

# National Registry II: Fact Sheet

## FOR DRIVERS



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

### WHAT IS NATIONAL REGISTRY II (NRII)?

**NRII** refers to the Medical Examiner's Certification Integration final rule that FMCSA published in 2015. This rule requires medical examiners to use specific forms for documenting the physical qualification examination and for issuing the medical certificate to qualified drivers. It updated the reporting requirements for medical examiners from every 30 days to midnight (local time) of the next calendar day following the examination. In addition, the rule requires the electronic transmission of examination results (medically qualified, medically unqualified, and voided) and additional information (e.g., corrective lenses, hearing aid, medical exemption, skill performance evaluation certificate, etc.) from examinations performed for commercial learner's permit (CLP) applicants and commercial driver's license (CDL) holders from FMCSA's National Registry to the State Driver's Licensing Agencies (SDLAs). Those SDLAs will post the information on the Commercial Driver's License Information System (CDLIS) driver motor vehicle record (MVR).

### WHEN IS THE UPCOMING COMPLIANCE DATE FOR NRII?

**June 23, 2025.** However, FMCSA will allow states to implement NRII before June 23, 2025, if they are ready to do so. When states implement NRII, medical certification information for CLP applicants and CDL holders in those states will be electronically transmitted from the National Registry to the SDLA and the original/paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form, MCSA-5876, may no longer be used as proof of medical certification. Therefore, if your state has not implemented NRII, the medical examiner must continue to issue you the original/paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form, MCSA-5876, that you would need to submit to the SDLA. If your state has implemented NRII, the medical examiner is not required to issue you the original/paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form, MCSA-5876, as the medical certification information will be electronically transmitted to the SDLA.



## WHAT ARE THE UPCOMING CHANGES?

By **June 23, 2025**, the following changes will occur:

- FMCSA will electronically transmit examination results (medically qualified, medically unqualified, and voided) from examinations performed for CLP applicants and CDL holders from FMCSA's National Registry to the SDLAs.
- FMCSA will electronically transmit medical variance information (medical exemptions and SPE certificates) for CLP applicants and CDL holders from the National Registry to the SDLAs.
- SDLAs will post on the CDLIS driver MVR the driver's examination results and restriction information received electronically from FMCSA.
- Medical examiners will no longer be required to issue the original/paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, to CLP applicants and CDL holders.
- CLP applicants and CDL holders will no longer be required to submit a paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, to their SDLA.
- Motor carriers will no longer be required to verify that a Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, issued to a CLP applicant or CDL holder was issued by a medical examiner on the National Registry.
- Motor carriers may no longer use the paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, as proof of a CLP applicant or CDL holder's medical certification. Instead, motor carriers must use the CDLIS driver MVR obtained from the current licensing State. The motor carrier must verify and document in the driver qualification file that the driver has a valid medical examiner's certificate and any required medical variances before allowing the driver to operate a commercial motor vehicle.

## WHAT ARE THE IMPORTANT FACTS MOTOR CARRIERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT NRII AND HOW TO COMPLY?

### Electronic Transmission Process

As a driver, it is important that you understand the process that is in place for NRII. Once your physical qualification examination is complete, the ME will submit the examination results to the National Registry through their National Registry account. Once submitted, the following actions take place:

- A driver data validation is completed. This is accomplished by the National Registry attempting to match key identifiers (last name, DOB, licensing state, license #) against commercial driver's licensing data.



- If a match is found, your medical certification information is transmitted to the matched SDLA and posted on the CDLIS driver MVR.
- If no match is found, a one-time error message task is sent to the medical examiner to validate/correct the key identifiers by comparing the information they submitted into the National Registry against the copy of the driver's license you provided at the time of examination to ensure there is an exact match of the key identifiers. If key identifiers need to be updated, the medical examiner must make the update and resubmit the corrected information.
- Until the medical examiner performs the validation/correction, your medical certification information is not available to the SDLA. Therefore, medical examiners need to complete these error message tasks immediately.
- If the medical examiner completes the validation/correction and the medical certification information still is not matched, the medical certification information cannot be transmitted and will be retained in the National Registry. The SDLA can attempt to pull the information from the National Registry which may assist in identifying the error that needs to be corrected (e.g., errors in the spelling of last name, DOB, licensing state, or license #).

## Steps by Driver to Ensure Successful Transmission

Based on the new process of the electronic transmission of medical certification information from the National Registry to the SDLAs described above and to avoid any issues that could result in a driver not being able to operate, drivers should take the following proactive steps:

- Begin the certification process with a medical examiner well in advance of the current Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, expiring to allow time for errors to be corrected in the driver data validation process if they occur.
- If you are a driver with a medical condition in which you believe the medical examiner may require supporting documentation from your treating clinician, be sure to bring it with you to your physical qualification examination to expedite the qualification decision.
- When completing the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, ensure that you provide accurate information exactly as it appears on your driver's license as these key identifiers (last name, DOB, licensing state, license #) will be used when transmitting the medical certification information from the National Registry to the SDLA. As discussed above, if inaccurate information is provided, there will be an error and your medical certification information will not be transmitted from the National Registry to the SDLA.
- If a medical examiner's office enters the results of your examination into the National Registry during your examination, this may be an opportunity for you to verify that all your information has been entered correctly. However, not every medical examiner enters the results of examinations in this manner, while the driver is present. Therefore, when possible, drivers are encouraged to review their information as the medical examiner has entered it into the National Registry system to ensure accuracy.



- Remind the medical examiner or their staff, if they do not ask, to make a copy of your driver's license so they have it to refer to in case there is an error during the transmission of your information from the National Registry to the SDLA.
- Ask the medical examiner the most efficient way to for you to work with the medical office if you are aware that there is an issue with your physical qualification results posting to your CDLIS driver MVR.

Although the electronic medical certification information transmitted from the National Registry to the SDLA is the only official record of a driver's medical certification status, and medical examiners are no longer required to issue the original/paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876 to CLP applicants and CDL holders, you are encouraged to request a copy for your records. This copy may assist you when trying to troubleshoot and resolve issues that might occur with the electronic transmission of your medical certification information from the National Registry to the SDLA.

## Medical Variances

In situations that a medical examiner indicates that you are required to obtain a medical variance (SPE Certificate or medical exemption) on the submitted examination result, your examination results will not be transmitted to the SDLA until you have been issued the medical variance by FMCSA. Once the medical variance has been issued, the National Registry system will link it with your initial examination results and transmit the information to the SDLA. Please note that you are still required to carry medical variances while operating.

## Assurance that medical certification information is successfully posted to the driver's motor vehicle record.

As drivers do not have access to the National Registry or SDLA systems, if you received a physical qualification examination, were told you are physically qualified and later receive a CDL downgrade letter, it is likely that your medical certification information was not received by the SDLA. If this happens and you determine there is an issue, you should immediately take the following steps:

**Step 1-** Contact the medical examiner that performed your physical qualification examination, explain the issue, and request that they log into their National Registry account and verify if they received an error message task for your examination. If they have, request that they use the copy of your driver's license submitted at the time of the examination to correct any errors and select submit.

**Step 2 -** Contact the SDLA to inform them that the medical examiner submitted the validation/correction and to verify that the medical certification information posted. If it has not, and you requested an original/paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, at the time of your examination, verify if it would be helpful to use it to help troubleshoot the issue and resolve it. In addition, the SDLA can attempt to pull the information from the National Registry which may assist in identifying the error that needs to be corrected (e.g., errors in the spelling of last name, DOB, licensing state, or license #).



**Step 3** - If neither of the steps above resolve the issue, you can contact FMCSA's National Registry Technical Support Helpdesk at [fmctechsup@dot.gov](mailto:fmctechsup@dot.gov) or (617) 494-3003, to assist in determining the issue and possible corrective actions the agency can assist with.

If you are stopped by a law enforcement officer, they check your CDLIS driver MVR, and they tell you that your record states you are not certified, you should:

**Step 1**- Contact the medical examiner that performed your physical qualification examination, explain the issue, and request that they log into their National Registry account and verify if they received an error message task for your examination. If they have, request that they use the copy of your driver's license submitted at the time of the examination to correct any errors and select submit.

**Step 2** - Contact the SDLA to inform them that the medical examiner submitted the validation/correction and to verify that the medical certification information posted. If it has not, and you requested an original/paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, at the time of your examination, verify if it would be helpful to use it to help troubleshoot the issue and resolve it. In addition, the SDLA can attempt to pull the information from the National Registry which may assist in identifying the error that needs to be corrected (e.g., errors in the spelling of last name, DOB, licensing state, or license #).

**Step 3** - If neither of the steps above resolve the issue, you can contact FMCSA's National Registry Technical Support Helpdesk at [fmctechsup@dot.gov](mailto:fmctechsup@dot.gov) or (617) 494-3003, to assist in determining the issue and possible corrective actions the agency can assist with.

## Non-CDL Holders

If you are a non-CDL holder, NRII does not apply to you. If you are qualified, medical examiners are still required to issue you the original/paper Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, at the time of your examination. In addition, you are still required to carry a copy of your Medical Examiner's Certificate, Form MCSA-5876, when operating a commercial motor vehicle as proof of medical certification. Because you don't have CDLIS driver MVR, your information is not being electronically transmitted from the National Registry to the SDLA as there is no place to record the information.

If you are a non-CDL holder who is medically certified and later decide to become a CDL holder, your current medical certification information can be pulled from the National Registry by the SDLA for posting to your CDLIS driver MVR.

