME in accordance with 49 CFR 391.43 and be free of complications that might impair his or her ability to operate a CMV safely.

Diabetic Neuropathy

Is diabetic neuropathy disqualifying?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. **Potentially**

The correct answer is c. potentially. Diabetic neuropathy is not mentioned by name in the FMCSRs. However, the ME can disqualify a driver if there is any condition that is of the extent to impair the driver's ability to operate a CMV.

For individuals with insulin-treated diabetes mellitus, certified MEs should consider the information regarding diabetes complications, including diabetic neuropathy, provided by Treating Clinician on the Insulin-Treated Diabetes Mellitus Assessment Form, MCSA-5870, during the medical certification process.

For individuals diagnosed with diabetes mellitus, certified MEs are encouraged to utilize independent medical judgment in requesting additional and current medical information to sufficiently assist them in making a physical qualification determination and for how long to issue a Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876.

Glucose Levels

Is there an acceptable level of urine glucose for an individual with diabetes?

- a. Yes
- b. No**

The correct answer is b. The FMCSA does not establish clinical threshold levels for urine glucose levels. Significant abnormalities on the urinalysis should be commented on by the ME and should be evaluated further including follow-up with the treating clinician.

Marijuana

Is it an absolute disqualifier if an interstate CMV driver uses medical marijuana in a state where it is legal?

- a. Yes**
- b. No
- c. Potentially

The correct answer is a. Yes. The FMCSRs do not authorize Marijuana, including a mixture or preparation containing marijuana. It continues to be classified as a Schedule I controlled substance by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in 21 CFR § 1308.11. Under the FMCSRs, a person is not physically qualified to drive a CMV if he or she uses any Schedule I controlled substance such as marijuana. (See 49 CFR 391.11(b)(4) and 391.41(b)(12)). A driver who uses marijuana cannot be physically qualified even if marijuana is legal in the State where the driver resides for recreational, medicinal, or religious use.

In addition to the physical qualification requirements, the FMCSRs prohibit a driver from being in possession of or under the influence of any Schedule I controlled substance, including marijuana, while on duty, and prohibit motor carriers from permitting a driver to be on duty if he or she possesses, is under the influence of, or uses a Schedule I controlled substance. (See 49 CFR 392.2 and 392.4). Legalization of marijuana use by States and other jurisdictions also has not modified the application of U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) drug testing regulations in 49 CFR parts 40 and 382.

MEs are not prohibited from conducting non-DOT drug/alcohol testing as a part of the medical certification process for persons who have admitted drug/ alcohol use to assist the ME with making a qualification determination.

Please note that the non-DOT drug and or alcohol testing process does not require the use of a certified Substance Abuse Professional (SAP) under the provisions of Part 40 or Part 382 of the FMCSRs.

Drivers may be required to provide documentation from a professional qualified to render a substance abuse evaluation or an opinion concerning successful treatment.

Examination

Is significant obesity in a driver a disqualifying factor?

- a. Yes
- b. No**

The correct answer is b. No. The physical qualification standards do not include any maximum or minimum height or weight. The ME should consider that height and weight factor as part of the overall driver's ability to perform his or her job functions safely.

Examination

Can an interstate CMV driver obtain a DOT physical qualification examination in any State in the United States?

- a. Yes**
- b. No

The correct answer is a. Yes. The SDLA must accept a Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, from any ME listed on the National Registry where the examination is conducted in the State(s) where the ME is licensed for a driver who is required to have an examination under 391.41(a)(1)(i).

Certified MEs listed on the National Registry are trained and certified in performing examinations on interstate CMV drivers according to the FMCSRs. However, MEs who choose to perform driver examinations for intrastate only drivers who are licensed in States that have variances from the FMCSRs are required to comply with State regulations and statutes for performing those examinations, to include being knowledgeable of State waivers. If examinations for intrastate only drivers are not conducted according to the State requirements, the SDLA may not accept the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876 issued and may require the driver to return to the ME or to get another examination.

Hearing

Can an ME certify a driver who can hear in only one ear?

- a. Yes**
- b. No

The correct answer is a. Yes. A driver must meet the hearing standard in the better ear.

Hearing

If a driver does not pass the forced whisper test, is that disqualifying?

- a. Yes**
- b. No

The correct answer is A. Yes. However, if a driver fails the whisper test, another test by an audiometric device may be administered under 49 CFR 391.41(b)(11). It is up to the ME whether to test with either the forced whisper testing technique, audiometric testing, or both.

Hearing

Can an ME accept an audiometry report from an outside source, or is it required that it is performed as part of the exam?

- a. **Yes**
- b. No

The correct answer is a yes. An ME can use an audiometry report from an outside source as long as the audiometric device that was used to perform the test is calibrated to meet the American National Standard (formally the ASA Standard) Z24.5-1951. The ME should record the audiometric test results on the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, and indicate that the results were provided from an outside source.

HIPAA

Does the ME have to comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) rules and regulations and obtain a medial release form from the driver before sharing the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, with an entity outside of an authorized representative of FMCSA or an authorized Federal, State, or local enforcement agency representative?

- a. **Yes**
- b. No

The correct answer is a. Yes. The ME must comply with HIPAA regulations and any applicable State laws. However, there are many different situations when such protected health information may be disclosed without the consent of the individual being examined such as if a ME determines that disclosure of an individual's protected health information is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of a person and otherwise can satisfy the provisions of the HIPAA Privacy Rules. The Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information ("Privacy Rule") is issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). For official guidance on HIPAA regulations, please go to HHS guidance at: <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/summary/index.html>.

Medications

Is there a list of prohibited medications?

- a. Yes
- b. **No**

The correct answer is b. No. The FMCSRs do not include a list of prohibited medications by name. However, MEs may disqualify a driver who takes any medication or combination of medications and substances that may impair or interfere with safe driving practices. All medications must be assessed to determine the potential risk of adverse side effects which include but are not limited to: dizziness, drowsiness, and sleepiness, and the direct impact the potential side effects have on CMV driving.

In addition, the ME may confer with the treating medical specialist(s) who is familiar with the driver's health history and may consider utilizing the optional 391.41 CMV Driver Medication Form, MCSA-

5895, to assist with obtaining information from the prescribing clinician(s). The 391.41 CMV Driver Medication Form, MCSA-5895, is for optional/voluntary use by the certified ME and can be found on the FMCSA Medical and the National Registry Resource Center webpages. The final physical qualification determination of the driver rests with the certifying ME.

Motor Carrier Requirements

Can a motor carrier have employment requirements that exceed the Federal regulations?

- a. **Yes**
- b. No

The correct answer is a. Yes. Motor carriers are permitted to have medical employment requirements that exceed those set by the U.S. DOT, but the motor carrier is not allowed to direct the ME in how to perform the physical qualification examination, direct the length of certification, or direct the ME to place any specific vehicle operating restrictions on the driver who is undergoing a physical qualification examination.

Motor Carrier Requirements

Can a motor carrier dictate or influence an ME's decision or ask for limitations on the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876?

- a. Yes
- b. Yes, but only in cases where the motor carrier believes the ME to have incorrectly qualified a driver
- c. **No**

The correct answer is c. no. FMCSA relies on the certifying ME to evaluate and determine whether a driver is physically qualified to operate a CMV in interstate commerce.

Automatically disqualifying conditions

Are multiple sclerosis (MS), peripheral vascular disease (PVD), cerebral palsy, rheumatoid arthritis, and dialysis automatically disqualifying?

- a. Yes
- b. **No**

The correct answer is b. No. MS, PVD, cerebral palsy, rheumatoid arthritis, and dialysis are not specifically identified in 49 CFR 391.41(b) as being automatically disqualifying. These are examples of various medical conditions that require a discretionary qualification determination by the certified ME as to whether the driver is medically qualified.

Obstructive Sleep Apnea

Are annual sleep studies required for drivers with Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA)?

- a. Yes

b. No

The correct answer is b. No. The FMCSRs do not include requirements for MEs to screen CMV drivers for OSA or provide requirements regarding whether to refer a driver for OSA testing.

OSA is one of several respiratory dysfunctions that may be detrimental to safe driving as it may interfere with driver alertness and cause loss of consciousness.

If an ME detects a respiratory dysfunction, with multiple risk factors that are likely to interfere with a driver's ability to operate a CMV, the driver may be referred to a specialist for further evaluation. A diagnosis of OSA does not preclude the issuance of a Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, by an ME. However, MEs are advised that drivers who have been diagnosed with moderate to severe OSA but fail to adhere to treatment for the condition should be disqualified.

In addition to current clinical best practices, for additional guidance on certification of drivers with moderate-to-severe OSA, one source MEs could consider is the November 21, 2016, OSA advisory recommendations. They are available at <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/advisory-committees/mrb/final-mrb-task-16-01-letter-report-mcsac-and-mrb>.

Seizure Medication

Is taking a medication such as Neurontin for a condition that is not seizure related, an absolute disqualifier?

- a. Yes
- b. No**

The correct answer is b. No. As long as the ME has consulted with the prescribing clinician and determined the driver has no history of seizure, or condition that is likely to cause loss of consciousness or any loss of ability to control a CMV. In the Driver Health History Review section of the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, the ME should provide comments to indicate the diagnosis, alternate use, and that the prescribing clinician was consulted.

Smoker's age and Spirometry

After what age must a spirometry be performed for a driver who is a smoker?

- a. 40 years
- b. 45 years
- c. 50 years
- d. None of the above**

The correct answer is d. None of the above. The FMCSRs do not require mandatory pulmonary function (PFT) screening for interstate CMV who smoke, of a certain age in order to obtain a Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876. The FMCSRs establish minimum physical qualification standards for interstate truck and bus drivers. The request for specific medical testing can be requested at the discretion of the certifying ME to assist with making a physical qualification determination.

Stress Tests

Is cardiac stress testing required?

- a. Yes
- b. No**

The correct answer is b. No. The FMCSRs do not require cardiac stress testing for interstate CMV drivers. The ME may consult with specialists and request additional evaluation to assist the ME in making a physical qualification determination. Certifying MEs consider the medical history of the driver, the driver's response to treatment, current medication regimen, the applicable regulations, current clinical best practices, and knowledge of the duties and responsibilities of commercial driving and decide on a case-by-case basis whether the driver should be medically certified to operate a CMV.

TIA/Stroke

Are specific waiting times required after a TIA or stroke?

- a. Yes
- b. No**

The correct answer is b. No. FMCSA does not regulate when a driver can return to work after experiencing a TIA or stroke. The certifying ME evaluates the status of the medical condition and determines if the driver is safe to operate a CMV. The ME may consult with specialists and request additional evaluation to assist the ME in making a physical qualification determination.

Vision

Is it appropriate to use colored folders in red, green, and amber to test color vision?

- a. Yes**
- b. No

The correct answer is a. Yes. The driver must meet the vision physical qualification standard that includes the ability of the driver to recognize red, green, and amber. It is up to the discretion of the ME how to determine the driver's ability to recognize the colors of traffic signals and devices showing standard red, green, and amber.

Vision

Is it appropriate for an ME to place an individual in a determination pending status in connection with the alternative vision physical qualification standard in 49 CFR 391.44?

- a. Yes
- b. No**

The correct answer is b. No. An ME should not place any individual in a determination pending status who fails the vision screening during a physical qualification examination. Instead, the ME should not qualify the driver. This applies to individuals who first learn they may not satisfy the vision standard during the examination, have a known vision deficiency that cannot be corrected, or need evaluation by

an ophthalmologist or optometrist to correct a refractive error. This also applies to new drivers, as well as those drivers who do not have a current Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876. The ME should instruct the individual to see an ophthalmologist or optometrist to have a vision evaluation. When the ME believes it is likely that the individual may be physically qualified under the alternative vision standard in 49 CFR 391.44, the ME should instruct the individual to have the ophthalmologist or optometrist complete the Vision Evaluation Report, Form MCSA-5871. After the vision evaluation, the individual can obtain a new physical qualification examination.

An ME may place an individual in a determination pending status only when the individual already has completed a vision evaluation by an ophthalmologist or optometrist and provides a completed Vision Evaluation Report, MCSA-5871, to the ME. This status affords an individual up to 45 days to provide additional information from the ophthalmologist or optometrist to the ME and to complete the physical qualification examination.

**NATIONAL REGISTRY OF
CERTIFIED MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

PERIODIC TRAINING

**MODULE 4
PERFORMING DRIVER EXAMINATIONS
AND COMPLYING WITH NATIONAL
REGISTRY REQUIREMENTS**

Resource Version Disclaimer

This version of the National Registry 5-year periodic training is being provided as a resource for training organizations to incorporate into the National Registry Medical Examiner training, they provide.

This document is only intended for use as a reference document and cannot be used by Medical Examiners to meet the 5-year periodic training requirement. When due for the 5-year periodic training, Medical Examiners are notified through their National Registry account and provided with the training modules to be completed.

Periodic Training

Module 4

Performing Driver Examinations and Complying with National Registry Requirements

Introduction

This module will help you, the Medical Examiner (ME), be proficient in:

1. The administrative aspects of using the National Registry including where to find the ME User Guide and instructional videos.
2. Correctly completing the driver examination forms required by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs).

Topic 4.1: The National Registry

This topic will review the administrative aspects of using the National Registry including where to find the ME User Guide and instructional videos.

There will be a knowledge check regarding the information covered in the section to test your knowledge.

ME User Guide and Instructional Videos

The ME User Guide and instructional videos are resources that you as the ME should use when you have questions about using your National Registry account. The ME User Guide and instructional videos can be found in the menu on the left side of your screen once you have signed into your account. Both of these items will be referenced in this topic indicating where to find step by step instructions for specific National Registry account tasks.

Use of Login.gov

Login.gov is a Federal requirement that provides secure and private online access to government programs, such as Federal benefits, services and applications. With a login.gov account, you can sign into multiple government websites with the same email address and password.

Login.gov uses two-factor authentication and stronger passwords that meet new National Institute of Standards of Technology requirements for secure validation and verification. By using login.gov, you get an extra layer of security to help protect your National Registry account against security breaches.

If an ME is not able to access their National Registry account, it may be because they have not migrated their account using login.gov. MEs who have not migrated their account are not in compliance with the FMCSRs and will be removed from the National Registry in the near future.

FMCSA Information Technology (IT) Rules of Behavior

As users of the National Registry, during the registration process, and on an annual basis, you agreed to FMCSA's IT Rules of Behavior.

As part of accepting the IT Rules of Behavior, you agreed to accept any written communication from FMCSA relating to your participation on the National Registry by email at the professional contact email address you provided to FMCSA in your profile information.

FMCSA uses the professional contact email address you provided in your profile to communicate important information, regulatory changes, special instructions, and ME removal notifications. Therefore, it is extremely important that MEs keep their contact information up to date and adhere to information provided in emails from FMCSA.

National Registry Terms of Use

As users of the National Registry, during the registration process, and on an annual basis, you agreed to the National Registry's Terms of Use.

As part of agreeing to the National Registry's Terms of Use, you agreed to report to FMCSA any changes in your registration information submitted under § 390.103(a)(2) within 30 days of the change (e.g., practice address, employer address, phone number, email address, or expiration date of medical license) by updating your National Registry profile. To remain in compliance with the FMCSRs, it is important that you update the information in your profile any time there is a change as not updating it is grounds for removal from the National Registry.

FMCSA encourages all MEs taking this training to enter their profile information and ensure that their National Registry profile is up to date using the instructions in the next section.

Updating Your National Registry Account Profile

Once logged in to your National Registry account, you may update to your profile by selecting "My Profile" from the menu on the left side of the screen followed by selecting "Manage User Information."

Once "Manage User Information" has been selected, you will have the opportunity to update your user, practice, employer, medical license, and training information using the expand and edit functions. For detailed instructions with screenshots, refer to pages 2–22 of the ME User Guide.

FMCSA has identified the following areas of concern regarding MEs not adhering to the regulatory requirements to update their profiles when changes occur:

- **Not updating the expiration date for a medical license in their National Registry profile when the medical license has been renewed**
 - MEs are required to report to FMCSA any changes in the information they provided during registration within 30 days of the change.
- **Having a State listed for a practice location that is different from the State(s) listed for medical licensure**

- MEs must continue to be licensed, certified, or registered, and authorized to perform physical examinations, in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations of **each** State in which the ME performs examinations.
- **Not providing updates when there is a change to their contact information such as address, phone number, and email address**
 - During registration as an ME, you agreed to receive FMCSA information via the email address associated with your National Registry account. The update to your email address is necessary for FMCSA to be able to contact you regarding any information, regulatory changes, or actions that must be taken by you regarding the examinations you are certified to perform. FMCSA also may need to contact you by phone or mail.
- **Not migrating their account to login.gov but using Medical Examiner Administrative Assistants (MEAAAs) or Third Party Organizations (TPOs) to upload results of examinations on their behalf**
 - The use of login.gov is required to meet National Institute of Standards of Technology requirements for secure validation and verification. All National Registry account holders are required to use login.gov to access their National Registry account.

All issues listed above are grounds for removal from the National Registry. FMCSA encourages all MEs taking this training to enter their profile information and ensure that their National Registry profile is up to date.

Designating a Medical Examiner Administrative Assistants (MEAAAs)

As a certified ME, you are responsible for meeting all the regulatory requirements of the National Registry. However, you may designate an MEAA to upload results of physical qualification examinations you conduct on your behalf.

An MEAA is an individual (e.g., Medical Assistant, Administrative Assistant, etc.) that works in your medical practice. Each MEAA must register with the National Registry and receive an MEAA ID#. This step must be accomplished prior to the MEAA being searchable in the next step.

To designate an MEAA, select “Designations” from the menu, then select “Designate MEAA” and search for the MEAA you wish to designate. Follow the instructions on the screen for selecting and submitting the designation request. A notification will be sent to the MEAA for them to either accept or decline the request.

The National Registry system allows all MEAAAs, designated by a certified ME, to have full access to all results of examinations completed by the certified ME that has designated them as an MEAA. Therefore, MEs should review their MEAA designations to ensure that only those MEAAAs that are actively uploading results on the ME’s behalf have access to do so. To protect the privacy of the results of examinations conducted, MEs should sever the designation of any MEAA that no longer works with the ME and should no longer have access to this information.

For detailed instructions with screenshots, refer to pages 54–67 of the ME User Guide or watch the instructional video regarding designating and managing MEAAAs.

Severing an MEAA Designation

To sever the designation of an MEAA, from your National Registry account, select “Designations” from the menu, then select “Manage MEAA Designations.” Use the search function to find the MEAA designation to be severed and select the Action of Sever Designation.

For detailed instructions with screenshots, refer to pages 64–67 of the ME User Guide or watch the instructional video regarding designating and managing MEAAs.

Designating a Third Party Organization (TPO)

As a certified ME, you are responsible for meeting all the regulatory requirements of the National Registry. However, you may designate a TPO to upload results of physical qualification examinations you conduct on your behalf.

A TPO is an organization that you have a business agreement with to upload results of physical qualification examinations you conduct on your behalf. All TPOs must first register with the National Registry and be approved by FMCSA before they are searchable and able to upload results of physical qualification examinations on behalf of certified MEs.

To designate a TPO, select “Designations” from the menu, then select “Designate TPO” and search for the TPO you wish to designate. Once you find the TPO you wish to designate, select the tick box next to the TPO ID#, follow the instructions on the screen, and select submit. As with MEAA designations, MEs should sever the designation of any TPO that no longer works with the ME.

For detailed instructions with screenshots, refer to pages 67–73 of the ME User Guide or watch the instructional video regarding designating and managing TPOs.

Severing a TPO Designation

To sever the designation of a TPO, from your National Registry account, select “Designations” from the menu, then select “Manage TPO Designations.” Use the search function to find the TPO designation to be severed and select the Action of Sever Designation.

For detailed instructions with screenshots, refer to pages 70-73 of the ME User Guide or watch the instructional video regarding designating and managing MEAAs.

Topic 4.1: Knowledge Check - The National Registry Website

True or False: ME’s can be removed from the National Registry for not keeping their account profile up to date.

- a. True
- b. False

The correct answer is a. True. Failure to update an MEs National Registry profile is grounds for removal from the National Registry for non-compliance with the FMCSRs.

Topic 4.2: FMCSA Reporting Requirements

This topic will help you better understand the requirements under 49 CFR 391.43 of the FMCSRs regarding completion of the driver examination forms.

There will be a knowledge checks regarding the information covered in the section to test your knowledge.

Driver Examination Forms

The Medical Examiner's Certification Integration final rule amended the FMCSRs to require MEs to use newly revised driver examination forms (the CMV Driver Medical Examination Results Form, MCSA-5850; the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875; and the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876) discussed in the final rule beginning December 22, 2015.

The Qualifications of Drivers; Diabetes Standard final rule amended the FMCSRs to require MEs to use the Insulin-Treated Diabetes Mellitus Assessment Form, MCSA-5870, beginning November 19, 2018.

The Qualifications of Drivers; Vision Standard final rule amended the FMCSRs to require MEs to use the Vision Evaluation Report, Form MCSA-5871, beginning March 22, 2022.

There are five driver examination forms required by FMCSRs, which we will review in this topic:

- Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875
- CMV Driver Medical Examination Results Form, MCSA-5850 (electronic only)
- Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876
- Insulin-Treated Diabetes Mellitus Assessment Form, MCSA-5870
- Vision Evaluation Report, Form MCSA-5871

There is one optional form which we will review in this topic:

- 391.41 CMV Driver Medication Form, MCSA-5895

Fillable PDF versions of these forms are available on the Resource Center page of the National Registry (<https://nationalregistry.fmcsa.dot.gov/resource-center>) and the medical page of the FMCSA website (<https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/medical/driver-medical-requirements/medical-applications-and-forms>).

The CMV Driver Medical Examination Results Form, MCSA-5850, is an electronic form that is only available through the ME's National Registry account. All other forms can be completed by typing into the electronic PDF form or by printing the form and handwriting information onto the hard copy. In addition, the ME may print the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, from their National Registry account if the information is entered into the CMV Driver Medical Examination Results Form, MCSA-5850, at the time of the examination.

FMCSA does NOT provide the forms for purchase. However, if an ME chooses to purchase these forms from a company that provides them, it is the responsibility of the ME to ensure the forms are the current Office of Management and Budget approved version and properly manage supplies as these forms are

updated at least every three years. Please note that the information collection that contains these forms is approved at least every three years.

Records Retention

MEs must adhere to the requirements of 49 CFR 391.43(i) *Medical examination; certificate of physical qualification*:

391.43(h)(i) Each original (paper or electronic) completed Medical Examination Report and a copy or electronic version of each medical examiner's certificate must be retained on file at the office of the medical examiner for at least 3 years from the date of examination. The medical examiner must make all records and information in these files available to an authorized representative of FMCSA or an authorized Federal, State, or local enforcement agency representative, within 48 hours after the request is made.

MEs must adhere to the requirement of 49 CFR 391.46 *Physical qualification standards for an individual with diabetes mellitus treated with insulin for control*:

391.46(c)(1) The medical examiner must receive a completed Insulin-Treated Diabetes Mellitus Assessment Form, MCSA-5870, signed and dated by the individual's treating clinician for each required examination. This Form shall be treated and retained as part of the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875.

MEs must adhere to the requirement of 49 CFR 391.44 *Physical qualification standards for an individual who does not satisfy, with the worse eye, either the distant visual acuity standard with corrective lenses or the field of vision standard, or both*:

391.44(c)(1) The medical examiner must receive a completed Vision Evaluation Report, Form MCSA-5871, signed and dated by an ophthalmologist or optometrist for each required examination. This Report shall be treated and retained as part of the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875.

If the ME has used the optional 391.41 CMV Driver Medication Form, MCSA-5895, to assist them in making a physical qualification determination, it is recommended that the 391.41 CMV Driver Medication Form, MCSA-5895, be retained as part of the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875.

Topic 4.2.1: Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875

The Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, can be found in the National Registry Resource Center (<https://nationalregistry.fmcsa.dot.gov/resource-center>) and on the medical page of the FMCSA website (<https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/medical/driver-medical-requirements/medical-applications-and-forms>). While reviewing this section of the periodic training, we suggest you open a copy of the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, from one of these links as a reference.

What is the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875

The Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, documents the results of each physical qualification examination the ME conducts. MEs must complete a Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, for all CMV driver examinations conducted.

As part of the physical qualification examination, drivers are required to provide information about their medical history. They provide this information by completing the driver health history portion of the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875.

After the driver completes the health history section of the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, the ME must fill out the remainder of the form. MEs must complete all fields on the form and retain the original paper or electronic copy for at least three years from the date of the examination.

This form is not submitted to FMCSA unless specifically requested by FMCSA.

Changes to the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875

Prior to publication of the Medical Examiner's Certification Integration final rule in 2015, FMCSA allowed results of examinations performed to be recorded "substantially in accordance with" the examination forms provided in the regulation.

As a result of the Medical Examiner's Certification Integration final rule, use of the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, and Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, are required and results of examinations must be recorded on these specific forms.

These forms have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget and are published in 49 CFR 391.43(f)(2) and (h)(2), and therefore, must be used "as is." However, there are a few minor changes that are permissible (see below).

Permissible changes to the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875:

- A bar code may be added to the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, for purposes of forms management in the ME's office, as long as it does not obscure any of the content of the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875.
- The instructions may be resized, as long as all the content is still legible.
- The instructions may be made available to the driver and the ME separately from the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875.
- The Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, may be filed/stored without the instructions.
- The Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, may be printed in black and white.

These are the only changes allowed. Anything other than what is described above is not allowed including, but not limited to, adding company information or a logo, adding a form number, adding a revision date, rearranging content, placing disclaimers on the back of the forms, etc.

Completing the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875

The Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, has several sections that the ME is required to complete. As part of the National Registry performance monitoring and auditing of MEs, FMCSA reviews Medical Examination Report Forms, MCSA-5875, to ensure that all sections of the form have been completed as failure to do so indicates that the ME is not in compliance with 49 CFR 391.43 which is grounds for removal from the National Registry. Completion of the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, should include providing details such as diagnoses, date of onset, names and dosages of medications, etc. During FMCSA reviews of Medical Examination Report Forms, MCSA-5875, it is often found that there is not enough information to clearly understand the medical history reviewed as part of the qualification decision. This information is necessary to assist FMCSA in determining if the ME applied the FMCSRs correctly in making a qualification determination or whether a driver has falsified information.

Below is an overview of each section, a description of the information required to be provided, and information outlining issues FMCSA often identifies when completing reviews of Medical Examination Report Forms, MCSA-5875, during ME performance monitoring and auditing.

Expiration Date in the top right corner of the form

The expiration date located on the top right corner of the form indicates the date the information collection approval for the form expires with the Office of Management and Budget. This is renewed every three years and updated forms are provided by FMCSA.

Medical Record Number

A medical record number is not required for the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875. This space may be left blank or used by an ME's office to record whatever medical record number used by their clinic, employee ID, driver ID, or otherwise.

Driver's Address

The driver's address listed on the driver examination forms must be the driver's current address which may be different from the address on the driver's license. The driver's current address is needed in case FMCSA needs to contact the driver.

Driver's Date of Birth

A physical qualification examination can be conducted for individuals younger than 21. Subject to limited exceptions, the FMCSRs require a CMV driver to be 21 years old to operate in interstate commerce. However, some States allow individuals to operate CMVs in intrastate commerce at the age of 18. The National Registry system will allow physical qualification examinations to be submitted for individuals who are 16 years old or older.

Driver's License Number

MEs can conduct a physical qualification examination for an individual who does not have a driver's license. In this case, the driver's license number should be recorded as "NONE" when submitting the examination results to the National Registry.

State/Province Field

The State/Province field was expanded to include Canadian Provinces to allow MEs to report examinations conducted on non-commercial driver's license (CDL) drivers from Canada. FMCSA's reciprocity agreement with Canada allows CDL drivers to operate a CMV in the United States without being examined and certified by an ME listed on the National Registry because they are medically examined as part of obtaining a CDL in Canada.

Non-CDL drivers in Canada are not required to complete a medical examination. Therefore, in order for non-CDL drivers from Canada to legally operate a CMV in the United States in interstate commerce, they must be examined by an ME on the National Registry and meet the physical qualification standards outlined in the FMCSRs.

MEs can conduct a physical qualification examination for and issue a Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, to drivers with a license issued by a jurisdiction outside the United States (i.e., the 50 States and the District of Columbia). However, if an examination is conducted on a foreign driver, it is not required to be uploaded into the National Registry, but if the driver is qualified, a Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, should be provided to the driver.

Driver ID Verified By

On page one of the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, where it is labeled "Driver ID verified by**" the ME must enter the type of photo ID the ME used to verify the driver's identity, such as a CDL, driver's license, or passport etc.

Driver Health History

This section is filled out by the driver and consists of Personal Information, Driver Health History, and the CMV Driver's Signature.

The purpose of the health history section of the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, is to obtain information relevant to detecting the presence of conditions that may affect the ability for the driver to meet the physical qualification standards for operating a CMV. You must review and discuss with the driver any "Yes" or "Not Sure" answers and ensure that corresponding information is recorded on the form with appropriate details such as diagnoses, date of onset, names and dosages of medications, etc.

For each "Yes" or "Not Sure" answer:

- Ask about history, diagnosis, treatment, and response to treatment.
- Explore underlying cause, precipitating events, and other pertinent facts.
- Refer to the primary care provider to obtain additional tests or consultations, as necessary, to assist in making a physical qualification determination.
- Review and discuss the driver's response to treatment and medications currently or recently used, including over-the-counter medications, and discuss any potential effects and side effects that may interfere with driving. As needed, you should also educate the driver regarding drug

interactions with other prescription and nonprescription drugs and alcohol.

- Record all information and results on the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875.
- MEs are encouraged to request additional and current medical information from the driver's treating clinician to sufficiently assist them in making a physical qualification determination and for how long to issue a Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876. FMCSA provides the 391.41 CMV Driver Medication Form, MCSA-5895, as an optional tool to gather information related to medication usage and medical diagnoses. This form can be found on the medical page of the FMCSA website (<https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/medical/driver-medical-requirements/medical-applications-and-forms>).

By signing the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, the driver:

- Certifies that information is "accurate and complete."
- Acknowledges that providing inaccurate or false information or omitting information could:
 - Invalidate the examination and any certificate issued based on it.
 - Result in civil or criminal penalties against the driver.

Driver Health History Review

As the ME conducting the driver's physical examination, you are required to complete the entire physical qualification examination even if you detect a medical condition that you consider disqualifying, such as deafness. MEs are expected to determine if the driver meets the physical qualification standards outlined in the FMCSRs. Thus, if you find a disqualifying condition for which a driver may receive a Federal medical exemption from FMCSA, please record that on the driver's Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, as well as on the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875.

As the ME, you should review and discuss answers provided by the driver in the driver health history section ensuring you discuss any "Yes" and "Not Sure" responses and provide corresponding information on the form with appropriate details such as diagnoses, date of onset, names and dosages of medications, etc. You should explore with the driver any answers that seem unclear and record any information that the driver omitted. You should comment on the driver's responses to the "health history" questions and any review of relevant medical information that may impact your decision to certify the driver.

English Language Proficiency

MEs are not required to certify the extent to which a driver understands English. However, MEs should only conduct examinations when they are confident that they can communicate with drivers to the level that allows for a thorough examination to be conducted. As the signature authority on the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, MEs can turn the driver away if the level of English is not proficient enough to conduct the examination. Therefore, if the certifying ME cannot obtain a complete medical history to appropriately proceed with conducting a physical qualification examination with or without an interpreter, the ME should not conduct the examination.

Medication Use

You should be sure to compare the medication list to the health history responses ensuring that the medication list matches the medical conditions noted. In addition, because medication is frequently prescribed for diagnoses other than those for which it was originally intended to treat (i.e., off-label use), you should ask about the diagnosis for which each medication was prescribed. You should evaluate all such diagnoses under the appropriate physical qualification standard and document the medication use on the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875. For example, if it is disclosed a driver is taking

gabapentin, you should ask why it has been prescribed and document the condition for which it was prescribed (“gabapentin for seizures,” “gabapentin for migraine prevention,” “gabapentin for nerve pain,” etc.) on the form.

If you have concerns about whether a driver is fully and accurately disclosing all prescribed medications, the 391.41 CMV Driver Medication Form, MCSA-5895, can be used as part of the physical qualification examination to request additional information regarding medications prescribed by the treating provider(s) with the driver’s consent. It can also be used as a tool to request additional information from the prescribing medical provider to determine if a driver is physically qualified under 49 CFR 391.41(b)(12). The 391.41 CMV Driver Medication Form, MCSA-5895, is an optional form which can be found in the National Registry Resource Center (<https://nationalregistry.fmcsa.dot.gov/resource-center>) and on the medical page of the FMCSA website (<https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/medical/driver-medical-requirements/medical-applications-and-forms>).

Drug and Alcohol Use

Questions 31 and 32 related to illegal drug use are included to better assist MEs in determining whether individuals meet the physical qualification standards in 49 CFR 391.41(b)(12)(i) and (ii). These two questions **are not** intended to involve the application and administration of the drug and alcohol testing requirements and the provisions under 49 CFR parts 40 and 382. You should assess and evaluate all “Yes” responses from drivers and may request additional information from the treating provider(s) about a driver’s medical history with the driver’s consent.

The FMCSRs do not include a mandatory waiting time prior to medical certification of CMV drivers after known or disclosed illegal drug use. If an ME has concerns about a driver’s substance abuse, the ME may decline to issue a Medical Examiner’s Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, until the ME’s concerns are satisfied through documentation from an appropriate treatment program, drug testing, and/or counseling.

MEs are not prohibited from conducting non-DOT drug/alcohol testing as a part of the medical certification process for persons who have admitted drug/ alcohol use to assist the ME with making a qualifying determination. However, if a non-DOT drug/alcohol test is ordered, a physical qualification determination should not be made until the results have been received. MEs are able to place a driver in a determination pending status until results have been received and a physical qualification determination can be made.

Please note that the non-DOT drug and or alcohol testing process does not require the use of a certified Substance Abuse Professional under the provisions of Part 40 or Part 382 of the FMCSRs.

Testing

You must document all testing and examination results in the correct sections of the form indicated below.

- **Pulse rate and rhythm, height, and weight:** record these as indicated on the form.
- **Blood Pressure:** record the blood pressure (systolic and diastolic) of the driver being examined. A second reading is optional and should be recorded if found to be necessary.
- **Urinalysis:** record the numerical readings for the specific gravity, protein, blood and sugar.

- Protein, blood, or sugar in the urine may be an indication for further testing to rule out any underlying medical problem such as diabetes mellitus, uncontrolled hypertension, and renal disease. If there is an excessive amount of sugar, blood, or protein in the urine, you should ask about diabetes mellitus or possible kidney disease. You may need to consult the driver’s treating provider(s) to gather additional information with the driver’s consent.
- **Vision:** The current vision standard is provided on the form. When other than the Snellen chart is used, give test results in Snellen-comparable values. When recording distance vision, use 20 feet as normal. Record the vision acuity results and indicate if the driver can recognize and distinguish among traffic control signals and devices showing red, green, and amber colors; has monocular vision; has been referred to an ophthalmologist or optometrist; and if documentation has been received from an ophthalmologist or optometrist.
 - Vision testing completed by an eye specialist
 - When the vision test is completed by an eye specialist not under the alternative vision standard, in addition to the vision results, the specialist should provide the specialist’s name, telephone number, email address, license number, and State issuing the license, and sign and date the specialist vision examination report. The ME must attach the specialist vision examination report to the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, and either write “see the attached documentation” in the vision test result section or write the information on the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, in the vision test result section.
 - When the vision test is completed by an eye specialist as required under the alternative vision standard, the certified ME must receive the Vision Evaluation Report, Form MCSA-5871, that has been completed and signed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist within 45 days prior to conducting the physical qualification examination. The Vision Evaluation Report, Form MCSA-5871, should be retained in the driver’s record with the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875.
 - The phrase “ability to recognize the colors of” in the vision standard is interpreted to mean, if the driver can recognize standard red, green, and amber colors, the driver meets the minimum standard, even though the driver may have some type of color perception deficiency. Color perception may be evaluated using a standard test (such as Ishihara, Pseudoisochromatic, Yarn, or Farnsworth) or a controlled test using standard red, green, and amber colors. Examples of controlled tests include the standard colors present on the Snellen chart or objects that correspond to the standard colors.
- **Hearing:** The current hearing standard is provided on the form. Hearing can be tested using either a whisper test or audiometric test. Record the test results in the corresponding section for the test used.
 - For the whispered voice test, the driver should be stationed at least 5 feet from the ME with the ear being tested turned toward the ME (the driver should not be facing the ME). The other ear is covered. Using the breath that remains after a normal expiration, the ME whispers words or random numbers such as 66, 18, 3, etc. The ME should then ask the driver to repeat the words or sequence. The ME should not use only sibilants (“s”

sounding materials). The opposite ear should be tested in the same manner. If the driver fails the whispered voice test in both ears, the audiometric test should be administered.

- When the hearing test is completed by an audiologist, the audiologist should provide the audiologist's name, telephone number, email address, license number, and State issuing the license, and date and sign the audiology report. The ME must attach the audiology report to the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, and either write "see the attached documentation" in the hearing test result section or write the information on the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, in the hearing test result section.
- When audiometric results are averaged (500Hz, 1000Hz, and 2000Hz), the results should **NOT** be rounded up when determining if the individual's level of hearing meets the hearing standard.
- The Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, and the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, should **NOT** reflect both "Qualified only when wearing a hearing aid" and "Accompanied by a waiver/exemption hearing." If the driver meets the hearing standard with the use of hearing aids, the driver is not required to obtain a Federal hearing exemption and the form should only indicate "Qualified only when wearing a hearing aid." This means that the individual must wear hearing aids while operating a CMV.

Physical Examination: You must check the body systems for abnormalities and indicate normal or abnormal for each body system listed. You should also discuss any abnormal answers in detail in the space provided and indicate whether it would impact the driver's ability to safely operate a CMV.

Medical Exemptions: FMCSA generally issues two types of medical exemptions to interstate CMV drivers who meet the Federal exemption criteria:

- Seizure exemptions - The maximum certification period for drivers issued a Federal seizure exemption is 12 months.
- Hearing exemptions - The maximum certification period for drivers issued a Federal hearing exemption is 24 months.

To indicate that a driver must apply for a medical exemption from the hearing or seizure standard, select "Accompanied by a waiver/exemption" and specify the type of exemption required on the Medical Examination Determination section of the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875.

Although FMCSA generally issues medical exemptions for these two conditions, a driver can request an exemption/waiver for any condition under Part 381 *Waivers, Exemptions, and Pilot Programs*, of the FMCSRs.

As the ME, by selecting "Accompanied by a waiver/exemption" and specifying the type of Federal medical exemption, you are certifying that the driver: (1) Fails to meet the standard for the medical exemption specified; (2) Meets all other physical qualification requirements cited in 49 CFR 391.41(b); and (3) Is required to obtain the Federal medical exemption for the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, issued to be valid.

The driver must apply to FMCSA for a medical exemption and FMCSA only issues medical exemptions to drivers who operate in interstate commerce.

Skill Performance Evaluation (SPE) Certificate

The SPE Certificate is for interstate CMV drivers with an amputation or a fixed-limb impairment that interferes with safe operation of a CMV, and the impairment is not related to a progressive condition.

By selecting the driver is qualified when “Accompanied by a Skill Performance Evaluation (SPE) Certificate” on the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, the ME is certifying that the driver: (1) Fails to meet one or more of the limb requirements of 49 CFR 391.41(b)(1) or (b)(2); (2) Meets all other physical requirements cited in 49 CFR 391.41(b); and (3) Must have (obtain) both a valid SPE certificate and Medical Examiner’s Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, to operate a CMV in interstate commerce. The ME should not ask the driver for a copy of their SPE certificate before issuing a Medical Examiner’s Certificate, Form MCSA-5876. The SPE application process requires the driver to first obtain a valid Medical Examiner’s Certificate, Form MCSA-5876.

Instructions and application information concerning the SPE Certificate program can be found on the medical page of the FMCSA website (<https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/medical/driver-medical-requirements/skill-performance-evaluation-certificate-program>).

FMCSA only issues SPE Certificates to interstate CMV drivers. If the driver is an intrastate driver or employed and paid by a municipality the driver must apply for a limb-waiver through the driver’s SDLA.

Qualified by operation of 49 CFR 391.64

49 CFR 391.64 is the regulation for the grandfathering of certain drivers who participated in a vision waiver study program.

Until **March 22, 2023**, this category applies to a small number of drivers who participated in the Federal Vision Waiver Study Program conducted prior to the implementation of the Federal Vision Exemption Program. The maximum certification period is 12 months. Drivers that have been granted this right must provide the ME with a copy of their FMCSA issued letter granting them these rights at the time of the examination.

On and after **March 22, 2023**, drivers can no longer be physically qualified under 49 CFR 391.64. Any Medical Examiner’s Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, issued under the vision grandfather provision is void and MEs no longer need to check the box on the Medical Examiner’s Certificate associated with 49 CFR 391.64.

By selecting the “By Operation of 49 CFR 391.64” option on the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, the ME certifies that the driver: (1) Presented a letter from FMCSA explaining that the driver participated in the Federal Vision Waiver Study Program in the early 1990’s and was allowed to continue to operate CMVs in interstate commerce (i.e., grandfathered) by operation of 49 CFR 391.64; (2) Provided the ME with a copy of the results of an evaluation conducted by an ophthalmologist or optometrist as outlined in 49 CFR 391.64(b); and (3) Continues to meet the requirements of 49 CFR 391.64. The Qualification of Drivers; Diabetes Standard final rule eliminated grandfather rights for individuals diagnosed with insulin-treated diabetes mellitus on November 19, 2019.

Determination Pending

The Determination Pending status allows the ME up to 45 days to obtain additional medical information and/or examination results for a driver that does not present a safety concern to the public. It also provides the ME additional time to make a determination as to whether or not the driver is physically qualified to drive a CMV in accordance with 49 CFR 391.41(b) *Physical qualifications for drivers*. If used, the ME is required to inform the driver that:

- The additional requested information and examination results must be provided to the ME within 45 days.
- The Determination Pending status will be reported to FMCSA.

If this category is selected, MEs should be aware that CMV drivers are eligible to continue operating if they have time left on their current Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876. Therefore, this should be factored into the decision to place a driver in a determination pending status. If the ME examines the driver and the condition is something that the ME determines precludes qualification, the ME should not use the determination pending category. Instead, the ME should not qualify the driver.

MEs can determine a date less than 45 days to require the driver to return with the required information. However, if the driver does not return with the information on or before 45 days, the examination is invalid and a new physical qualification examination must be administered.

If the driver does not return on or before the 45-day expiration date and the disposition of determination pending is not updated via the National Registry on or before the 45-day expiration date, the examination is no longer valid. The driver is required to get a new examination, and in this case, the ME must update the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, for this driver by selecting incomplete examination, specifying the reason, and filing the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, in the driver's record. The ME does not need to submit another CMV Driver Medical Examination Results Form, MCSA-5850, through their National Registry account.

There is only one situation in which FMCSA permits another ME to finish the examination and make a physical qualification determination after a driver is placed in a determination pending status. That situation is when the second ME works within the same practice as the initiating ME. The ME who makes the physical qualification determination is required to submit a new CMV Driver Medical Examination Results Form, MCSA-5850, through the ME's National Registry account to record the results of the examination.

Amending the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875

A Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, may only be amended when a driver is placed in a determination pending status for situations where new information (e.g., test results, etc.) has been received or there has been a change in the driver's medical status since the initial examination, but prior to a final qualification determination. MEs should select "Medical Examination Report amended" only when a Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, is being amended, provide the reason for the amendment, sign and date. In addition, initial and date any changes made on the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875.

A Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, cannot be amended after a driver has been in a determination pending status for more than 45 days or after a final qualification determination has been

made. The driver is required to obtain a new physical examination and a new Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, should be completed.

Incomplete Examination

MEs should select the incomplete examination option when the physical examination is not completed for any reason (e.g., driver decides they do not want to continue with the examination and leaves) other than situations outlined under determination pending and should provide the reason on the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875. Even if the examination has been completed, the physical qualification examination is considered incomplete if the driver refuses to sign the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876.

Medical Examiner Determination

Once MEs have completed the physical qualification examination and made a qualification determination, MEs must complete either the Medical Examiner Determination (Federal) or Medical Examiner Determination (State) portion of the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, not both.

Medical Examiner Determination (Federal)

The "Federal" radio circle should be selected when an ME conducts the physical qualification examination based on the Federal physical qualification standards found in 49 CFR 391.41 through 391.49. All interstate drivers with limited exceptions, and most intrastate drivers, require certification under the Federal standards. Often employers require certification under the Federal standards, even if it is not required by Federal law. Accordingly, most of the time the "Federal" radio circle should be selected. MEs should never select both the "Federal" and "State" radio circle.

You must complete the entire ME determination section.

- **Does not meet standards:** MEs must not certify a driver who does not meet one or more of the physical qualification standards outlined in 49 CFR 391.41, unless the ME determines the driver may qualify for a Federal medical exemption or an SPE Certificate.

MEs should complete the physical qualification examination of the driver and discuss with the driver the reason(s) for not certifying the driver and any steps that can be taken to meet the physical qualification standards. MEs must provide an explanation of why the driver does not meet the standards in 49 CFR 391.41.

MEs must not certify a driver who has provided information the ME believes is not true or correct (e.g., concealing a history of seizures).

When an ME determines a driver has a health history or condition that does not meet the physical qualification standards, the ME must NOT issue a Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, but the ME is required to upload the certification result to the National Registry by submitting a CMV Driver Medical Examination Results Form, MCSA-5850, through the MEs National Registry account.

- **Meets standard in 49 CFR 391.41; qualifies for 2-year certificate:** Maximum certification may not exceed 24 months under the standard in 49 CFR 391.45(b). MEs must select all

categories that apply to the driver's certification (e.g., wearing corrective lenses, accompanied by a waiver/exemption, driving within an exempt intracity zone, etc.).

- **Meets standard, but periodic monitoring is required:** MEs should select this option when a driver is determined to be qualified but needs periodic monitoring. MEs should select the corresponding time frame the driver is qualified and if selecting other, specify the time frame. MEs must provide an explanation of why periodic monitoring is required. MEs must select all categories that apply to the driver's certification (e.g., wearing corrective lenses, accompanied by a waiver/exemption, driving within an exempt intracity zone, etc.).

There are specific situations in which the FMCSRs and medical exemption conditions prohibit qualification to exceed 12 months. Those situations are:

- Any driver who has diabetes mellitus treated with insulin for control and who has obtained a Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, under the standards in 49 CFR 391.46;
- Any driver who has obtained a Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, and been issued a Federal seizure exemption;
- Any driver authorized to operate a CMV only within an exempt intra-city zone pursuant to 49 CFR 391.62;
- Until March 22, 2023, any driver authorized to operate a CMV only by operation of the exemption for vision in 49 CFR 391.64 (grandfathered); and
- Any driver who has obtained a Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, under the alternative vision standards in 49 CFR 391.44.

Although MEs cannot exceed the maximum certification period of 24 months (and in some cases not more than 12 months), MEs may certify a driver for less than 24 months when they determine they need to monitor the driver more frequently. The certification period could be longer or shorter based on the ME's assessment and medical judgment. MEs are never required to certify a driver for a certification interval longer than what they deem necessary to adequately monitor whether the driver meets the physical qualification standards.

Medical Examiner Determination (State)

This section is for examinations performed in accordance with the FMCSRs (49 CFR 391.41-391.49) with any applicable State variances (which will only be valid for intrastate operations).

The second "State" radio circle should be selected when an ME conducted the physical qualification examination based on State physical qualification standards. These alternative State standards would be found within a set of State regulations or rules. Few states have separate physical qualification standards for a driver examination; therefore, it is unlikely that this option should be selected. MEs should never select both the "Federal" and "State" radio circle.

You must complete the entire ME determination section.

- **Does not meet standards in 49 CFR 391.41 with any applicable State variances:** MEs should select this option when a driver is determined to be not qualified and provide an explanation of

why the driver does not meet the standards in 49 CFR 391.41 with any applicable State variances.

- **Meets standards in 49 CFR 391.41 with any applicable State variances:** MEs should select this option when a driver is determined to be qualified and will be issued a 2-year Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876. MEs should select all categories that apply to the driver's certification (e.g., wearing corrective lenses, accompanied by a waiver/exemption, etc.).
- **Meets standards, but periodic monitoring is required:** MEs should select this option when a driver is determined to be qualified but needs periodic monitoring. MEs should select the corresponding time frame that the driver is qualified and if selecting other, specify the time frame. MEs must provide an explanation of why periodic monitoring is required. MEs must select all categories that apply to the driver's certification (e.g., wearing corrective lenses, accompanied by a waiver/exemption, etc.).

ME Information, Signature, and Date

Once a determination has been made the ME should provide their name, address, phone number, occupation, license, certificate, or registration number and issuing State, National Registry number, signature, and date. Electronic signatures are acceptable.

Medical Examiner's Certificate Expiration Date

- The Medical Examiner's Certificate Expiration Date is intended to capture the expiration date of the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, that is being issued to the driver.
- The ME should use the date of issuance of the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, to calculate the Medical Examiner's Certificate expiration date. The date the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, is issued should be provided in the space for the "Date Certificate Signed" on the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875.
- If a physical qualification examination is performed on February 29th of a leap year, the Medical Examiner's Certificate Expiration Date should be February 28th of the applicable year for a 12- or 24-month certificate.

Common Errors on the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875

Some common errors FMCSA has found on the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, while auditing include:

- The driver has not completed everything in the driver information section
- Driver's license number is missing
 - Should be recorded as "NONE" if the driver does not have a license
- ME fails to enter any information in driver health history review section
- ME fails to enter the correct level of information detail in driver health history review section
- Missing information, such as driver has monocular vision, or wears a hearing aid
- Pulse regularity missing

- Incomplete vision exams
 - Horizontal field of vision missing
 - Driver’s ability to distinguish between red, green, and amber not noted
- Missing comments related to physical exam abnormalities
 - Such as details related to a limb amputation or impairment, cause of impairment, date of diagnosis/onset, etc.
- All boxes not checked in the physical examination section
- Missing information related to abnormal findings
- ME Determination Section
 - Both Federal and State sections have been completed
 - Must be either Federal or State, never both
- ME has selected Qualified only when “Wearing a hearing aid” and “Accompanied by a hearing waiver/exemption.”
 - It should be one or the other, never both
 - If the driver meets the hearing standard while wearing a hearing aid, they do not need a Federal hearing exemption.
- ME has selected Qualified by operation of 49 CFR 391.64 for a driver that does not have grandfather rights
 - Driver needs to provide letter issued by FMCSA as proof of being granted the grandfather right
- Missing driver or ME signatures
- MEC expiration date
 - No expiration date provided
 - Improper calculation of expiration date
 - Calculation exceeds 2 years
- ME fails to select options for requiring a medical exemption or SPE Certificate

Topic 4.2.1: Knowledge Check - Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875

True or False: The Medical Examiner’s Certificate Expiration Date for the qualification determination can exceed a 2-year period.

- a. True
- b. False

The correct answer is b. False. The qualification decision may be less than, but not more than, 2 years.

Topic 4.2.2: Medical Examiner’s Certificate, Form MCSA-5876

The Medical Examiner’s Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, can be found in the National Registry Resource Center (<https://nationalregistry.fmcsa.dot.gov/resource-center>) and on the medical page of the FMCSA website (<https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/medical/driver-medical-requirements/medical-applications-and-forms>). While reviewing this section of the periodic training, we suggest you open a copy of the Medical Examiner’s Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, from one of these links as a reference.

What is the Medical Examiner’s Certificate, Form MCSA-5876

The Medical Examiner’s Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, is proof that the driver has been examined by a certified ME and is physically qualified to operate a CMV.

MEs must complete the Medical Examiner’s Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, in addition to the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, for each qualified driver they examine.

The Medical Examiner’s Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, is not the same as the Medical Examiner Determination (State or Federal) section on the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, but contains much of the same information.

Both the ME and the driver must sign the Medical Examiner’s Certificate, Form MCSA-5876; electronic and handwritten signatures are acceptable.

MEs must provide qualified drivers with the original, paper Medical Examiner’s Certificate, Form MCSA-5876.

MEs must retain a paper or electronic copy of the Medical Examiner’s Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, for at least three years from the date of the examination.

Changes to the Medical Examiner’s Certificate, Form MCSA-5876

As described in the previous topic, the driver examination forms have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget and are published in 49 CFR 391.43(f)(2) and (h)(2), and therefore, must be used “as is.” However, there are a few minor changes to the Medical Examiner’s Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, that are permissible (see below).

- The Medical Examiner’s Certificate, Form MCSA-5876 may be reduced in size, as long as ALL the content is still legible.
- The Medical Examiner’s Certificate, Form MCSA-5876 may be printed in black and white.

Completing the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876

As part of the National Registry performance monitoring and auditing of MEs, FMCSA reviews Medical Examiner's Certificates, Form MCSA-5876, to ensure that all fields on the form have been completed as failure to do so indicates that the ME is not in compliance with 49 CFR 391.43 which is grounds for removal from the National Registry.

The information on the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, can be obtained from the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875. When recorded on this form, the information must be identical to what is recorded on the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875.

All data fields of the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, must be completed.

Common Errors on the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876

Some common errors FMCSA has found on the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, include:

- MEs not completing all fields on the form
- Missing driver or ME signatures
 - Both MEs and the driver must sign the form
- Issuance of the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, without the proper box being selected when an exemption or SPE Certificate is required
 - For example, the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, indicates that based on the examination, the driver must obtain an exemption or SPE but the box on the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, stating it is needed, is not selected
- Illegible handwriting
- ME has selected Qualified only when "Wearing a hearing aid" and "Accompanied by a hearing waiver/exemption"
 - It should be one or the other, never both
 - If the driver meets the hearing standard while wearing a hearing aid, they do not need a hearing exemption
- ME has selected Qualified by operation of 49 CFR 391.64 for a driver that does not have grandfather rights
 - Driver needs to provide letter issued by FMCSA as proof
- MEC expiration date
 - No expiration date provided
 - Improper calculation of expiration date
 - Calculation exceeds 2 years

Topic 4.2.2: Knowledge Check - Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876

Who must sign the completed Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, for a physically qualified driver? Choose all that apply.

- a. The ME
- b. The Driver
- c. A representative from the SDLA
- d. The MEAA

The correct answers are a and b. Both the ME and the driver must sign the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876.

Topic 4.2.3: CMV Driver Medical Examination Results Form, MCSA-5850

What is the CMV Driver Medical Examination Results Form, MCSA-5850

The CMV Driver Medical Examination Results Form, MCSA-5850, is electronic only and is used to report results of examinations performed to FMCSA through the MEs National Registry account.

Public Burden Statement

A Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act unless that collection of information displays a current valid OMB Control Number. The OMB Control Number for this information collection is 2126-0006. Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to average approximately 2 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. All responses to this collection of information are mandatory. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to: Information Collection Clearance Officer, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, MC-RRR, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, D.C. 20590.



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Motor Carrier
Safety Administration

CMV Driver Medical Examination Results Form

CMV Driver's Name and Address (use Legal Name as listed on Government-Issued Identification)			
Last Name: <u>James</u>	First Name: <u>Lily</u>	Middle Initial: <u>NMN</u> <small>(enter 'NMN' if driver does not have a middle name)</small>	
Street Address: <u>1200 New Jersey Ave.</u>	City: <u>Washington</u>	State/Province: <u>MD</u>	Zip Code: <u>20675-</u>
E-mail: _____			<small>(optional)</small>
CMV Driver's License Information			
Driver's License Number: <u>12334-0000</u>	Issuing State/Province: <u>Maryland</u>	Date of Birth: <u>06/01/1998</u> <small>(use mm/dd/yyyy format)</small>	
CLP/CDL Applicant/Holder: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No			
Examination Information (please complete only one of the Examination Information sections below)			
<small>Use this section for examinations performed in accordance with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (49 CFR 391.41-391.49):</small>		<small>or Use this section for examinations performed in accordance with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (49 CFR 391.41-391.49), with any applicable State variances:</small>	
Examination Result: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Medically Qualified Date MEC signed/issued: <u>06/01/2022</u> <small>(use mm/dd/yyyy format)</small>	Date of Examination: _____ <small>(use mm/dd/yyyy format)</small>		
<input type="radio"/> Medically Unqualified Date of examination/determination: _____ <small>(use mm/dd/yyyy format)</small>	Examination Result: <input type="radio"/> Medically Qualified <input type="radio"/> Medically Unqualified		
<input type="radio"/> Determination Pending Date of examination: _____ <small>(use mm/dd/yyyy format)</small>	Medical Examiner's Certificate Expiration Date: _____ <small>(applicable when "Medically Qualified" is selected above) (use mm/dd/yyyy format)</small>		
<input type="radio"/> Incomplete Examination Date of examination: _____ <small>(use mm/dd/yyyy format)</small>			
Medical Examiner's Certificate Expiration Date: <u>06/01/2024</u> <small>(applicable when "Medically Qualified" is selected above) (use mm/dd/yyyy format)</small>			
Restrictions and Variances (check all that apply)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Wearing corrective lenses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accompanied by a Skill Performance Evaluation (SPE) Certificate		
<input type="checkbox"/> Wearing hearing aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Driving within an exempt intracity zone (49 CFR 391.62) (Federal)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Accompanied by a waiver/exemption (specify type): _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Qualified by operation of 49 CFR 391.64 (Federal)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Grandfathered from State requirements (State)		

Completing the CMV Driver Medical Examination Results Form, MCSA-5850

The information on the CMV Driver Medical Examination Results Form, MCSA-5850, can be obtained from the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875. The information on the CMV Driver Medical Examination Results Form, MCSA-5850, is used to populate the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, for qualified drivers when printed from the National Registry at the time of the examination.

Please note, as discussed in a previous module, when the transmission of MEC information from the National Registry to the SDLAs occurs, ensuring that all the demographic driver information is correct will be extremely important as to not receive a "no match found" error in which the ME would be required to correct and resubmit the examination results.

Submitting the CMV Driver Medical Examination Results Form, MCSA-5850

MEs submit results of physical qualification examinations conducted using the CMV Driver Medical Examination Results Form, MCSA-5850, through their National Registry account by following these steps:

1. Log in to your National Registry account and Select “CMV Driver Medical Examinations” from the menu on the left side of the screen.
2. Select “Add New.”
3. Select the medical license you used to conduct the physical qualification examination and complete all of the fields on the screen.
4. Once all the information has been entered and you have ensured that it is accurate, select “Submit.”

For detailed instructions with screenshots, refer to pages 73–84 of the ME User Guide or view the video regarding submitting CMV driver examinations.

Reporting No Examinations Conducted During a Month

49 CFR 391.43(g)(5)(ii) requires that when an ME does not perform a physical qualification examination of any driver who is required to be examined by an ME listed on the National Registry during any calendar month, the ME must report that fact to FMCSA, via the National Registry, by the close of business on the last day of such month.

To do this, log in to your National Registry account and select “CMV Driver Medical Examinations” and then select “Report No Exams for the Current Month.” For detailed instructions with screenshots, see pages 93-95 of the ME User Guide.

If you fail to report that you have not completed any exams, you are in violation of the FMCSRs, which is grounds for removal from the National Registry.

Please note that this reporting must be done by the ME and cannot be completed by the MEAA or TPO.

View Driver Examination Results

To view previously submitted examination results, once logged into your National Registry account, use the menu to select “CMV Driver Examinations” and then select “search.” From the search screen you can use the filters to specify the results you would like to view, or you can select search without selecting any filters to see all results of examinations submitted by you or on your behalf. For detailed instructions with screenshots, see pages 85-91 of the ME User Guide.

Updating CMV Driver Medical Examination Results Form, MCSA-5850

Once results of a CMV driver examination have been submitted using the CMV Driver Medical Examination Results Form, MCSA-5850, the results cannot be edited. To make corrections or to update an examination result for a previously submitted examination result, MEs must submit a new CMV Driver Medical Examination Results Form, MCSA-5850. For detailed instructions with screenshots, see pages 85-91 of 73-84 the ME User Guide. However, after the Medical Examiner’s Certification

Integration final rule compliance date of June 23, 2025, the National Registry will be updated to allow MEs to make corrections to examination results submitted.

If an ME attempts to submit duplicate results, they will receive an alert that a duplicate examination result cannot be submitted. To view submitted CMV Driver Medical Examination Results and determine if the correct information has been entered:

1. Log in to your National Registry account.
2. Select “CMV Driver Medical Examinations” from the menu.
3. Select “Search”
4. Find the examination result you are looking for and select the link to view the CMV Driver Medical Examination Results Form, MCSA-5850. If a Medical Examiner’s Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, has been issued, you can also select it for viewing or printing.

Using an MEAA or TPO to Upload Results of Examinations

As discussed above, MEs may use an MEAA or an FMCSA-approved TPO to upload results of examinations on their behalf.

MEs can designate an MEAA or TPO through their National Registry account. Only those MEAAs that have registered with the National Registry and TPOs who have signed an agreement and been approved by FMCSA to upload examinations are available for designation.

Designating an MEAA or TPO through the ME’s National Registry account informs FMCSA that CMV driver examination results may be accepted on behalf of the ME from the selected MEAA or TPO.

To designate an MEAA or FMCSA-approved TPO, MEs must log into their National Registry account and select “Designations” followed by either “Designate MEAA” or “Designate TPO” from the menu. MEs can then search for a specific MEAA or TPO or all active TPOs and make their selection by checking the tick box next to the MEAA’s ID# or TPO’s ID #. Please note that an MEAA is only available for designation after the MEAA has registered with the National Registry and received an MEAA ID # and a TPO is only available for designation after the TPO has been approved by FMCSA.

MEAAs and TPOs are not able to submit that no examinations have been performed during the month. The ME must report this through their National Registry account. Please note that selecting a TPO via an ME’s National Registry account does not establish a business relationship between the ME’s office and the TPO. The ME is responsible for employing the TPO and meeting any requirements of the TPO, such as payment of fees, etc.

MEs may view examination results submitted by a designated MEAA or TPO through their National Registry account by searching for examinations conducted. Once results of the search are returned, the ME can see who submitted the results. If there are mistakes on the examination results submitted by the MEAA or TPO, it is the ME’s responsibility to submit a new CMV Driver Medical Examination Results Form, MCSA-5850, through his or her National Registry account with the corrected information. The ME is also responsible for ensuring that results of all medical examinations have been uploaded by the MEAA or TPO. For detailed instructions with screenshots, see pages 85-91 of the ME User Guide.

Topic 4.2.3: Knowledge Check - CMV Driver Medical Examination Results Form, MCSA-5850

You conduct an examination for a driver and determine that he is medically unqualified. Which driver examination form(s) must you complete to record the results of his exam?

- a. CMV Driver Medical Examination Results Form, MCSA-5850
- b. Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875
- c. Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876

The correct answers are a and b. MEs are required to complete a CMV Driver Medical Examination Results Form, MCSA-5850, and Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, for each driver they examine. MEs only complete the Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, for drivers determined to be physically qualified.

Topic 4.2.4: Insulin-Treated Diabetes Mellitus Assessment Form, MCSA-5870

The Insulin-Treated Diabetes Mellitus Assessment Form, MCSA-5870, can be found in the National Registry Resource Center (<https://nationalregistry.fmcsa.dot.gov/resource-center>) and on the medical page of the FMCSA website (<https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/medical/driver-medical-requirements/medical-applications-and-forms>). While reviewing this section of the periodic training, we suggest you open a copy of the Insulin-Treated Diabetes Mellitus Assessment Form, MCSA-5870, from one of these links as a reference.

What is the Insulin-Treated Diabetes Mellitus Assessment Form, MCSA-5870

For individuals diagnosed with diabetes mellitus and treated with insulin for control, in addition to the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA 5875, the certified ME must receive the Insulin-Treated Diabetes Mellitus Assessment Form, MCSA-5870, that has been completed and signed by the driver's Treating Clinician. FMCSA defines the Treating Clinician as a healthcare professional who manages, and prescribes insulin for, treatment of the individual's diabetes mellitus as authorized by the healthcare professional's applicable State licensing authority.

- The individual being examined must provide the Insulin-Treated Diabetes Mellitus Assessment Form, MCSA-5870, to the certified ME within 45 days after it is signed by the Treating Clinician. On the Insulin-Treated Diabetes Mellitus Assessment Form, MCSA-5870, the Treating Clinician attests that the insulin-treated individual has a stable insulin regimen and properly controlled diabetes.
- The certified ME is responsible for reviewing and considering the information provided by the Treating Clinician on the Insulin-Treated Diabetes Mellitus Assessment Form, MCSA-5870.
- Even though the Treating Clinician has provided their input on the Insulin-Treated Diabetes Mellitus Assessment Form, MCSA-5870, MEs still have the ability to request any additional testing they find necessary to assist them in making a physical qualification determination.

- The final physical qualification determination rests with the ME.

Topic 4.2.5: Vision Evaluation Report, Form MCSA-5871

The Vision Evaluation Report, Form MCSA-5871, can be found in the National Registry Resource Center (<https://nationalregistry.fmcsa.dot.gov/resource-center>) and on the medical page of the FMCSA website (<https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/medical/driver-medical-requirements/medical-applications-and-forms>).

While reviewing this section of the periodic training, we suggest you open a copy of the Vision Evaluation Report, Form MCSA-5871, from one of these links as a reference.

What is the Vision Evaluation Report, Form MCSA-5871

For individuals that do not satisfy, with the worse eye, either the distant visual acuity standard with corrective lenses or the field of vision standard, or both, in addition to the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA 5875, the certified ME must receive the Vision Evaluation Report, Form MCSA-5871, that has been completed and signed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist.

- The examination conducted by the Medical Examiner must begin not more than 45 days after an ophthalmologist or optometrist signs and dates the Vision Evaluation Report, Form MCSA-5871.
- The individual being examined must provide the Vision Evaluation Report, Form MCSA-5871, to the certified ME.
- The ME is responsible for reviewing and considering the information provided by the ophthalmologist or optometrist on the Vision Evaluation Report, Form MCSA-5871.
- Even though the ophthalmologist or optometrist has provided their input on the Vision Evaluation Report, Form MCSA-5871, MEs still have the ability to request any additional testing they find necessary to assist them in making a physical qualification determination.
- The final physical qualification determination rests with the ME.

Topic 4.2.5: 391.41 CMV Driver Medication Form, MCSA-5895

The 391.41 CMV Driver Medication Form, MCSA-5895, can be found in the National Registry Resource Center (<https://nationalregistry.fmcsa.dot.gov/resource-center>) and on the medical page of the FMCSA website (<https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/medical/driver-medical-requirements/medical-applications-and-forms>). While reviewing this section of the periodic training, we suggest you open a copy of the 391.41 CMV Driver Medication Form, MCSA-5895, from one of these links as a reference.

What is the 391.41 CMV Driver Medication Form, MCSA-5895

The 391.41 CMV Driver Medication Form, MCSA-5895, is an optional form MEs may use to communicate with treating healthcare professionals, who are responsible for prescribing certain medications, so that the ME fully understands the reasons the medications have been prescribed. This information assists the ME in determining if a driver is physically qualified under 49 CFR 391.41 and if there are medical conditions or certain prescribed medications that would adversely impact the drivers' ability to safely operate a CMV.