

## **Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Publishes Rule that Merges Commercial Drivers License (CDL) and Medical Certification**

FMCSA recently published a Final Rule which merges medical certification information into interstate CDL holders' license records. Eventually, the merged CDL/medical record will replace the need for a separate DOT card to be carried by drivers. The rule will serve to restrict medically unqualified drivers from operating by linking medical qualification to CDL status.

Starting January 30, 2012, new CDL applicants or persons renewing their CDL will need to certify their medical certification status, and present their DOT card to the State Driver Licensing Agency (SDLA), who will keep a copy. Current CDL holders will need to submit a copy of their first new DOT card obtained after January 30, 2012 to their state licensing agency, so all drivers should have submitted medical certification by no later than January 30, 2014.

CDL drivers operating in interstate commerce (and CDL holders driving in intrastate commerce subject to medical requirements under state laws) are subject to the rule. There are a few exceptions:

1. Drivers who meet exception criteria will need to certify with the state.
2. Additionally, there are some states that do not require drivers engaged in intrastate commerce to be medically certified.

### **Additional Rules Published**

FMCSA published a new Final Rule effective December 15, 2011 that extends the requirement for drivers to carry the DOT card through January 30, 2014. This extension of the DOT card will give states additional time to make the computer system and process changes to record medical certification information on driver CDL records.

FMCSA published a Final Rule effective December 15, 2011 that indicates that if a driver's license record does not contain a medical certification indicator, then a motor carrier must retain a copy of the DOT card. Roadside officers will have access to a medical certification status indicator when they run a driver's license record.

### **How This Will Affect AllOne Health Resources' Processes**

AllOne Health Resources' contracted clinics who perform the DOT medical examination will hand the DOT card to the employee the day of the exam. We are asking that Employers ask the employee to hold the card for a 2-week wait period. If the card given by the clinic has an incorrect expiration, this two week window will allow AllOne Health to get any additional documentation needed from the employee and contact the clinic asking for a new DOT card to be issued with the correct expiration date.

Please contact AllOne Health Resources with any questions regarding the regulations or the processes we have in place.