

Motor Vehicle Division Informational Memo # 22-28

Temporary extension of hazardous materials endorsements for certain CDL holders

DATE: September 21, 2022

FROM: Kathleen Meradith-Eyers, MVD Compliance Officer

TO: All Motor Vehicle Division staff, Iowa County Treasurers and County Treasurers' staff that issue driver's licenses and non-operator's identification cards

SUBJECT

This informational memo explains guidance issued by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) regarding the 180-day extension of certain CDL holders' TSA security threat assessments and the impact to customers and staff.

BACKGROUND

In the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, the TSA implemented a temporary exemption from April 2, 2020 to December 31, 2021 regarding the expiration of TSA security threat assessments for hazardous materials endorsement holders (see MVD IM# 20-04). TSA recently issued a new, similar extension on September 15, 2022 that grants a 180-day extension to certain holders of a hazardous materials endorsement.

EXPLANATION OF TSA EXEMPTION

The TSA guidance allows states to grant 180-day extensions to CDL holders with the hazardous materials endorsement (H) or the HazMat/tank combination endorsement (X) whose TSA threat assessments expire(d) between July 1, 2022 to December 27, 2022. Accordingly, **all drivers who holds a valid CDL with the H or X endorsement, and whose TSA threat assessment expires between July 1, 2022 and December 27, 2022, are being given an additional 180 days of validity to drive on their H or X endorsement.**

The exemption further provides that these drivers must initiate the renewal process of the TSA threat assessment 60 days before the end of the extension (i.e., within 120 days of the original underlying expiration of their TSA threat assessment). For example, for a driver whose TSA threat assessment expired on July 30, 2022, their HazMat endorsement will now be considered valid until January 26, 2023, and they must initiate renewal of the security threat assessment no later than November 27, 2022. NOTE: All CDL holders wishing to renew their H or X endorsement must still take the HazMat knowledge test.

This does not extend the validity of the underlying CDL, and only impacts the validity H or X endorsement, which is issued in 5-year increments subject to the result of a person's TSA security threat assessment.

All impacted drivers (approximately 800) will be sent a letter from the MVD informing them of the 180-day extension of their HazMat or Hazmat/Tank endorsement. Please note that the extended expiration date will not be reflected in ARTS or on the person's driving record. If you need to confirm that a driver was granted the 180-day extension, you can find the notice of the extension in their ERMS file. Drivers are instructed to keep a copy of the extension letter with them while driving for enforcement purposes.

LINKS TO GUIDANCE

- September 15, 2022 TSA federal register notice - <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/09/15/2022-19864/exemption-from-renewal-of-the-hazardous-materials-endorsement-security-threat-assessment-for-certain>

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

HOW WILL I KNOW IF A DRIVER'S HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ENDORSEMENT IS BEING EXTENDED?

The extended expiration date will not be reflected in ARTS or on the person's driving record, due to complications in reprogramming the system for a temporary exemption. However, if you need to confirm that a driver was granted the 180-day extension, you can find the notice of the extension and the new expiration date in their ERMS file, filed under document type "COADM."

WHAT IF A DRIVER WITH A HAZMAT ENDORSEMENT APPEARS TO BE ISSUED A DUPLICATE?

If a driver with a hazardous materials endorsement (H or X) that was extended by the TSA waiver appears to be issued a duplicate license or otherwise appears in-person for a transaction requiring issuance of a new credential, **you should manually update the expiration of their HME in ARTS so that the system will allow you to issue the card with the HME.** Please confirm the new, extended expiration date of the endorsement by referencing the extension letter the driver was issued in ERMS (under "COADM").

IF I HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS MEMO, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Please work with your supervisor or county contact if you have questions, who will confer with the appropriate member of MVD management as needed.