



## **Section 08: Driver Medical Waivers, Skills Performance Evaluation Certificates and Driver Exemption Programs**

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### Driver Medical Waivers and Special Performance Evaluation Certificates and Driver Exemption Programs

A driver who cannot meet the physical qualifications due to a loss or impairment of a limb, vision problems, insulin-dependent diabetes or deafness/hearing impairments may be granted permission to operate a commercial motor vehicle under the MN Department of Transportation's Medical Waiver program for intrastate drivers or the FMCSA's Skills Performance Evaluation Certificate program, the Driver Exemption programs or the New Diabetes Standards for interstate drivers.

#### Intrastate Drivers

**Medical Waivers** The Minnesota Department of Transportation may grant a medical waiver to a person who is not physically qualified to drive under 49 CFR Section 391.41. A waiver granted under this subdivision applies to intrastate transportation only.

There are four waiver programs available to Minnesota Intrastate drivers:

- Hearing
- Insulin dependent diabetics
- Physical
- Vision

To obtain a Minnesota Intrastate Waiver a driver **must** first be examined by a licensed medical examiner. After a driver has been found to be physically unqualified, a medical waiver application can then be submitted to the Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations.

The application must be accompanied by a copy of the medical examiners report and medical examiners certificate indicating the applicant is medically unqualified to drive unless a medical waiver is granted. The medical examiner needs to indicate, on both documents, the type of waiver required.

When a medical waiver is granted, it will have the same expiration date as the expiration date shown on the medical examiners certificate. The waiver can be cancelled, suspended or revoked by the Department of Transportation.

Minnesota intrastate waiver applications are available on the Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations website at [www.mndot.gov/cvo/medicalwaivers](http://www.mndot.gov/cvo/medicalwaivers).

**Note:** The Minnesota Department of Transportation does not issue waivers for school bus drivers. For information on school bus drivers license waivers, please contact the Department of Public Safety at 651-297-5029, or visit their website at <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/dvs/Pages>.

## Interstate Drivers

### Skills Performance Evaluation Certificates

The Skill Performance Evaluation program is for CMV drivers who drive in interstate commerce. The SPE certification program allows drivers with missing or impaired limbs to drive CMVs in interstate commerce if they have been fitted with (and are wearing) the right prosthetic device, and the driver can demonstrate the ability to drive the CMV safely by completing on-and off-road activities. A SPE Certificate applicant may be required to submit to a driving test. If the driver passes the driving test, he or she will receive a SPE certificate.

Information on the Skills Performance Evaluation Certificate Program can be found at [www.fmcsa.dot.gov/medical/driver-medical-requirements/skill-performance-evaluation-certificate-program](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/medical/driver-medical-requirements/skill-performance-evaluation-certificate-program) or contact the FMCSA at phone #202-366-4001 or email [FMCSAMedical@dot.gov](mailto:FMCSAMedical@dot.gov).

A person who has an Interstate FMCSA Skills Performance Evaluation Certificate does not need a Minnesota Intrastate Medical Waiver.

### Driver Exemption Programs [49 CFR Part 391.41](#)

An individual may apply for an exemption from the diabetes, hearing, seizure and vision standard, section 391.41(b)(3) and 391.41(b)(11), 391.41(b)(8) or [391.41\(b\)\(10\)](#) of the Physical Qualification regulation by utilizing the FMCSA's exemption programs. The Federal Diabetes and Vision Exemption Programs have specific requirements, as does the requests for hearing and seizure exemptions. These requirements/requests may include medical exams, employment history, driving experience and motor vehicle records which must be submitted with the application. The Agency will make a final decision within 180 days of receipt of the completed application.

Information on the Driver Exemption Programs may be found at [www.fmcsa.dot.gov/medical/driver-medical-requirements/driver-exemption-programs](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/medical/driver-medical-requirements/driver-exemption-programs) or contact the FMCSA at [FMCSAMedical@dot.gov](mailto:FMCSAMedical@dot.gov).

### **New Diabetes Standard (49 CFR Part 391.46)**

On Sept. 19, 2018, the FMCSA implemented the New Qualifications of Drivers, Diabetes Standards. A webinar providing an overview of the new standards and processes can be viewed at <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/regulations/medical/new-diabetes-standard-overview-webinar>. The webinar is designed to assist certified Medical Examiners in understanding the provisions of the regulatory changes and the Medical Examiner's role in the medical certification process of insulin-treated diabetes mellitus individuals. The webinar explains the new regulatory requirements as well as the responsibilities of insulin-treated diabetes mellitus individuals, diabetes grandfathered drivers, Treating Clinicians, and certified Medical Examiners. The webinar also provides a review of the new Insulin-Treated Diabetes Mellitus Assessment Form, MCSA-5870, and its requirements. Contact the FMCSA office at [FMCSAMedical@dot.gov](mailto:FMCSAMedical@dot.gov) for additional information.