

FMCSA Improves Medical Requirements for Commercial Truck and Bus Drivers

On December 1, 2008, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) initiated a new criterion that would set standardized requirements for medical examiners and combine the commercial drivers license (CDL) and medical certificate records for commercial truck and bus drivers operating on the nation's roads into a single electronic record.

Additionally, this new rule would establish a National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners to 'ensure that physical qualification examinations of CDL holders are performed by qualified medical practitioners and are administered in a uniform and consistent manner'. This proposal would require that each medical examiner submit electronically to FMCSA, the name as well as a numerical identifier for each driver that is examined. This process would ensure that the medical examiners who fail to meet the standards of the FMCSA would be removed from the National Registry.

The NPRM for the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners can be found at www.regulations.gov, docket number FMCSA-2008-0363. The final rule on Medical Certification Requirements as Part of the CDL is available for review at www.fmcsa.dot.gov.