

On May 26, 2021, the United States Department of Transportation (DOT) released additional guidance on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic upon renewals of CDLs, CLPs, non-Commercial CDLs., and items that relate to a person being able to renew or keep a valid credential, in accordance to federal regulations. As with the guidance from December 2020 and February 2021, the DOT has allowed state discretion regarding extending the validity of credentials that expired on or after March 1, 2020, or the need to obtain medical certification, if it expired on or after December 15, 2020. The DOT has also waived the requirements of other aspects of the commercial driving program. Brief overview of the new DOT guidance is below. For full information, please go to DOT website (www.dot.gov, or [click here](#)).

Michigan has declined to do the following.

- Extend validity to CDLs that were due for renewal on or after March 1, 2020 beyond the 8-year maximum period of validity set forth in 49 CFR 383.73(b)(9) and 383.73(d)(6).
- Extend validity to CLPs that were due for renewal on or after March 1, 2020 beyond the one-year maximum period of validity set forth in 49 CFR 383.73(a)(2)(iii) and 383.25(c) **without requiring the CLP holders to retake the general and endorsement knowledge tests.**
- Allow CLP holders to take the CDL skills test **without waiting** 14 days after initial issuance of the CLP, as required by 49 CFR 383.25(e).

The Department of Transportation continues to do the following and Michigan will comply to these bullets below, only.

- Waives until August 31, 2021, the requirement under 49 CFR 391.45 that CDL holders, CLP holders, and non-CDL drivers have a medical examination and certification, so long as they have:
 - proof of a valid medical certification and any required medical variance¹ (such as an exemption letter or a skill performance evaluation certificate);
 - The certification was issued for a period of 90 days or longer; and
 - The certification was set to expire on or after December 1, 2020.
- Waives until August 31, 2021, the requirement that, in order to maintain the medical certification status of "certified," CDL or CLP holders provide an original or copy of a subsequently issued medical examiner's certificate and any required medical variance, provided they have proof of a valid medical certification or medical variance that expired on or after December 1, 2020.
- Waives until August 31, 2021, the requirement to change the CDL or CLP holder's medical certification status to "not certified" upon the expiration of the medical examiner's certificate or medical variance, provided they have proof of a valid medical certification or medical variance that expired on or after December 1, 2020.
- Waives until August 31, 2021, a CDL or CLP downgrade upon the expiration of the medical examiner's certificate or medical variance, provided the CDL or CLP holders have proof of a valid medical certification or medical variance that expired on or after December 1, 2020.

¹ as defined in 49 CFR 390.5T