

Medical Card

What is a medical card?

It's a document (typically wallet-sized) that has been signed by a qualified medical professional indicating that the driver has passed a *DOT Physical* and is generally physically qualified (under federal law) to drive a truck. That DOT physical looks at a specified set conditions including such things as eyesight and hearing, range of motion in joints, loss of limbs, and the presence of potentially debilitating disorders such as diabetes or seizures. While most physicians are medically qualified to conduct the physical, not all offer the service. Special examination [forms](#) are available online.

Medical examiner certification?

Since May 20, 2014, interstate drivers are allowed to use only those examiners who are USDOT certified to give the DOT physical. The restriction significantly cuts the availability of the service—especially in sparsely populated areas of the state.

Requirement to have a Medical Card

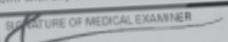
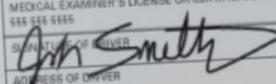
Federal law [49 CFR 391] (and Illinois law) generally starts from the premise that virtually everyone who drives a truck

MEDICAL EXAMINER'S CERTIFICATE

I certify that I have examined JOHN EDWARD SMITH in accordance with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (49 CFR 391.41-391.43) and with knowledge of the driving duties. I find this person is qualified, and if applicable, only when:

<input type="checkbox"/> Wearing corrective lenses	<input type="checkbox"/> Driving within an exempt intacty zone (49 CFR 391.62)
<input type="checkbox"/> Wearing hearing aid	<input type="checkbox"/> Accompanied by a skill performance evaluation Certificate (SPE)
<input type="checkbox"/> Accompanied by a _____ waiver/exemption	<input type="checkbox"/> Qualified by operation of 49 CFR 391.64

The information I have provided regarding this physical examination is true and complete. A complete examination form with any attachment embodies my findings completely and correctly, and is on file in my office.

SIGNATURE OF MEDICAL EXAMINER 	TELEPHONE 555 555 5555	DATE 12/12/2016
MEDICAL EXAMINER'S NAME (PRINT) DR JAMES PICCOUNO	<input type="checkbox"/> MD <input type="checkbox"/> DO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHIROPRACTOR	
MEDICAL EXAMINER'S LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE NO / ISSUING STATE 555 555 5555	<input type="checkbox"/> PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT <input type="checkbox"/> ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSE	
SIGNATURE OF DRIVER 	DRIVERS LICENSE NO 112-21342-34	STATE IL
ADDRESS OF DRIVER	MEDICAL CERTIFICATE EXPIRATION DATE 11/04/2014	

or a truck-trailer combination of 10,001 pounds or more in commerce (including farming) is subject to the requirement.

Medical Card Exemptions

- 1. Certain farm vehicle drivers (FVD).** Generally, this exception is available only to a sub-set of those drivers who qualify as a FVD. That sub-set includes only those operating a straight truck. FVD drivers who operate a combination vehicle (i.e.: truck-trailer combination or a semi) are not eligible for this exception.
- 2. Covered farm vehicles (CFV).** This one is very simple. It applies the exception from the DOT physical to all drivers who operate a CFV, whether straight truck or a combination vehicle.

Requirement to carry a Medical Card

All drivers required to undergo a DOT physical must continue to carry a medical card with them unless they have been certified as “NI” (non-exempt interstate. See below) Those NI drivers may now leave their medical cards at home—their medical card record is included in the federal electronic database for CDL drivers known as CDLIS.

CDL holders must comply

All drivers who have a CDL (whether you are required to have that CDL or not) had to appear in person at [CDL testing facility](#) to affirm whether they are required to have passed a recent DOT physical and whether they drive on an interstate or intrastate basis. Generally, those interstate drivers who are required by law to undergo a DOT physical had to have proof of compliance in-hand at the time of that visit.

This requirement kicked in January 30, 2012. Now, CDL drivers need to repeat the process every time their DOT physical is renewed.

Failure to comply will result in the driver’s CDL status being reduced to Non-CDL. There will likely be a 30-day grace period in which to reclaim your CDL through certification. If not certified within the grace period, the CDL could be permanently forfeited and you’d need to start from scratch to get a new one.

Reporting Status. It is up to the driver to make his or her own decision about which category to declare. The Secretary of State’s staff has been instructed to not make that decision for the driver. There are four categories from which to choose.

- 1. Non-excepted Interstate (NI)** — Drive on an interstate basis and meet 49 CFR 391 requirements (must have a medical certificate—must provide the state’s Driver’s License Agency with an original Copy of the Medical Certificate);
- 2. Excepted Interstate (EI)** – Drive on an interstate basis and excepted from 49 CFR 391 requirements (does not need medical certificate to drive interstate)

- 3. Non-excepted Intrastate (NA)** – Drive on an intrastate basis and subject to State medical card requirements as in law today.
- 4. Excepted Intrastate (EA)** – Drive on an intrastate basis and excepted from all or part of State medical card requirements.

Applies only to drivers who have a CDL		
	Interstate Commerce	Intrastate Commerce
Medical Card Required	NI	NA
Excepted from Medical Card	EI	EA
Update before medical card expires		
<i>Generally, the driver is being asked two questions: — 1) Are you an interstate or intrastate driver?; and, — 2) Are you required to have a medical card?</i>		

If your driver status changes, you must notify the Secretary of State immediately.

Interstate vs Intrastate

Your operation can be considered trucking in “interstate commerce” in either of two ways. Crossing the state line is clearly an interstate move. However, traveling point-to-point within the State of Illinois is also considered interstate commerce if the load you’re hauling is part of an interstate shipment (generally, cargo that originates in one state and is ultimately destined for another state or country.)

- If you operate in interstate commerce then report yourself as an Interstate Driver by selecting either “NI” or “EI”.
- If you operate in intrastate commerce, then report yourself as an Intrastate Driver by selecting either “NA” or “EA”.

K Restriction

If you have declared yourself to be an intrastate-only driver (“NA” or “EA”), then a “K” restriction will be added to your CDL. That prohibits the use of your CDL for operating a truck outside the state of Illinois.