

Medical Certification as Part of the Commercial Driver License (CDL)

Any person applying for a CDL must certify which of the following four categories they fall into: Non-Excepted Interstate, Excepted Interstate, Excepted Intrastate, or Non-Excepted Intrastate.

CDL holders certifying as Non-Excepted Interstate, Excepted Interstate, Excepted Intrastate, or Non-Excepted Intrastate must do so to the South Dakota Driver Licensing Program upon the issuance, renewal, upgrade or transfer of a CDL beginning on July 1, 2011 or no later than January 30, 2014, whichever occurs first. CDL holders certifying to Non-Excepted Interstate or Non-Excepted Intrastate, must also provide the original or a copy of the medical examiner's certificate to the South Dakota Driver Licensing Program prior to the issuance, renewal, upgrade or transfer of a CDL, or no later than January 30, 2014, whichever occurs first. A current medical card must be maintained on file with the Driver Licensing Program. Failure to maintain a valid medical card will result in downgrading the holder's CDL to an excepted status (a status that allows the driver to operate intrastate only) or a non-commercial driver license. When a Non-Excepted CDL is downgraded, the downgrade will occur 60 days after their medical certificate expires.

CDL Self-Certification Categories

This information is provided as a guide to help CDL holders determine how to medically self-certify when applying for a CDL. The South Dakota Driver Licensing Program is not responsible for determining a driver's self-certification classification – that is the sole responsibility of the driver.

Interstate transportation is defined as:

- Between a place in a State and a place outside of such State including a place outside of the United States
- Between two places in a State through another State or a place outside of the United States
- Between two places in a State as part of trade, traffic, or transportation originating or terminating outside the State or the United States

Four CDL Self-Certification Categories

- 1) **Non-Excepted Interstate** – Engaged in interstate commerce and meet the physical requirements under 49 CFR part 391 (must have medical certificate).
 - a) All Class A, B, or C drivers who do not fall under any of the other categories
 - b) All Class A, B, or C drivers granted a federal variance exemption (vision or diabetes) or Skill Performance Evaluation (SPE) impairment. Federal exemption or SPE must be carried by the driver.

- 2) **Excepted Interstate** – Engaged in interstate commerce and excepted from 49 CFR part 391 requirements (does not need medical certificate to drive interstate)
- a) Transportation performed by the Federal government, a State, or any political subdivision of a State.
 - b) Occasional transportation of personal property by individuals neither for compensation nor in the furtherance of a commercial enterprise.
 - c) The transportation of human corpses or sick and injured persons.
 - d) The operations of fire trucks and rescue vehicles while involved in emergency and related operations.
 - e) Commercial motor vehicles designed or used to transport between 9 and 15 passengers (including the driver), NOT for direct compensation, provided the vehicle does not otherwise meet the definition of a commercial vehicle (meaning 26,001 or more lbs. GVWR). For example, a 9 to 15 passenger van, not for direct compensation, and weighing less than 26,001 lbs. GVWR would be “excepted” from the federal medical requirements.
 - f) Commercial motor vehicles designed or used to transport between 9 and 15 passengers (including the driver) for direct compensation, provided the vehicle is NOT being operated beyond a 75 air-mile radius from the driver’s normal work-reporting location, AND weighs less than 26,001 lbs. GVWR.
 - g) A driver of a commercial motor vehicle used primarily in the transportation of propane winter heating fuel or a driver of a motor vehicle used to respond to a pipeline emergency, if such regulations would prevent the driver from responding to an emergency condition requiring immediate response.
 - h) Farm custom operations (Custom harvesters).
 - i) Apiarian industries (Beekeepers).
 - j) Certain farm vehicle drivers operating within a 150 mile radius of the farm AND is crossing state lines. **Note:** Articulated farm vehicles are not “excepted” if crossing state lines.
 - k) Private motor carrier of passengers (nonbusiness). For example, organizations exempt under the Internal Revenue Code that provide transportation for their members.
 - l) Drivers of migrant workers. Required to meet minimum medical standards only. CFR 398.3
- 3) **Excepted Intrastate:** Engaged in Intrastate commerce, but operating exclusively in transportation or operations excepted from all or part of 49 CFR part 391 and the State driver qualification requirements. Medical monitoring may be required by the South Dakota Driver License Division pending certain medical conditions. (Does not need medical certificate)
- a) Bona fide farmer or rancher operating articulated farm vehicles within a 150 mile radius of the farm or ranch and does NOT cross state lines. A medical certificate is required if crossing state lines.
 - b) Business vehicles 10,001 to 26,000 lbs. GVWR that do NOT cross state lines, do NOT transport hazardous material that requires placarding and are NOT designed to transport 16 or more people, including the driver.

- c) Intrastate drivers are exempt from the CDL medical requirements (CFR Part 391.41) in South Dakota in accordance with SDCL 49-28A-3 except for school bus drivers.
- 4) **Non-Excepted Intrastate:** Engaged in intrastate commerce and subject to and meet the requirements under 49 CFR part 391 as required by the state of South Dakota. (must have medical certificate)
 - a) Drivers granted the State Waiver for insulin controlled diabetes. The medical certificate is required indicating “qualified only when accompanied by a State Waiver”.
 - b) School bus operations while transporting preprimary, primary, or secondary school student from home to school and from school to home. **Note:** South Dakota state law requires drivers operating school vehicles designed to seat 16 or more passengers, including the driver, to meet the physical and medical requirements established for commercial vehicle drivers.