

Canadian Class 5 or Class G Licenses and Required Proof of Medical Certification

FMCSA October 19, 2015

The United States has reciprocal recognition of commercial driver's licenses (CDL) with Canada and the Canadian CDL generally serves as evidence that the Canadian driver is medically qualified to operate a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) in the United States. However, FMCSA was recently made aware that Canadian drivers holding either a Class 5 license, or a Class G license from Ontario, are generally not required by the Provinces and Territories to undergo a driver's medical examination as a condition of receiving this Class of license.

49 Code of Federal Regulations § 390.5 defines a CMV as follows:

Commercial motor vehicle means any self-propelled or towed motor vehicle used on a highway in interstate commerce to transport passengers or property when the vehicle—

- (1) Has a gross vehicle weight rating or gross combination weight rating, or gross vehicle weight or gross combination weight, of 4,536 kg (10,001 pounds) or more, whichever is greater; or
- (2) Is designed or used to transport more than 8 passengers (including the driver) for compensation; or
- (3) Is designed or used to transport more than 15 passengers, including the driver, and is not used to transport passengers for compensation; or
- (4) Is used in transporting material found by the Secretary of Transportation to be hazardous under 49 U.S.C. 5103 and transported in a quantity requiring placarding under regulations prescribed by the Secretary under 49 CFR, subtitle B, chapter I, subchapter C.

Guidance:

If a driver presents a Canadian Class 5 license or a Class G license from Ontario, the driver should also possess one of the following to verify that they are medically qualified to operate CMVs in the United States:

1. A Canadian medical confirmation letter issued by their Province or Territory (see sample); **OR**
2. A medical examiner's certificate issued by a medical examiner on the U.S. National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners; **OR**
3. An endorsement code on their license to indicate periodic medical examination.

Effective immediately, if the driver cannot provide evidence of medical qualification through one of the above options, Federal and State enforcement personnel should document the following violation on a roadside inspection report, but not place the driver out-of-service (OOS).¹

Property-carrying vehicle: Operating a property-carrying vehicle without a valid medical certificate in possession. (391.41(a))

On or after April 1, 2016, Federal and State enforcement officials should continue to document the violation on a roadside inspection report and consistent with the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) *North American Standard Out-of-Service Criteria* (OOSC), also place the driver OOS if the driver has a previous history of failing to produce a medical certificate.

If you have any questions, please contact Carla Vagnini, FMCSA North American Borders Division at (202) 366-3771 or at carla.vagnini@dot.gov.

^[1] Discretion on enforcement, beyond documenting the violation on the inspection report, remains with the applicable State or Local Agency. However, prior to April 1, 2016, enforcement officers are encouraged not to issue a traffic citation in conjunction with the recorded violation on the first offense. Enforcement officials are encouraged to advise the driver of the requirement to possess proof of medical certification, and to contact their licensing jurisdiction upon return to Canada.

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<<Insert Jurisdiction Logo>>

Medical Confirmation Letter – U.S. FMCSA Class 5

The U.S. FMCSA requirement is for the driver to have this letter in their possession at all times when traveling in the U.S.

Re: Driver Licence Number <<XXXXXXXXXX>>

Dear *Sir:*Madam:

Your medical report for a Medical Confirmation Letter has been approved. The report has been reviewed and you have met all the national medical standards for a commercial driver as set out by the Canadian Council of Motor Transportation Administrators. This Medical Confirmation Letter expires <<INSERT DATE>>.

It is your responsibility of the driver to re-apply for a new medical confirmation letter prior to the expiry of the medical report.

In order to receive a new Medical Confirmation Letter from the Ministry of <<Insert Ministry or Department Name>>, you must submit a satisfactory <<Report Name>> (available at <<www.website.ca>>) to the Medical Review Section, along with a note requesting a Medical Confirmation Letter. A Medical Confirmation Letter will then be issued to you.

If you have questions regarding the U.S. FMCSA commercial-use vehicle requirements, please contact FMCSA at 1-202-366-4001.

If you have questions regarding the ministry's medical review process, please visit <<www.website.ca>> or call <<###-###-####>>.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours truly,

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