

**North Carolina Medical Review Unit
Commercial Driver's License
Exemption Program**

Purpose: The purpose of the North Carolina medical waiver program is to ensure that each NC intrastate commercial driver's license holder can safely operate a commercial motor vehicle though the driver has a medical impairment.

The North Carolina Division of Motor of Vehicle's Medical Review Unit evaluates drivers who otherwise would not be approved to drive a commercial motor vehicle based on Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations but could safely operate a commercial motor vehicle if their condition is stable and they are monitored regularly. The NC Waiver Program is designed only for NC intrastate drivers who intend to drive interstate may contact the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration regarding their exemption programs. Their website is <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov>.

Waiver Program Options: Currently, North Carolina approves waivers for intrastate drivers (i.e. only drives within North Carolina) that would otherwise qualify for a DOT medical certificate and have completed a DOT physical examination within the last year. Waivers may be granted for up to, but no more than two years.

(1) Limb

- State limb waivers are valid for a maximum of two years.
- North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles requires a limb waiver for all intrastate CDL drivers that do not meet the minimum Federal limb requirements. Waivers are required for drivers who have a loss or impairment of a hand or finger which interferes with power grasping or an arm, foot, or leg or any other significant limb defect or limitation which interferes with the ability to perform normal tasks associated with the operation of a commercial motor vehicle.
- Drivers must submit the following forms:
 - CDL Waiver Cover Sheet
 - Copy of a current DOT Medical Examination Report Form (MCSA-5875) for Commercial Driver Certification (DOT Physical)
 - Vehicle Driving Condition Report Limb waiver form.

Drivers may request a limb waiver for ONE medical condition. The Medical Review Unit does not offer more than one waiver for each driver.

Approval of Waiver

Upon approval, the NC DMV Medical Review Unit will notify the driver by letter. This letter will set forth the terms, conditions, and limitations of the waiver. The driver must have the waiver in his/her possession whenever he/she is operating a commercial motor vehicle.

(2) Vision

According to the new FMCSA guidelines the North Carolina Division of Motor of Vehicle's Medical Review Unit no longer provides vision waivers. For additional questions please contact FMCSA.

The Qualification of Drivers; Vision Standard final rule (87 FR 3390, Jan. 21, 2022) requires that at least annually, an individual who does not satisfy, with the worse eye, either the distant visual acuity standard with corrective lenses or the field of vision standard, or both, must be medically examined and certified by a Medical Examiner as physically qualified to

operate a commercial motor vehicle. The Medical Examiner must receive a completed Vision Evaluation Report, Form MCSA-5871, that is signed and dated by an ophthalmologist or optometrist before each required physical qualification examination. The examination conducted by the Medical Examiner must begin not more than 45 days after an ophthalmologist or optometrist signs and dates the Vision Evaluation Report, Form MCSA-5871.