

Inspection Bulletin

North American Standard Inspection Program

2020-02 - Roadside Examination of Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse Status

Created: Feb. 2, 2020 Revised: April 29, 2021 Revised: Sept. 2, 2021

Summary

This Inspection Bulletin provides directions to enforcement personnel on verifying a driver's status based on data from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) Commercial Driver's License Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse. This bulletin is for enforcement personnel who stop drivers with a commercial driver's license (CDL) or a commercial learner's permit (CLP) for a driver/vehicle examination (roadside inspection). It only applies to CDL or CLP holders. This applies to CDL or CLP holders in a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) as defined in Title 49 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) Part 390.5 and former CDL and CLP holders operating commercial motor vehicles requiring a CDL under 49 CFR Part 383.

Background

On Dec. 5, 2016, FMCSA published its Commercial Driver's License Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse final rule. As of Jan. 6, 2020, employers, or their designated representatives, and medical review officers, are required to report information about drug and alcohol program violations to the clearinghouse. Drivers with a drug or alcohol program violation are not permitted to perform safety-sensitive functions, including driving a CMV, until they have successfully completed the substance abuse professional (SAP) evaluation, referral and education treatment process set forth in 49 CFR Part 40, Subpart O, and have a negative return-to-duty test.

Enforcement personnel will verify a driver's status based on the clearinghouse data in either Query Central (QC) or Commercial Driver's License Information System (CDLIS) gateway. CDL status queries that do not go through CDLIS will not identify drivers (including U.S.-licensed drivers) prohibited from operating in the U.S. based upon drug and alcohol violation data reported to the clearinghouse. Law enforcement officials who do not currently have an active account on CDLIS may utilize FMCSA's Query Central system to determine if a driver is prohibited from operating a CMV due to drug and alcohol program violations.

Use of any other data systems to query the operating status of a CDL or CLP holder will not identify whether the driver is prohibited from operating a CMV due to drug and alcohol program violations. Safety gaps may exist if status queries for commercial drivers are not conducted through Query Central or CDLIS gateway.

Inspection Guidance

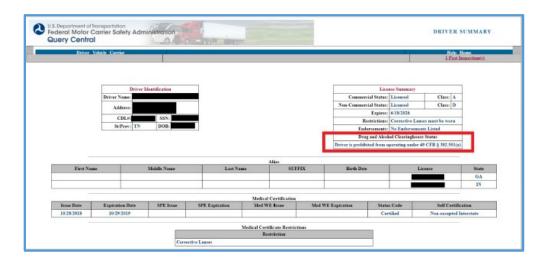
A driver found to be operating in a prohibited status should be cited for a violation of 49 CFR Part 390.3 – Prohibited from performing safety-sensitive functions per 382.501(a) in the Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse. This violation is an out-of-service condition in the CVSA North American Standard Out-of-Service Criteria and the driver will be placed out of service if found in a prohibited status.

Enforcement personnel may access QC at the driver level. Enter the driver's CDL information. QC will check the driver's eligibility status and return the results in the box on the upper right. See screen on next page.

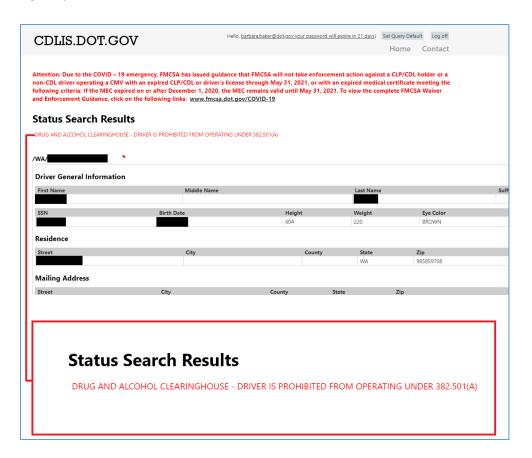
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Alternatively, enforcement personnel may access the Commercial Driver's License Information System (CDLIS) gateway. (cdlis.dot.gov) at the driver level. Enter the driver's CDL information. The results will reflect the driver's eligibility status under the Status Search Results header. See screen below.



For further information, contact FMCSA at clearinghouse@dot.gov.

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