



Certifying the Certifiers for CMV Operators

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History and Current Status

Long History of Interest in Certifying Examiners (1978)

Congress mandated FMCSA to put forth program (2003)

Public hearing on proposal 12/01/08

Comments are in now regarding the hearing and we are in a "rule making" stage, so there is "no comments" being made about the rule yet

Guarantee: There will be a program and it will involve an education program and testing of examiners.

Potential Attributes of the Rule:

There will be 40 to 50 thousand examiners on the registry and it will be implemented sometime in the spring of 2010.

The program will possibly be introduced in a phased in approach with large, then small firms. Phase one could begin as late as one or two years after the date of the final rule.

After about three years, all CMV exams will be required to be done by examiners on the registry.

Examiners certified for 3 to 6 years with mechanism for registry removal.

Also, long forms will need to be held for three years and available for audit within 48 hours.

Examiners will be required to electronically transmit some limited data regarding drivers to FMCSA periodically.

Pro and Con

More standardized approach among examiners

Increase public safety (approx 10% of CMV drivers are given cards that don't qualify currently)

Less work in choosing examiners, as long as they are on the registry and in good standing

Increase government involvement, audits, certifications, compliance, etc.

May in some areas decrease accessibility and potentially drive up cost

May increase driver turnover until the dust settles

Increase travel and down time for examinations

Options for Now

Company issued medical guidelines that are "more strict" than basic standards and monitor for consistency among preferred examiners.

Partner with examiners to get their needs met regarding medical documentation and obtaining appropriate attestations of stability.

Choose examiners that have already gone through some level of certification program for DOT exams. ie: ACOEM or Concentra.

Discussion: Sleep Apnea

Carrier guidance (on an individual basis) for screening and testing

Direct help with decreasing turn around time for testing and reducing cost.

Help in providing consistency among centers providing exams and certification status.

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