



Medical Examiners who perform DOT driver medical exams are expected to understand fully the medical standards of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) and related guidance. The National Registry requires medical examiners to participate in required training, pass a certification test, and register on the National Registry system to become a certified medical examiner. Certified medical examiners agree to keep their National Registry accounts up to date (licenses, training records, etc.) and to transmit at least monthly results of all CMV driver exams performed to FMCSA via the National Registry system.

About the Examination Process

TO REGISTER

To register for the FMCSA Medical Examiner Certification Test, a medical examiner can go the National Registry website and obtain testing locations in the geographic area needed.

<https://nationalregistry.fmcsa.dot.gov/NRPublicUI/home.seam>

The screenshot shows the 'Medical Examiners' section of the National Registry website. It includes a search bar for 'Testing Organization Name (Optional)', fields for 'City' and 'State', and a 'Search' button. There are also options for 'Zip Code' and 'Radius' (set to 10).

It is important to arrive to the exam center in a timely manner to allow sufficient time for check-in.



WHAT TO BRING

When you arrive at the testing center, you must provide:

- your national Registry Number,
- proof of your medical credential,
- proof of completion of training,
- and one form of photo identification to enable personnel to verify your eligibility to take the exam.



HOW THE TEST WAS DEVELOPED

The FMCSA modeled the development of the certification test on recognized processes and procedures established by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies. An extensive role delineation study was used to identify the critical knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to perform CMV driver physical examinations.

CMV driver medical certification is based on comprehensive physical assessment of driver health. This includes the medical examiner's informed judgment about the potential impact of a single medical condition or multiple existing medical conditions on the driver's ability to operate a CMV safely in interstate commerce. This table reflects the number of items and cognitive level questions for each content area on the certification test.

FMCSA Medical Examiner Certification Test	Items			
	Cognitive Level			Totals
Content Area	Recall	Application	Analysis	
I. DRIVER'S MEDICAL INFORMATION	23	33	14	70
A. Identification and History	4	6	10	20
B. Physical Examination and Evaluation	8	15	2	25
C. Diagnostic Tests and/or Referrals	6	10	2	18
D. Documentation of Ancillary Information	5	2	0	7
II. DETERMINATION OF DRIVER'S QUALIFICATIONS AND DISPOSITION	7	12	11	30
A. Health Education Counseling	2	1	1	4
B. Risk Assessment	2	4	8	14
C. Certification Outcomes and Intervals	3	7	2	12
Totals	30	45	25	100

The FMCSA Medical Examiner Certification Test is a two hour, timed test. The test contains 120 items; 100 are scored and 20 are being evaluated for inclusion of a future date. Once the actual test begins, the two hour test times runs continuously with no pauses.

NOTIFICATION

After receiving the test answers from the testing center, FMCSA confirms the grading, validates the candidates, credentials and issues a National Registry Certificate. Official Status Notification is received via email.

FAILING THE EXAM

If for any reason the Medical Examiner does not pass the test for the initial certification, recertification or reinstatement, they may take it again by submitting another application to the testing organization and paying the appropriate fee. The retest does not have to be performed by the same test provider. The Medical Examiner must wait 30 days before retaking the test, however, there are no limits on the number of times that a medical examiner may take the test. Keep in mind, the Medical Examiner MUST pass the certification test within 3 years after completing the initial training or he/she will be required to retake the training.



How long will the ME's Certification be valid?

FMCSA will issue a certification document that will expire 10 years from the date of issuance. After the initial training and certification, a ME must complete periodic training every 5 years to refresh his or her knowledge of both the medical standards for CMV drivers and any changes to FMCSA examination standards or guidelines. MEs are required to complete recertification testing every 10 years. FMCSA may remove a ME from the National Registry if he or she does not complete the periodic training (after 5 years) or pass the recertification testing (after 10 years on the National Registry).

In order to continue to be listed on and to continue participation in the National Registry, the medical examiner must comply with this requirement on a monthly basis. If a Medical Examiner has not conducted any exams during the month, that must be reported as well.

Performance Monitoring and Audits are conducted by the FMCSA periodically.

Are there any other requirements that a ME must adhere to after they are added to the National Registry?

Yes, MEs also have to comply with the following administrative requirements as of May 21, 2014:

- Submit Form MCSA-5850 for each driver examined electronically every month via the National Registry website. If no exams were performed during the month, that must also be reported;
- Retain original completed Medical Examination Reports for all drivers examined and a copy or electronic version of the driver's medical examiner's certificate for at least 3 years from the date of the examination;
- Submit to periodic audits;
- Provide FMCSA with medical examination report forms and other documents as requested;
- Continue to be licensed, registered, or certified in accordance with the applicable State laws and regulations of each State in which you perform examinations with a scope of practice that includes performing physical examinations;
- Submit any changes in the application information to FMCSA within 30 days of the change;
- Report to FMCSA any information related to any termination, suspension, or withdrawal of your license, registration, or certificate under State law; and
- Maintain documentation of State licensing, registration, or certification and completion of all required training.



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CMV Physical Qualification Standards

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