

Driver Safety Letter

presented by



Update to Medical Examiner's Certification

July 2018

Several weeks ago, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) delayed several provisions of the Medical Examiner's Certification Integration final rule from June 22, 2018 date to June 22, 2021.

This action was taken to provide FMCSA additional time to complete certain information technology (IT) system development tasks for its National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (National Registry) and provide the State Driver's Licensing Agencies (SDLAs) sufficient time to make the necessary IT programming changes after upgrades to the National Registry.

So where does the FMCSA action leave us? This interim final rule requires that **through June 21, 2021:**

- **Certified Medical Examiners** must continue issuing the original paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876 to all qualified drivers including Commercial Learner's Permit/Commercial Driver's License applicants/holders.
- **Commercial Learner's Permit/Commercial Driver's License Applicants/holders** must continue providing the SDLA a copy of their Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876. In addition, they must continue carrying their Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876 as proof of medical certification for the first 15 days following certification.
- **Motor Carriers** must continue verifying that drivers were certified by a certified Medical Examiner listed on the National Registry.
- **State Driver's Licensing Agencies** must continue processing paper copies of Medical Examiner's Certificates, Form MCSA-5876 they receive from Commercial Learner's Permit/Commercial Driver's License applicants/holders.

The interim final rule does not change the requirement for medical examiners to report results of all commercial motor vehicle driver physical examinations performed (including the results of examinations where the driver was found not to be qualified) to FMCSA by midnight (local time) of the next calendar day following the examination. The compliance date for this provision remains as June 22, 2018.

FMCSA will announce when the function is restored that allows medical examiners to report results of examinations conducted. Until that time, medical examiners should segregate all examinations completed during the National Registry outage and be prepared to upload them to the National Registry system when it is back online, with no penalties.

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