



## Important DOT FMCSA Regulatory Updates

### FMCSA Ends Paper DOT Cards for CDL Drivers

Starting June 23, 2025, the FMCSA will no longer require certified medical examiners to issue paper Medical Examiner's Certificates (MECs) or DOT cards to CDL drivers. Instead, exam results will be electronically submitted to the National Registry, which will forward them to State Driver Licensing Agencies (SDLAs).

#### What's Changing:

- CDL holders: No longer need to carry a paper MEC—certification will be handled electronically.
- Non-CDL holders: Must still receive a paper MEC and submit it to their local DMV manually.
- Medical examiners: Must electronically transmit exam results directly to FMCSA.

#### What Drivers & Fleets Should Do:

- Drivers: Verify that your medical certification is correctly and promptly recorded with your state DMV to avoid issues during inspections or license renewals.
- Fleets: Best practice is to pull a motor vehicle report (MVR) after exams to confirm the update has been processed.

This change is aimed at reducing paperwork and streamlining compliance, but it's still critical to double-check records to prevent disruptions.

## Elimination of MC Numbers

Effective Oct. 1, 2025, FMCSA is phasing out MC (Motor Carrier) numbers to streamline and modernize its identification and regulatory systems. The goal is to consolidate all carrier identification under a single number—the USDOT number—as part of the Unified Registration System (URS).

### Key Reasons for Elimination:

- **Efficiency:** A single identifier (USDOT number) simplifies the registration process for carriers.
- **Security:** Reduces the potential for identity fraud, such as carriers resetting their compliance history by getting a new MC number.
- **Regulatory Consistency:** Makes enforcement and audits easier by linking all records to one identifier.
- **Transparency:** Improves public access to accurate, centralized safety and compliance data.

### How will it affect Motor Carriers?

- No more MC numbers needed for interstate operations.
- All compliance, safety, and operating authority will be tracked under the USDOT number only.
- Carriers must still maintain operating authority, but references to MC numbers in contracts, permits, and insurance policies may need to be updated.

## Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse II Now in Effect – Important Reminder!

Effective November 18, 2024, State Driver Licensing Agencies (SDLAs) are now required to downgrade commercial driving privileges for any driver listed as

“prohibited” in the FMCSA Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse. This marks a significant step in enforcing compliance with federal substance testing regulations.

### **What This Means for Drivers & Fleets:**

- Drivers: Must remain compliant with all drug and alcohol testing requirements to avoid automatic CDL downgrades.
- Fleets: While the Clearinghouse sends notifications when a driver’s status changes, it’s a best practice to routinely monitor driver records in the Clearinghouse to avoid surprises and ensure operational readiness.

This update reinforces FMCSA’s commitment to safety and accountability in the commercial driving industry.

If you need expert assistance with your DOT compliance program, ARCpoint Labs is here for you. Contact us today to learn more about how we can help you achieve and maintain DOT compliance.



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