

# Minnesota Commercial Truck and Passenger Regulations Fact Sheet

## Vision Waiver

Minnesota is accepting applications from intrastate commercial vehicle drivers for waivers from the vision qualification rules. Minnesota's decision to activate its waiver program is based on confirmation by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration that a driver of a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) that has a vision waiver **and** a good safety record is at a lower risk than the general commercial driver population. The State of Minnesota believes continued employment of individuals with proven safe driving records is in the public's interest. Therefore, the state vision waiver program is established with the terms and conditions prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, Section 221.0314, Subdivision 3.

### Vision Waiver Application Requirements

An applicant for a waiver must:

1. Submit a completed application to Mn/DOT's Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations.
2. Submit a copy of applicant's US DOT prescribed medical exam and certificate. The medical exam must follow the procedures outlined in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, 49 CFR, Parts 391.41 through 391.49.
3. Submit an eye exam performed by a qualified Optometrist or Ophthalmologist, and provide a letter on clinic stationery that:
  - Defines the visual deficiency of applicant;
  - Certifies the applicant's vision has not gotten worse since last vision test for driver's license issuance or renewal, or is at least likely to remain stable;
  - Certifies visual acuity is at least 20/40 (Snellen), corrected or uncorrected, in the better eye of a applicant;
  - Certifies that you have a visual field of 105 degrees or greater in the horizontal diameter with either one usable eye or with both eyes; and
  - Certifies that in his/her professional opinion the applicant can safely perform required driving tasks.
4. Include a photocopy of both sides of applicant's current Minnesota driver's license and a recent (within 30 days) copy of driving record for the last 3 years, if applicant holds a driver's license or permit from another state.

### Conditions

Each individual shall:

- Be medically certified as physically qualified to operate a motor vehicle except for the vision requirements for which a waiver is requested;
- Obtain a medical examiner's certificate from a qualified examiner. The certificate must include the statement "medically unqualified unless accompanied by a vision waiver";
- Carry the medical examiner's certificate and the waiver document at all times while operating a CMV in intrastate commerce and present them upon request to any legally authorized official; and
- Obtain and carry the appropriate Minnesota's driver's license and comply with any restrictions regarding required use of eyeglasses, mirrors or other visual aids.

## Restrictions

The state will not issue a waiver to a driver who, in the previous 3 years, had:

- A driver's license suspended, revoked, or canceled for the operation of any motor vehicle (including your personal vehicle);
- Any involvement in an accident while driving a CMV, and received a citation for a moving violation when the accident resulted in: fatalities, injuries requiring immediate medical treatment away from the scene, or disabling damage to a vehicle requiring the vehicle to be towed from the scene;
- Any conviction for a disqualifying offense as described in the 49 CFR 391.15(c)(2);
- More than 1 conviction for a serious moving violation while driving a CMV as defined in 49 CFR 383.5; or
- More than 2 convictions for any moving traffic violations while driving a CMV.

## Reporting Requirements

Drivers that have a vision waiver must report to the Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations the following:

- Any citation for a moving violation involving a CMV, and the disposition of each charge within 15 days of notice of disposition;
- Any accident whatsoever while operating a CMV, within 15 days of the accident; and
- Results of annual examination conducted by an ophthalmologist or an optometrist at least 15 days before annual anniversary of effective date of waiver. Documentation must contain medical specialist's certification that the individual is still eligible under waiver criteria and the vision deficiency has not worsened since last vision exam.

## Revocation

The following will cause revocation of the vision waiver:

- Any loss of vision in the better eye that results in vision less than 20/40; or
- Failure to comply with the waiver reporting requirements.

## Additional Information

For additional assistance contact the Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations at (651) 215-6330.

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 the US DOT at 651/291-6150 or Mn/DOT's Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations.



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