



WHY CHOOSE CONCORDE?

CONCORDE
INC.

Employee Screening and Health Services

For Immediate Release

CDLs, DOT Medical Exams & Examiners – New Rules On the Way

Written by Arthur J. Cohen Esq., VP of Operations for Concorde Inc.

Philadelphia, PA (February 16, 2009) -- The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has adopted a new regulation to improve driver safety by combining medical cards and commercial driver licenses (CDLs); this regulation will begin to take effect in January, 2012. In addition, the FMCSA has proposed a new rule that would regulate medical examiners that perform DOT medical exams by requiring they be certified to be eligible to perform DOT medical exams; the period for public comment closed January 30, 2009. In combination with each other, these rules will help ensure that only medically qualified drivers are legally permitted to drive and most importantly provide enhanced enforcement mechanisms.

Under the new rule, CDL drivers will no longer be required to carry a medical card because the medical information will be included on their CDL and be electronically accessible in real time because the data will be included in and part of state motor vehicle records. Drivers will be required to notify their state licensing agency of the result of their medical examinations. Because of the time it is expected to take the states to modify their IT systems to comply with the new rule and to otherwise implement the other provisions of the rule, it does not apply to new CDL drivers until January, 2012 and existing drivers will have an additional two years until they come up for renewal of their medical cards. In addition because medical cards will no longer be required, they will be eliminated from driver qualification file requirements.

The proposed rule affecting medical examiners would create a National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (NRCME). To become certified, medical examiners would be required to complete training, pass a test and thereafter undergo periodic training and testing. This will help ensure that examinations are performed in accordance with the applicable regulations and medical standards established pursuant to those regulations.

As always, if you have any questions, call or email Concorde's VP of Operation and General Counsel, Art Cohen @ 215-523-8887 or art@concorde2000.com.