

**Motor Vehicle Division Policy Memo # 17-08**  
***Restricted CDL's – Update to Self-Certification Options***

**DATE:** December 7, 2017

**FROM:** Darcy Doty, Driver and Identification Services

**TO:** All County Treasurers and all Driver and Identification Services Staff

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This procedure became effective November 16, 2017.

**SUBJECT**

This memo explains the process we should follow when a Restricted CDL applicant self-certifies to the type of transportation he/she engages in or expects to engage in. The self-certification process should be treated in the same way we treat any other CDL applicant who is required to self-certify according to federal regulations, specifically 49 CFR 383.71(b)(1).

**EXPLANATION**

Federal regulations require all CDL applicants to go through the self-certification process by identifying the type of driving they engage in or expect to engage in. During an annual review with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), it came to our attention that we had previously created programming to limit Restricted CDL holders to the “excepted intrastate” or “excepted interstate” categories. This practice was found to be too restrictive and not in compliance with the federal medical certification regulations. Although Restricted CDLs have certain limitations in terms of how drivers may use them and how long they may be issued, they are still considered a CDL, and we must follow the normal federal medical certification requirements when issuing a Restricted CDL to a customer. For these reasons, we have reversed the programming that was in place to limit Restricted CDL holders to the “excepted intrastate” or “excepted interstate” categories and must instead ask Restricted CDL holders to certify to one of the four possible categories, noted below, as we do for all other CDL applicants.

**Non-excepted Interstate:** I certify that I operate or expect to operate in interstate commerce and that I am subject to and meet the qualification requirements under 49 CFR Part 391, and I am required to obtain a medical examiner's certificate by 49 CFR Part 391.45.

**Excepted Interstate:** I certify that I operate or expect to operate in interstate commerce, but I engage exclusively in transportation or operations excepted under 49 CFR Part 390.3(f), 391.2, 391.68, or 398.3 from all or parts of the qualification requirements of 49 CFR Part 391, and I am not required to obtain a medical examiner's certificate by 49 CFR Part 391.45.

**Non-excepted Intrastate:** I certify that I operate only in intrastate commerce and I am subject to State of Iowa driver qualification requirements in Section 321.449 & 450, Code of Iowa.

**Excepted Intrastate:** I certify that I operate in intrastate commerce, but engage exclusively in transportation or operations excepted from all or parts of the State of Iowa qualification requirements in Section 321.449 & 450,

Code of Iowa.

## **PROCEDURE**

When the applicant's issuance process reaches the point where they self-certify, they will now select from the four types listed above, as opposed to the two previous choices (Excepted Interstate or Excepted Intrastate).

- At this point of the issuance process, you can advise the customer of the options available to them by presenting them with the "Certification for Commercial Driver's License" form; it is form number 431211 and is attached to the end of this memo for your convenience. If the driver is unsure of which selection to make you can feel free to show them the "Fed Med" brochure to assist them in making the choice. It does a good job of helping them walk through the type of transportation the applicant engages in or expects to engage in.
- There is no need to have the customer fill either form out or collect it, they are merely a guidance document for the customer to help walk them through the self-certification process and assist them in making the selection.
- Once the customer has made their selection, place a "Y" next to the type of certification and proceed with the transaction as normal. Depending on the selection, you may see the medical certificate screen popup.

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:**

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR A RESTRICTED CDL?**

States are allowed to issue restricted CDLs to employees of these designated farm-related service industries:

- Agri-chemical businesses;
- Custom harvesters;
- Farm retail outlets and suppliers;
- Livestock feeders

You can find more information about Restricted CDLs on page C-5 through C-6 of the Examiner's Manual.

### **HOW DOES THIS CHANGE IMPACT RESTRICTED CDL APPLICANTS?**

Depending upon how they self-certify, some drivers may be required to have a valid medical certificate. If they self-certify to a non-excepted use they will need a medical certificate. Drivers who self-certify to non-excepted interstate are required to provide the medical certificate to us. Non-excepted Intrastate drivers are required to carry the medical certificate with them but do not have to provide it to us at this time.

### **WHAT DO I DO IF A RESTRICTED CDL APPLICANT ASKS ME QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SELF-CERTIFICATION SELECTIONS AND WHICH ONE TO PICK?**

This should follow the same guidance as you provide all other CDL applicants. The current Fed Med brochure applies to Restricted CDL applicants exactly as it does to all other CDL applicants, so you shouldn't have to do anything differently when a driver applies for a Restricted CDL. The Fed Med brochure is included in this memo.

### **WHAT DO I DO IF A DRIVER WANTS TO CHANGE THEIR SELF-CERTIFICATION SELECTION AFTER THEY ALREADY PICKED ONE BUT BEFORE THE TRANSACTION IS COMPLETE?**

The applicant can decide to change their self-certification selection at any point during the transaction. If that is the case, just ask them which one they would like to choose and proceed as normal. In fact, once they are issued they can change their self-certification at any point in time. Issuance may be required to add or remove a K (intrastate only) restriction based upon the applicants selection.

**WHY WOULD SOMEONE WANT TO GET A RESTRICTED CDL INSTEAD OF A 'FULL-PRIVILEGED' CDL?**

The Restricted CDL waives the knowledge and skills test requirements and is limited to specific uses related to agriculture. It also prohibits Restricted CDL holders from operating beyond 150 miles from the place of business or the farm currently being served. Additionally, drivers with a Restricted CDL may not operate Class A (combination) vehicles and they are not eligible to get any endorsements on the license.

**CAN A 'FULL-PRIVILEGED' CDL OR CLP HOLDER APPLY FOR A RESTRICTED CDL?**

Yes, as long as they surrender their current CDL or CLP.