

Takin' A Load Off Your Mind

FLEET COMPLIANCE GROUP, LTD.

www.fleetcompliance.com

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Medical Requirements for CDL Holders

New requirements beginning January 2012

The change will take place in three phases.

Phase 1: The Michigan Secretary of State will begin collection and storing the Medical certificate information January 30, 2012. All CDL holders will be required to provide a valid medical examiner's certificate (Med Card) to the Michigan Secretary of State office (online web submission process, fax or at the local branch) when obtaining or renewing a CDL License. From that point forward, all future Med Cards will be required to be submitted to the Secretary of State.

If these drivers cannot provide a current, valid Med Card, they will need to certify in writing that they are exempt by means of a Farm Endorsement (operating within 150 miles) or Michigan Grandfather Waiver, etc.)

In addition, drivers will need to indicate their travel whether "interstate" (across the state line) or "intrastate" (within Michigan boundaries).

Phase 2: Sometime in late September 2012, Michigan will start sharing this information with law enforcement and CDLIS. This will mean that if the CDL driver is stopped, the officer will run their medical certification information to verify that they have a valid medical examiner's certificate on file with the state office and take enforcement action if necessary.

Phase 3: At a date, no later than September 30, 2014, If a driver does not submit their valid medical examiner's certificate (Med Card) to the Secretary of State, the driver will receive a letter from the State explaining that the CDL (A, B, or C) either has been or will be removed from the driver license.

Michigan Interstate Motor Carriers - IFTA

The Michigan Department of Treasury will no longer mail application for interstate carriers that require a fuel tax license under International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA). You can complete this process on-line at www.michigan.gov/IFTA, or if you have questions you can contact IFTA Customer Service at 517-636-4580.

"Isn't it the Truth?"

- o I totally take back all those times I didn't want to nap when I was younger.
- o Bad decisions usually make good stories.
- o Even under ideal conditions people have trouble locating their car keys in a pocket; finding their cell phone; and pinning the tail on the donkey ...but I'll bet everyone can find and push the snooze button from 3 feet away, in about 1.7 seconds, eyes closed, first time, every time.
- o Nothing sucks more than that moment during an argument when you realize that you are wrong.
- o Sometimes I look down at my watch 3 consecutive times and still don't know what time it is.
- o How many times is it appropriate to say "What?" before you just nod and smile because you still didn't hear or understand a word they said?

Michigan Motorcycle License Testing

The motorcycle course for the Skills Test in Michigan has changed. If you are planning to attempt obtaining a motorcycle endorsement on your Michigan Driver's license, be sure to check on the Michigan Secretary of State website to review the changes. Or, if you have any questions, you are welcome to contact our office. We offer Michigan Motorcycle Skills Test year round at a fee of \$35.00 (Grandville, MI site only.)

"Ask the Experts" Seminar

After many years, there is still confusion as to how the D.O.T. laws apply to each individual motor carrier. C.S.A. is working ...this is evident by the increase in penalties (increases in the multi-millions of dollars - with the number still on the rise).

How C.S.A. works is confusing drivers and motor carriers alike. Properly using the tools provided by C.S.A. such as the S.M.S. and P.S.P can make all the difference in being identified as a motor carrier requiring a Compliance Audit (or focused audit).

We have found that those who understand the "system" are doing well in their scores; ...others - not as well.

Preparing in case of a serious accident is still something we have found to be lacking in motor carrier policies and procedures as well.

We have scheduled a seminar - "Ask The Experts" (see attached). As you will see in the line-up of guest speakers, the content of this seminar has been carefully planned to offer the most benefit to you.

Pre-registration & Pre-payment required

DataQ

There is a way to challenge potentially erroneous or improper violations on carrier and/or driver records?

The DataQ Program allows carriers and drivers to challenge information that resides in FMCSA databases such as crash and inspection reports at their website - <http://dataqs.fmcsa.dot.gov>.

Keep in mind that you must have the citation/conviction overturned by the jurisdiction that issued the citation before you make the request to DataQ. Also, be aware that just because a conviction was overturned will not guarantee a reversal by the DataQ Program. Very few will be reversed unless they legitimately should not have been issued - or have been issued incorrectly (i.e., wrong driver license or D.O.T. number, etc.).

Mandatory DOT Compliance Training

We have been receiving inquiries regarding a notice (usually via email or fax) being received by motor carriers. If you should happen to receive this notice indicating "Final Compliance Notice". "Online Training", etc. from Compliance Educators, be aware ... This is a scare-tactic marketing strategy.

It is true that the training they are referring to is required for supervisors. However, you probably have completed this training already. Feel free to contact our office if you have any questions pertaining to this training ...or notices received.

If you are receiving faxes (like we are - regularly), be aware that unsolicited faxes are illegal and fineable at \$10,000 each. You can report them to the F.C.C. if they do not discontinue (whether you request the discontinuance or not).

This has been such a nuisance that the FMCSA has posted a notice on the home page of their website as well.

Do not feel you must fall for these tactics. There are many other means of fulfilling the requirements of the regulations.

Driver Safety Bulletin Subscription Service

F.C.G. is now providing a subscription service for Driver Safety Bulletins. The service is available either:

- **Monthly** (\$120.00/year),
- **Bi-monthly** (\$75.00/year), or
- **Quarterly** (\$60.00/year)

Contact our office for more details and information.

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