

# Minnesota Commercial Truck and Passenger Regulations

## Fact Sheet

### Driver Medical Waivers

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The Driver Qualification Rules set the minimum physical qualification standards for a person who drives a commercial motor vehicle (CMV). Minnesota Statutes adopt most of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) for Driver Qualifications found in 49 CFR, Part 391. A person who is not physically qualified to drive a commercial motor vehicle due to certain physical conditions but who meets the other physical qualifications may drive a CMV if that person is granted a Medical Waiver. This fact sheet discusses information pertaining to medical waivers for **intrastate** drivers only\*.

\*A person who has been granted a Federal Skills Performance Evaluation Certificate or other Federal waivers/exemption does not need a Minnesota Medical Waiver to operate in intrastate commerce.

Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) currently accepts applications for medical waivers from drivers who are not qualified under FMCSRs 391.43. For these applicants, a more extensive examination of their medical condition by a licensed physician or other medical specialist is required. MnDOT is currently accepting applications for the following types of medical waivers:

- Deaf/hard-of-hearing (Deaf or hard of hearing is when the average loss of hearing is greater than 40 decibels in the better ear);
- Insulin-dependent Diabetic;
- Physical (loss or impairment of a foot, leg, hand, arm, hand or finger(s)); and
- Vision.

### How does a person obtain a Minnesota Intrastate Medical Waiver?

Persons interested in applying for a Minnesota Intrastate Medical Waiver should obtain a Medical Waiver Application Packet. The Medical Waiver Application Packet is available online at [www.dot.state.mn.us/cvo/medicalwaivers.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/cvo/medicalwaivers.html) or by calling the MnDOT Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations at 651-366-3700.

### MnDOT Medical Waiver Application Packet

A MnDOT Medical Waiver Application Packet contains the forms necessary to apply for a medical waiver. The driver applicant should complete the medical waiver application. The applicant is responsible for providing all required information and documents. Applications may be submitted by the driver applicant or in conjunction with the carrier who will employ the driver applicant. There are no provisions for a temporary medical waiver during the application and review process.

## **Medical Examiner (DOT Physical Examination)**

The driver applicant must make arrangements with a qualified medical examiner\*\* and submit to a DOT physical examination. A completed copy of the physical examination report along with a copy of the Medical Examiner's Certificate (Health Card) must be submitted with the application.

\*\*Medical certifications must be conducted by a medical examiner that is listed on the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners. The National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners can be found at <https://nationalregistry.fmcsa.dot.gov>.

## **Condition Specific Examination Reports**

Based on the type of Medical Waiver applied for, additional examination reports will be required to be completed and submitted with the Medical Waiver application.

## **Copy of Driver's License (Front & Back)**

A driver applicant must submit a photocopy (front & back) of his/her driver's license. If the driver applicant has not held a Minnesota driver's license for the previous three years, the driver applicant will need to include a certified copy (from the state licensing agency) of the driving record(s) from the respective state(s).

Once the Medical Waiver Application Packet is completed, it should be forwarded to the MnDOT Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations as noted in the Medical Waiver Application Packet. MnDOT has established guidelines for granting or denying Medical Waivers based on the type of Medical Waiver applied for.

## **Issued Medical Waivers**

When a Medical Waiver is granted, it will expire on the same date as the expiration date on the Medical Examiner's Certificate. It is the Medical Waiver recipient's responsibility to keep the Medical Examiner's Certificate and Medical Waiver current. A driver granted a Medical Waiver must have the Medical Examiner's Certificate and the Medical Waiver document in possession at all times while operating a CMV in intrastate commerce and present them upon request to any legally authorized official.

Medical Waivers may have additional terms, vehicle accommodations and/or conditions that must be complied with in order for the Medical Waiver to be valid. These additional terms, vehicle accommodations and/or conditions vary based on the type of Medical Waiver granted and will be listed on the Medical Waiver document and/or on instructions provided to the applicant(s).

## **Medical Waiver Reporting Requirements**

Drivers granted Medical Waivers must notify the MnDOT Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations of:

- Any involvement in any accident while operating a CMV no later than 15 days following the accident
- Any citation issued to the driver for a moving traffic violation involving the operation of a CMV no later than 15 days following issuance of the citation
- The disposition of any citations within 15 days of notice of disposition
- Any change of residence or telephone number no later than 15 days after such a change

There may be other reporting requirements imposed based on the type of medical waiver issued.

## Medical Waiver Revocation

MNDOT may revoke a Medical Waiver if the driver's physical condition changes or the driver fails to comply with the reporting requirements or terms/conditions of the Medical Waiver.

## Additional Information

For additional assistance on MnDOT Medical Waivers, contact the Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations at 651-366-3700.

For information on interstate diabetic and vision waiver/exemption programs, contact the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) at 703-448-3094. For information on Skills Performance Evaluation Certificates, contact the FMCSA at 708-283-3569.

**Note:** The Minnesota Department of Transportation does not issue waivers for school bus drivers. For information on school bus driver's license waivers, please contact the Department of Public Safety at 651-297-5029 or visit their website at [www.dps.state.mn.us](http://www.dps.state.mn.us).

This Fact Sheet is intended as a resource. It is not intended to explain all the requirements of Minnesota or Federal law. The actual Statutes, Rules and Regulations are recommended as a resource, and can be purchased at the Minnesota Bookstore (phone number 651-297-3000 or 1-800-657-3757). For additional assistance contact MnDOT's Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations at 651-366-3700.