

## Requirements

Federal regulations require all CDL holders and applicants to certify how they operate their commercial motor vehicle whenever they renew, upgrade, or obtain a CDL for the first time. CDL holders that certify to the “nonexcepted interstate” category must provide a copy of their Medical Examiner’s Certificate to the Iowa Department of Transportation.

**These requirements DO NOT change who has to obtain a CDL or who has to obtain a Medical Examiner’s Certificate. They only require two things:**

### 1. Certification

**All CDL holders and CDL applicants** must self-certify the type of driving they are engaged in. *Use the inside of this brochure to determine your driving type.*

### 2. Medical certificate

**Drivers that certify to nonexcepted interstate driving** must give the Iowa DOT a copy of their Medical Examiner’s Certificate, and must keep that certificate current.

#### New CDL drivers

First time CDL applicants and drivers transferring from out of state will complete the certification process when the license is issued and submit their medical certificate (if required) at that time.

#### Renewing or upgrading a CDL

When renewing or upgrading your CDL, you will complete the certification process when the license is issued.

#### Medical certificates (if required)

Once you have submitted your medical certificate for the first time, please submit renewed certificates before the previous one expires.

*See inside of this brochure for detailed instructions.*

#### What happens if I do not comply?

Federal regulations require the Iowa DOT to downgrade your CDL to a noncommercial license if you are not in compliance.

#### Can I change my certification?

To change your certification category, please visit a driver’s license issuance site to complete a new certification form.

Drivers that certify to intrastate driving are required to have a restriction placed on their license (“K” restriction). This restriction indicates intrastate driving only while operating a commercial vehicle.

Changing your certification category may require the addition or the removal of this restriction on your driver’s license.

#### Want to check your status?

Log in to myMVD to check your certification status by going to: <https://mymvd.iowadot.gov>.

**For more information visit:**  
<https://iowadot.gov/mvd/cdl/medical-cards-and-certification>



Office of Motor Vehicle Enforcement  
P.O. Box 9204 • Des Moines, IA 50306-9204  
<https://iowadot.gov/mve/contact-us>

Central Programs Bureau, Motor Vehicle Division  
P.O. Box 9204 • Des Moines, IA 50306-9204  
515-244-8725 or 515-244-9124 in Des Moines

Federal and state laws prohibit employment and/or public accommodation discrimination on the basis of age, color, creed, disability, gender identity, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or veteran’s status. If you believe you have been discriminated against, please contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission at 800-457-4416 or Iowa Department of Transportation’s affirmative action officer. If you need accommodations because of a disability to access the Iowa Department of Transportation’s services, contact the agency’s affirmative action officer at 800-262-0003.

# CDL

(commercial driver’s license)

## Self-certification and Medical Examiner’s Certificate reporting

PROTECT YOUR CDL

Compliance is easy

**find out how**



# Answer the questions below to determine which category applies to you.

Do you operate your commercial motor vehicle (CMV) in **INTERSTATE** commerce (you or your cargo cross state lines)?

YES

Do you operate a CMV only?

- As a government employee per 49 CFR part 390.3(f)
- For school bus operations per 49 CFR part 390.3(f)
- Occasionally transporting personal property per 49 CFR part 390.3(f)
- Transporting corpses or the sick per 49 CFR part 390.3(f)
- As a fire truck or rescue vehicle per 49 CFR part 390.3(f)
- Transporting propane/winter heating fuel in an emergency per 49 CFR part 390.3(f)
- For custom farm operations per 49 CFR part 391.2
- As a beekeeper per 49 CFR part 391.2
- As a driver operating a “covered farm vehicle” as defined in 49 CFR 390.5
- As a private motor carrier carrying passengers for nonbusiness per 49 CFR part 391.68
- Transporting migrant workers per 49 CFR part 398.3
- Designed or used to transport nine to 15 passengers, not for direct compensation per 49 CFR part 390.3(f)

NO

## NONEXCEPTED INTERSTATE

1. Self-certify as a nonexcepted interstate driver.
2. Submit a copy of your Medical Examiner's Certificate to the Iowa DOT.

Often a Medical Examiner's Certificate expires before it is time to renew your CDL. **Be sure to keep a current Medical Examiner's Certificate on file with the Iowa DOT. Failure to do so can result in a downgrade of your CDL status.**

YES

## EXCEPTED INTERSTATE

1. Self-certify as an excepted interstate driver.

HOW DO YOU OPERATE YOUR CMV?

Do you operate your CMV in **INTRASTATE** commerce (you or your cargo DO NOT cross state lines)?

YES

Do you operate a CMV only?

- As a public utility truck per Iowa Code 321.449
- As a truck hauling gravel per Iowa Code 321.449\*
- As a private construction truck or equipment per Iowa Code 321.449\*
- As a truck moving implements of husbandry per Iowa Code 321.449\*
- As a farmer, or farmer's hired help, operating a covered farm vehicle
- As a school district-employed school bus driver
- As a government driver per adoption of federal rules in 761 IAC 520
- Other farm and agricultural exemptions per Iowa Code 321.449 and 450
- As a vehicle, or vehicles, with a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,000 lbs. or less.
- As an operator of a vehicle designed to transport 15 or fewer passengers including the driver

*\*Does not include truck tractor semitrailer combinations and trucks for hire.*

NO

## NONEXCEPTED INTRASTATE

1. Self-certify as a nonexcepted intrastate driver.
2. You DO NOT need to submit a copy of your Medical Examiner's Certificate to the Iowa DOT; however, you must carry it with you while driving.

*\*Your driver's license will show a restriction “K” for intrastate driving only (when operating a CMV).*

YES

## EXCEPTED INTRASTATE

1. Self-certify as an excepted intrastate driver.

*\*Your driver's license will show a restriction “K” for intrastate driving only (when operating a CMV).*

## HOW DO I STAY IN COMPLIANCE?

1. Complete the self-certification form whenever you renew, upgrade, or obtain a new CDL in person at any driver's license issuance site.

To make an appointment at a driver's license issuance site, go to: **[www.iowadot.gov/mvd/driverslicense](http://www.iowadot.gov/mvd/driverslicense)**. If you need to change your certification, please make an appointment.

2. Once you have completed the initial self-certification and submitted your Medical Examiner's Certificate for the first time, submit your renewed Medical Examiner's Certificate before your previous one expires via one of the following methods.

- a. **Mail:** Office of Driver Services, P.O. Box 9204, Des Moines, IA 50306-9204
- b. **Fax:** 515-237-3355
- c. **Online through the “Submit” button on the form or by emailing:** [CDL.MedCert@iowadot.us](mailto:CDL.MedCert@iowadot.us) and attaching your form as a PDF