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FMCSA Mandated DOT Examination Process Changes

Effective April 20, 2016, the FMCSA is implementing changes to the existing DOT form. The medical examiner (ME) may use the current Medical Examiner's Report Form and Medical Examiner's Certificate until April 19, 2016 and then subsequently is required to use the revised **Medical Examiner's Report (MER) Form MCSA-5875** and the new **Medical Examiner's Certificate (MEC) Form MCSA-5876** and **CMV Driver Medical Examination Results Form MCSA-5850** beginning April 20, 2016.

What this means to individuals seeking DOT certification:

1. The ME must provide the qualified CMV driver with a paper copy of the MCSA-5876 form so that the Commercial Learner's Permit (CLP)/ Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Applicants/ Holders are able to provide a copy to the State Driver's Licensing Agency, and the non-CDL drivers are able to provide the documentation to their employers and government enforcement officials.
2. New determination from the examination: **Determination Pending**. This status allows the ME up to 45 days to obtain further medical information and/or examination results in order to make a determination as to whether or not the driver is physically qualified to drive a CMV with CFR 391.41 (b). The ME is required to inform the driver that:
 - a. The additional information and/or examination must be provided to the ME within 45 days
 - b. Determination Pending status will be reported to the FMCSAThe driver may continue to operate a CMV if he/she has a **current valid Medical Examination Certificate (MEC)**. If the requested information and/or examination results are not completed and provided to the ME within 45 days:
 - a. The examination is no longer valid
 - b. The driver is required to obtain a new examination in order to obtain a new MEC Form 5876.
3. The ME or staff must record what type of government-issued photo ID was used to verify the identity of the driver (e.g. CDL, driver's license, passport)
4. The driver is required to have a new examination with the expiration of the MEC. This new examination is **required** even if the MEC given has an expiry date of less than one year.
5. In order to lessen the need to have a repeat examination within a few months of the current examination, the driver should bring all information required at the examination (refer to DOT Exam Requirements Checklist)

What this means to employers:

1. A full DOT examination and charge will now be required once a driver's MEC expires, even for short-term certificates.
2. A driver with Determination Pending status can only drive if the previous MEC is still valid. If it is expired, the individual is ineligible to drive.

*The new forms are available on the FMCSA website