



Minnesota Department of Transportation

Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations

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Medical Evaluation Summary

Date: _____

From (Motor carrier's name): _____

To (Doctor's name): _____

Waiver applicant name: _____

- Part 1 -

The above driver is being referred to you for a medical evaluation summary as required by part 391.49 of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSR's). The FMCSR's state that the motor carrier shall furnish the examining physiatrist or orthopedic surgeon with a description of the job tasks which are contained herein. The FMCSR's further state that the medical evaluation summary shall be completed, dependent upon the driver's physical disability in accordance with the following objectives:

1. IN CASES INVOLVING AMPUTATION - The summary shall include an assessment of the driver's physical capabilities as they relate to the driver's ability to perform the tasks as specified in the accompanying job task description.
2. IN CASES INVOLVING LIMB IMPAIRMENT - The summary shall include an explanation as to how and why the impaired area interferes with the driver's ability to perform the tasks as specified in the accompanying job task description.

Few people outside of the motor carrier industry fully appreciate the mental and physical demands placed on commercial drivers. *Medical examiners should not apply automobile driving experience to evaluate fitness of commercial driver applicants.*

The physical demands of commercial driving and related tasks vary considerably with type of vehicles and duties involved. To effectively match job demands with an applicant's abilities to meet these demands, the physiatrist or orthopedic surgeon must know the type of vehicle to be driven, the job demands, and environment involved. For their own, as well as the safety of others, drivers minimally must have adequate:

- A. Strength - of the skeletal muscles to turn large diameter steering wheels (20-24 inches) rapidly and maintain a grip on them when confronted with tire failures and/or striking potholes or obstructions on the roadway.
- B. Mobility - of the joints to reach various controls that must be pushed, pulled, or twisted; and to climb, bend, crawl, lift, twist, and turn to position for visual inspection; and to perform various related other associated tasks such as coupling and uncoupling trailers and vehicle inspections.

C. Stability - of joints and of the torso to maintain alert driving postures, to smoothly modulate foot and hand controls, to climb into and out of the vehicle cab and cargo compartments.

D. Power grasp and prehension - of hands and fingers to control the steering wheel, operate the transmission (gear shift lever), air brake controls, and various other tasks such as operating light switches, directional signals, horns.

- Part 2 -

(THIS PART TO BE COMPLETED BY DRIVER AND/OR EMPLOYER)

The following is a universal job task description; your attention is directed to those items that have been checked as pertinent to this particular driver.

A. Type of Vehicle/Operations

_____ Straight trucks are used mainly for local pickup and delivery and may have up to five axles, utilizing van, flatbed, tank, or dump bodies. Drivers may spend hours climbing in and out of the truck to load and unload cargo.

_____ Tractor-trailers are used for both local and long-haul operations, and are comprised of a power unit (tractor) and one or more trailers.

_____ Local deliveries, often with frequent stops.

_____ Short-relay drives 4-5 hours to a turnaround point, exchanges trucks and drives back to starting point.

_____ Long-relay drives 8-10 hours, sleeps for 8 hours and returns to starting point.

_____ Straight-through to destination, including coast to coast operations, and typically is away from home for _____ night(s) at a time.

_____ Sleeper-team drives constantly for 4 hours followed by 4 hours in the bunk while co-driver drives and typically is away from home _____ night(s) at a time.

B. Environmental Factors

This driver may be subject to:

_____ Abrupt duty hour changes

_____ Long trips without regular meals

_____ Sleep deprivation

_____ Short notice to assignment of run

_____ Unbalanced work/rest cycles

_____ Tight delivery schedule

_____ Temperature and weather extremes

_____ Delay en route

Other _____

C. Physical Demand

Moderate physical activity levels are associated with commercial vehicle driving. Perceptual skills are needed to monitor the driving situation for relevant information. Manipulation skills are needed to turn the steering wheel, applying brakes, shift the gears, etc. The demands imposed on a commercial driver's sensory organs and musculoskeletal systems are briefly discussed as follows.

_____ Manual transmission: The movement of the gear shift lever(s) requires moderate strength, timely coordination, and complex manipulation skills of right upper and left lower extremities. This individual's vehicle will have a _____ speed manual transmission.

_____ Vehicle equipped with semi-automatic transmission (manual shifting but no clutch).

_____ Vehicle equipped with fully automatic transmission.

_____ Backing and parking: requires good depth perception, strength, and coordinated manipulative skills.

_____ Vehicle inspection: driver must evaluate the mechanical condition of the various vehicular systems, such as: tires, brakes, suspensions, engines, and cargo. Climbing, bending, kneeling, crawling, reaching, stretching, turning, and twisting are essential for proper vehicle inspection.

_____ Cargo handling and inspection: truck drivers may be required to handle cargo, climb up and down ladders, and enter/leave the cab or cargo body many times a day.

_____ Coupling and uncoupling: tractor-trailer drivers may hook up one or more trailers, this requires strength and full range of motion to climb, balance, turn, grip, and pull.

_____ Mounting snow chains on tires requires pulling/lifting motions in the range of 35-90 pounds.

Also, control of steering wheel requires strength, mobility, and power grip of upper extremities while maintaining stability of trunk. Operation of brake and accelerator pedal requires moderate strength, mobility, and coordinated movement in lower extremities. Various tasks during driving, such as: operating light switches, windshield wipers, directional signals, emergency lights, horn, etc; requires moderate strength, mobility, and manipulative skills of upper extremities.

- Part 3 -

(TO BE COMPLETED BY PHYSIATRIST OR ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON)

Based upon this job task description (as indicated in part 2) and your examination of this driver, please answer all questions below.

It is not necessary for the physician to state whether this person is likely to be a safety risk on the highway. Mn/DOT's evaluator will conduct skill performance evaluations in the intended vehicles to determine whether limb-handicapped persons have overcome their handicaps. We are relying on your medical measurements and judgment for such information as asked below:

1. Does this driver have adequate **MUSCLE STRENGTH** to perform the tasks required:

_____ YES If no, please indicate the impaired extremity.

_____ NO Upper extremity: _____ left _____ right

Lower extremity: _____ left _____ right

2. Does this driver have adequate MOBILITY of the extremities and trunk to perform the tasks required?

YES If no, please indicate the impaired extremity.
 NO Upper extremity: left right Trunk:
Lower extremity: left right

3. Does this driver have adequate JOINTS and TRUNK STABILITY to perform the tasks required?

YES If no, please indicate the impaired extremity.
 NO Upper extremity: left right Trunk:
Lower extremity: left right

4. If this driver is a partial hand amputee, does he/she have POWER GRIP and PREHENSION FUNCTION of the rest of the hand and fingers?

YES NO

If no, do you recommend a surgical reconstruction to produce power grip and/or prehension function?

YES NO

5. If this driver is an amputee, does he/she have

a. the APPROPRIATE TYPE OF PROSTHESIS?

YES NO

b. the APPROPRIATE TYPE OF TERMINAL DEVICE?

YES NO

c. If yes, does the prosthesis fit satisfactorily and is it in good operating condition?

YES NO

If the answer to any of the above is no, what is your recommendation?

6. Does this driver have any other medical conditions, other than the physical disability indicated in part 3 that will interfere with his/her ability to adequately perform the tasks required?

_____ YES _____ NO

If yes, list _____

Doctor's name _____ **Date** _____
(Please print or type)

Office address _____

Specialty _____

Board Certified: _____ YES _____ NO

Board Eligible: _____ YES _____ NO

Doctor's signature _____