



CDL Drivers Not Required to Self-Report Out-of-State Convictions

The Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986 (CMVSA) was enacted to improve highway safety by ensuring that drivers of large trucks and buses are qualified to operate those vehicles and to remove unsafe and unqualified drivers from the highways. To achieve these goals, the CMVSA established the commercial driver's license (CDL) program and required states to ensure that drivers convicted of certain serious traffic violations are prohibited from operating commercial motor vehicles (CMVs). Although state participation in the CDL program is voluntary, CMVSA created incentives by conditioning certain federal highway and grant funding for states maintaining a certified CDL program. All 50 states and the District of Columbia currently maintain certified programs.

Current regulations require both CDL holders and states with certified CDL programs to report a CDL holder's out-of-state traffic conviction to the driver's state of licensure. States are required to file their report to the state-of-licensure within ten days of conviction, and drivers are required to notify their state of licensure within 30 days of conviction. To eliminate this reporting redundancy, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has amended the CDL regulations, effective May 28, 2013, to eliminate the requirement for drivers to notify the state licensing agency, which issued their commercial learners permit (CLP) or CDL, of out-of-state traffic convictions. States will continue to rely on state-to-state reporting, which is considered more accurate and secure than driver self-reporting.

For the complete text of the rulemaking, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/04/26/2013-09915/self-reporting-of-out-of-state-convictions>.

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