

Summary of Updates to Commercial Driver's Permits & License

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) published final rules related to standards for Commercial Learner's Permits (CLP) as well as for current and future Commercial license holders. As a result, Pennsylvania CDL holders and CLP holders will be affected. The following information will help you understand the more significant changes taking place on December 21, 2015.

Commercial Driver's License classifications, endorsements and restrictions (applies to license & permit holders)

Currently, codes are used to describe endorsements and restrictions on a CLP and CDL. Beginning December 21, 2015, the following codes shall be used to describe CLP and CDL endorsements only.

- H - Authorizes the driver to operate a vehicle transporting hazardous materials.
- N - Authorizes driving tank vehicles.
- P - Authorizes driving vehicles carrying passengers.
- S - Authorizes the driver to operate a school bus.
- T - Authorizes a Class A driver to pull double and triple trailers.
- X - Represents a combination of hazardous materials and tank vehicle endorsements.

Beginning December 21, 2015, the following codes shall be used to describe CLP and CDL restrictions only. Please note that some restrictions have been added and are underlined and italicized. Additionally, 2 have changed and are marked with an asterisk (*). If your CDL license has one of the changed restrictions, they will be converted the next time you receive a new CDL after December 21, 2015.

- A - Restricts the driver to driving under 49 CFR § 391.62(c) (relating to limited exemptions for intra-city zone drivers).
- E – Prohibits driving a commercial motor vehicle equipped with a manual transmission.*
- G - Indicates qualification under 49 CFR § 391.62(e).
- K – Restricts driver to intrastate driving.*
- L - Prohibits driving a commercial motor vehicle equipped with air brakes.
- M* – Prohibits driving a class A passenger vehicle. (formerly a “B” restriction)
- N* – Prohibits driving a class A or B passenger vehicle. (formerly a “C” restriction)
- O – Prohibits a Class A driver from driving a truck tractor-trailer combination.*
- P – Prohibits driving a commercial motor vehicle bus containing passengers (will appear on commercial learner permit only).*
- Q - Requires the driver to wear corrective lenses.
- V - Indicates that the driver has been issued a medical variance.

X – Prohibits tank vehicles from carrying cargo (will appear on commercial learner permit only).

Y - Requires the driver to wear a hearing aid.

Z – Prohibits driving a commercial motor vehicle with full air brakes.

Changes/updates to your CDL

The FMCSA final rules require license holders to (in-person) prove citizenship or legal presence in the form of a birth certificate, passport, naturalization documents or current immigration documents. Beginning December 21, 2015, all new CDL applicants and current holders required to renew or make any changes or upgrades to their CDL will need to do so in person unless the documents have already been presented to PennDOT. The requirement to prove citizenship or legal presence for permanent residents and citizens will only need to be done once as a notation will be made on your record confirming the verification was made and the date it was made.

Additionally, residency documents will be required initially, at renewal and anytime an address change occurs. Proof of residency can be accomplished by providing one of the following: Tax Records, Lease Agreements, Mortgage Documents, W-2 Form, Current Weapons Permit, Current Utility Bills (*water, gas, electric, cable, etc*), your renewal notice or current license.

Removing restrictions on a current CDL

If a driver applicant wants to remove any of the commercial restrictions on their current license, the applicant may not have to retake the complete skills tests. The State may administer a modified test which will include a knowledge test and skills test depending on the restriction to be removed.

Commercial Learners Permit valid for 180 days from 365 days

New FMCSA rules require that any Commercial Learners Permit issued on or after December 21, 2015, to be valid for no more than 180 days. Additionally, if a permit expires or was renewed once and needs to be renewed again, all knowledge tests must be retaken.

Skills testing of Out-of-State students

A DMV or third party tester may administer its skills test to a person who has taken training in another state and is licensed in another United States jurisdiction (i.e., his/her state of domicile). Such test results must be transmitted electronically directly from the out-of-state tester to the licensing state in an efficient and secure manner. PennDOT will be able to accept out-of-state test results on December 21, 2015.

Additionally, the state of domicile of a CDL applicant must accept the results of a skills test administered to the applicant by any other DMV or third party tester.

- **For more information relating to the Pre-Trip Inspection, Basic Control Skills and Road Test please refer to our website at www.dmv.pa.gov. Go to “Driver Services” and click on “Commercial Driver” once the Commercial Driver page displays click on “Act 49 CDL Changes/New CDL Skills Test”.**