

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NOTE

No. 2020-01



Richard Corcoran, Commissioner

School Business Services
School Transportation Management

Contact: David Couch
Phone: 850-245-9795

Medical Examination Requirements for Technicians

TO: District School Transportation Directors

FROM: Robert Manspeaker, Director
School Transportation Management Section

DATE: January 14, 2020

SUBJECT: Medical Examination Requirements for Technicians

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Manspeaker".

The Florida Department of Education's School Transportation Management Section has received many inquiries regarding whether or not school bus mechanics (technicians) are required to have physical medical examinations and maintain a valid [MCSA-5876](#), Medical Examiner's Certificate (MEC).

Currently, there is no law or rule requiring physical medical examinations for technicians. However, technicians who also transport students must meet the same requirements as other Florida school bus operators, including a physical medical examination from a certified medical examiner registered with the [National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners](#), in accordance with [rule 6A-3.0141, Florida Administrative Code](#). For this reason, some school districts have chosen to require physical medical examinations for their technicians.

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations require all Commercial Driver License (CDL) holders to self-certify with each state's driver license agency in one of the following four categories:

Category A: Non-excepted Interstate (MEC required) – Operates or expects to operate a Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) in interstate commerce transporting goods or passengers across state borders or driving a CMV for any portion of a direct shipment into or out of the state, even though the driver may not personally drive across a border.

Category B: Excepted Interstate (MEC not required) – Operates or expects to operate a CMV in interstate commerce but engages exclusively in one of the following qualifying operations:

1. Driving for a federal, state or local government agency;
2. Occasionally transporting personal property, neither for compensation nor for the furtherance of a commercial enterprise;
3. Transporting medical patients or human corpses;
4. Conducting emergency operations;
5. Conducting custom harvesting; or
6. Conducting beekeeping.

Category C: Non-excepted Intrastate (MEC required) – Operates or expects to operate a CMV only in intrastate commerce.

Category D: Excepted Intrastate (MEC not required) – Operates or expects to operate a CMV only in intrastate commerce but engages exclusively in one of the following qualifying operations:

1. Driving for a federal, state or local government agency;
2. Occasionally transporting personal property, neither for compensation nor for the furtherance of a commercial enterprise;
3. Transporting medical patients or human corpses;
4. Conducting emergency operations;
5. Conducting custom harvesting; or
6. Conducting beekeeping.

All school bus operators must self-certify with the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FLHSMV) in one of the non-excepted categories A or C, both of which require a valid MEC. All other CDL holders not specifically included in category B or D must maintain their medical certification or downgrade to a non-commercial license. Failure to maintain a valid MEC filing with [FLHSMV](#) will result in a suspension of the CDL for those drivers certified in category A or C.

Florida's CDL Self-Certification system can be accessed at <https://services.flhsmv.gov/CDLMedCert/>.

If you have questions or need further information, please contact the School Transportation Management Section at 850-245-9795 or SCHTRANS@fldoe.org.

RM/rm

cc: Charter School Directors
Mark Eggers, Assistant Deputy Commissioner
Adam Emerson, Charter Schools Director
David Couch, Program Specialist