

FMCSA Regulations on Driver Qualifications

ECI Safety Meeting Presentation

FMCSA

- Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)
- Responsible for administering the safe practices of the trucking industry in accordance with federal regulations.
- Typically, the regulations are focused on the
 - Drivers,
 - Vehicles,
 - Employer
- A useful link to the FMCSA regulations is: [FMCSA Rules & Regulations](#)

Minimum Requirements for Operating a Commercial Motor Vehicle:

- Minimum requirements for physical fitness.
- Road test on eight specific driving skills.
- Commercial Driver License (CDL) is required on certain heavy trucks and combination of trucks and trailers. The CDL is available in three classes (A, B, C) and several endorsements.
- Minimum 21 years old for interstate commerce.

Definition of a Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV)

- CMV is a motor vehicle used for interstate commerce with a combined gross vehicle weight ratings greater than 10,000 lbs ([49 CFR 390.5 - Definitions](#))
- Interstate commerce occurs when our vehicles are driven outside of Vermont.
- Many of ECI's vehicles including certain pickup trucks and nearly all trucks when towing a trailer will classify as a CMV when driving outside of VT.
- All CDL class vehicles are a CMV

Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR)

- A maximum weight rating assigned by the vehicle (or trailer) manufacturer.
- Typically stamped on a certification plate located on the driver side door, or on the trailer tongue.
- The combined gross vehicle weight rating (CGVWR) is the combination of the tow vehicle and the trailer.

CDL License Required Vehicle

The CDL requirements can be confusing

- Basically, for vehicles in ECI's fleet:
 - CGVWR exceeding 26,000 pounds, when the trailer exceeds 10,000 lb GVWR requires a CDL.
- Examples:
 - A vehicle with a 25,999 lb GVWR with a 7,999 lb trailer is a non-CDL vehicle but would become a CDL vehicle if the trailer exceeded 10,000 lbs GVWR.
 - Any truck with 26,000 lb GVWR regardless of the trailer

ECI Policy on Driver Qualifications

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Compliance with FMSCA

- ECI Employees shall be adequately trained in the FMSCA regulations pertaining to the need for the medical certificate, the road test, and when a CDL license/class is required.
- Drivers and their managers shall plan and execute their work in a manner to maintain compliance with the regulations.

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Minimum CMV Driving Qualifications

- No employee shall operate a CMV without:
 - An ECI Road Test certification
 - A valid medical certificate.

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At ECI, any field worker might be called upon to drive a commercial motor vehicle for interstate commerce. Therefore:

- All field workers are required to have a DOT medical examination.
- All new field workers shall be road tested by the ECI Safety Department at the start of their employment. Any employee not passing the road test shall be retested in 6 months.

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ECI CMV Road Test Certification

- Workers will be certified by ECI's Safety Department in the type of CMV assigned to the person.
- Field workers that pass the road test will be issued a hard hat decal indicating their certification to operate a CMV.
- The Safety Department shall maintain the road test records for all employees.

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Maintaining Medical Certificate:

- Employees are responsible for renewing their medical certificate prior to its expiration.
- ECI will maintain a list of expiration dates to verify compliance.
- Failure to maintain the DOT medical certificate will require removal from ECI's list of eligible CMV drivers

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Possession of the DOT Medical Certificate –

- The driver must carry their certificate from the medical examiner verifying compliance.
- Starting on January 30, 2015, CDL drivers will not be required to carry the medical examiners certificate in accordance with the FMCSA regulations.

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Cost of Medical Examination –

- ECI will pay the costs of the medical examinations when done through ECI's occupational health care provider.
- ECI will not compensate for medical examinations performed by the employee's personal physician.

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Changes in Medical Status –

- Notify the ECI Safety Department of any changes to medical status that could affect ability to perform work duties, particularly medical qualifications for driving.
- Obtain a medical release from their physician certifying fitness of duty for driving (per 49 CFR 391.41 requirements) following any medical procedures or accidents requiring medical attention.

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Non-Field Workers –

- Many ECI Employees in management and administrative roles have assignments that require at least some (and possibly significant) assignments in the field. These employees are not typically called upon to drive a CMV.
- Therefore the DOT Physical is not required to staff typically assigned to the office or those who serve an administrative or management role in the field, even if they are assigned a company vehicle (provided it is a non-CMV). However, if necessary for their duties, ECI may require this exempt worker to obtain a DOT Medical and ECI's CMV Road Test Certificates.

Please Drive Safely

- Protect Yourself
- Your Fellow Workers
- The Public