

Physical Qualifications for Drivers

A person shall not drive a commercial motor vehicle unless he/she is physically qualified to do so and, except as provided in §391.67, has on his/her person the original, or a photographic copy, of a medical examiner's certificate that he/she is physically qualified to drive a commercial motor vehicle.

A person is physically qualified to drive a commercial motor vehicle if that person:

- Has no loss of a foot, a leg, a hand, or an arm, or has been granted a Skill Performance Evaluation (SPE) Certificate.
- Has no impairment of:
 - ♦ A hand or finger, which interferes with prehension or power grasping.
 - ♦ An arm, foot, or leg that interferes with the ability to perform normal tasks associated with operating a commercial motor vehicle; or any other significant limb defect or limitation which interferes with the ability to perform normal tasks associated with operating a commercial motor vehicle; or has been granted a SPE Certificate.
- Has no established medical history or clinical diagnosis of diabetes mellitus currently requiring insulin for control.
- Has no current clinical diagnosis of myocardial infarction, angina pectoris, coronary insufficiency, thrombosis, or any other cardiovascular disease of a variety known to be accompanied by syncope, dyspnea, collapse, or congestive cardiac failure.
- Has no established medical history or clinical diagnosis of a respiratory dysfunction likely to interfere with his/her ability to control and drive a commercial motor vehicle safely.
- Has no current clinical diagnosis of high blood pressure likely to interfere with his/her ability to operate a commercial motor vehicle safely.
- Has no established medical history or clinical diagnosis of rheumatic, arthritic, orthopedic, muscular, neuromuscular, or vascular disease, which interferes with his/her ability to control and operate a commercial motor vehicle.
- Has no established medical history or clinical diagnosis of epilepsy or any other condition, which is likely to cause loss of consciousness or any loss of ability to control a commercial motor vehicle.
- Has no mental, nervous, organic, or functional disease or psychiatric disorder likely to interfere with his/her ability to drive a commercial motor vehicle safely.
- Has distant visual acuity of at least 20/40 in each eye without corrective lenses or visual acuity separately corrected to 20/40 or better with corrective lenses, distant binocular acuity of at least 20/40 in both eyes with or without corrective lenses, field of vision of at least 70 degrees in the horizontal meridian in each eye, and the ability to recognize the colors of traffic signals and devices showing standard red, green and amber.
- First perceives a forced whispered voice in the better ear not less than five feet with or without the use of a hearing device, or, if tested by use of an audiometric device, does not have an average hearing loss in the better ear greater than 40 decibels at 500 Hz, 1,000 Hz, and 2,000 Hz with or without a hearing device when the audiometric device is calibrated to the American National Standard (formerly ASA Standard) Z24.5-1951.

- Does not use a controlled substance identified in 21 CFR 1308.11 Schedule I, an amphetamine, a narcotic, or any other habit-forming drug, with the exception of a driver may use such a substance or drug, if the substance or drug is prescribed by a licensed medical practitioner who:
 - ♦ Is familiar with the driver's medical history and assigned duties
 - ♦ Has advised the driver that the prescribed substance or drug will not adversely affect the driver's ability to safely operate a commercial motor vehicle.
- Has no current clinical diagnosis of alcoholism.

If you answer, "Yes," to any of the questions below, you may fail to meet the minimum qualifications to hold a CDL.

1. Are you missing a hand, foot, arm or leg?
2. Do you have an impairment of a hand or finger, which interferes with your ability to grasp?
3. Do you have an impairment of a hand, foot, arm or leg which interferes with your ability to perform normal tasks associated with operating a commercial motor vehicle safely; or any significant limb defect or limitation which interferes with your ability to perform normal tasks associated with operating a commercial motor vehicle safely?
4. Do you have an established medical history or clinical diagnosis of diabetes currently requiring insulin for control?
5. Do you have an established medical history or clinical diagnosis of any form of heart disease?
6. Do you have an established medical history or clinical diagnosis of any form of respiratory or pulmonary (lung) dysfunction?
7. Do you have an established medical history or clinical diagnosis of high blood pressure?

8. Do you have an established medical history or clinical diagnosis of rheumatic, arthritic, orthopedic, muscular, neuromuscular, or vascular disease, which interferes with your ability to operate a commercial motor vehicle safely?
9. Do you have an established medical history or clinical diagnosis of epilepsy or any other condition, which is likely to cause you to lose consciousness or lose your ability to control a commercial motor vehicle?
10. Do you currently take anticonvulsive medication?
11. Do you have an established medical history or clinical diagnosis of mental, nervous, organic or functional disorder likely to interfere with your ability to operate and control a commercial motor vehicle safely?
12. Is your vision worse than 20/40 in each eye with or without corrective lenses?
13. Is your field of vision less than 70° in the horizontal meridian in each eye?
14. Do you suffer from color blindness that would interfere with your ability to recognize the standard red, green, and amber colors of traffic control signals and devices?
15. Are you hearing impaired to the degree that a hearing aid is not helpful?
16. Do you use illegal drugs or are you on Methadone treatment?
17. Are you taking any habit-forming prescription drug or drugs that may interfere with your ability to operate a commercial motor vehicle safely?

No refund of fees will be made to any CDL applicant who is unable to meet the minimum physical qualifications to obtain a CDL.

Prior to applying for a CDL, you should review DMV Form R-323, which contains detailed information regarding each of the 13 physical qualifications CDL drivers must meet. DMV Form R-323 is obtainable off the DMV web site, or you may request a copy be mailed to you by calling the Phone Center at 860-263-5700 (Greater Hartford area/out-of-state) or 800-842-8222 (toll free in CT).

DMV Medical Review Division administers a CDL waiver program for applicants who have one of the following physical conditions or impairments but meet the remaining physical qualifications:

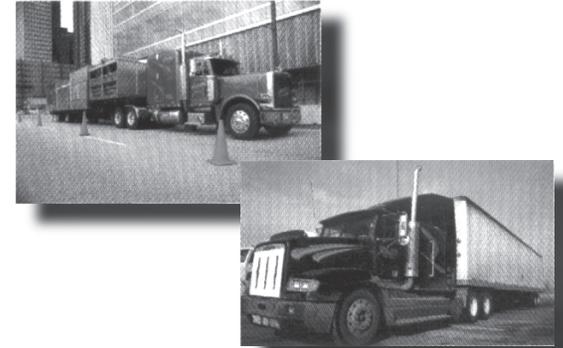
- Vision
- Insulin-dependent diabetes
- Loss of or impairment of limb

Waiver applicants must be CT residents; and waivers are valid in CT only. Please call 860-263-5223 to obtain complete information regarding this program.

To obtain information regarding the USDOT FMCSA Skill Performance Evaluation Certificate (SPE) for interstate operation, please call the FMCSA - Eastern Services Center at (443)703-2240.

A Public Service of the:
State of Connecticut
Department of Motor Vehicles
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Medical Requirements for Commercial Drivers



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ct.gov/dmv