



Inspection Bulletin

North American Standard Inspection Program

2020-04 – Commercial Driver’s License Queries Should Be Conducted Through CDLIS

Created: May 28, 2020

Revised: June 16, 2020

Summary

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is issuing this advisory to alert commercial motor vehicle (CMV) enforcement officials that safety gaps may exist if commercial driver’s license (CDL) status queries are not conducted through FMCSA’s Commercial Driver’s License Information System (CDLIS), or FMCSA’s Query Central; FMCSA recommends that CMV enforcement officials conduct CDL status queries through <https://cdlis.dot.gov> to obtain the most thorough results.

Background

The Foreign Convictions and Withdrawals Database (FCWD) is a Congressionally mandated system that serves as the repository of the U.S. conviction histories of drivers who hold a Canadian or Mexican CDL. The FCWD allows FMCSA to disqualify such drivers from operating in the U.S. if they are convicted of disqualifying offenses by one or more of the U.S. states. In this regard, FMCSA serves as the “51st state” to prohibit foreign CDL holders from operating in the U.S. based upon convictions for disqualifying offenses under 49 CFR § 383.51 that have been transmitted to the FCWD by the states. FMCSA disqualifies approximately 100 Mexican and Canadian licensed CMV drivers annually.

On Jan. 6, 2020, FMCSA implemented the new Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse. 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 prohibited from performing 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 result. If a CDL or commercial learner’s permit (CLP) holder has violation data in the clearinghouse and has not completed the return-to-duty process, the driver is prohibited from operating in the U.S. In the first two months after implementing the clearinghouse, more than 9,000 drivers have had information reported that makes them ineligible to drive in the U.S.

Potential safety gaps if CDL status queries do not access CDLIS

CDL status queries that do not go through CDLIS will not identify Mexican or Canadian licensed drivers who have been disqualified by FMCSA based on driving convictions in the U.S. Similarly, 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.

Use of any other data systems to query the operating status of a CDL or CLP holder will not identify whether the driver is subject to an FMCSA disqualification or is prohibited from operating a CMV due to drug and alcohol program violations.

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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; however, without a CDLIS account, they will not receive FCWD disqualification data for foreign drivers.

The table below summarizes various databases queried for CDL status and potential disqualification/prohibition information that is and is not returned.

Query Approach	Systems Queried for U.S. Drivers to Determine CDL Driver’s Overall Status	Systems Queried for Canadian or Mexican Drivers to Determine CDL Driver’s Overall Status
CDLIS	Data returned from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of record • Clearinghouse 	Data returned from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status from Canada province/territory and Mexico federal government • FCWD • Clearinghouse
Query Central without a CDLIS account	Data returned from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearinghouse 	Data returned from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearinghouse Data will not be returned from FCWD
Standard NLETS Query: Goes straight to licensing jurisdiction and does not query CDLIS	Data returned from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of record Data will not be returned from the clearinghouse	Data returned from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status from Canada province/territory and Mexico federal government Data will not be returned from FCWD or the clearinghouse
NLETS Query with CL destination code selected (This will query CDLIS)	Data returned from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of record Data will not be returned from the clearinghouse	Data returned from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status from Canada province/territory and Mexico federal government Data will not be returned from FCWD or the clearinghouse
Problem Driver Pointer System (PDPS)	Data returned from PDPS reflects data submitted to the national driver registry by all 51 U.S. jurisdictions on U.S. licensed drivers operating throughout the U.S. Data will not be returned from the clearinghouse	Data will not be returned from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada province/territory • Mexico federal government • FCWD • Clearinghouse
State-specific driver’s license query system	Data returned on their state’s licensed drivers Data will not be returned from the clearinghouse	Data will not be returned from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada province/territory • Mexico federal government • FCWD • Clearinghouse

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Below and on the following pages are screenshots for CDLIS and Query Central to provide examples of both queries when a foreign driver is subject to a FCWD disqualification or any driver is prohibited from operating a CMV due to drug and alcohol program violations.

FCWD – Query Central Screenshot

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
Query Central

DRIVER SUMMARY

[Driver](#)
[Vehicle](#)
[Carrier](#)

[Help](#)
[Home](#)

No Past Inspections

Driver Identification			
Driver Name:	[REDACTED]		
Address:	[REDACTED]		
CDL#:	[REDACTED]	SSN:	N/A
St/Prov:	BC	DOB:	[REDACTED]

License Summary		
Commercial Status:	Not Eligible	Class: A
Non-Commercial Status:	Licensed	Class: 5
Expires:	3/20/2025	
Restrictions:	No Restrictions Listed	
Endorsements:	Passenger	
Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse Status		
Not prohibited		

Conviction History								
Citation Date	Conviction Date	Conviction ID	Conviction State	Court Type	OFFENSE	CMV	HAZMAT	
4/18/2018	5/10/2018	1	WA	District	S16 - 16-20 >SPEED LIMIT(DETAIL OPTIONAL)	Yes	No	
12/7/2007	12/7/2007	2	WA	Admin Adjud	A98 - ADMINISTRATIVE PER SE FOR BAC AT OR OVER .08	No	No	

Withdrawal History								
Withdrawal ID	Effective Date	Elig. Date	Rein. Date	Action	ACD Code	STATE	Basis	Extent
1	12/5/2019	12/5/2020		Disqualified	A98 - ADMINISTRATIVE PER SE FOR BAC AT OR OVER .08		Administrative Per Se	Commercial
2	2/6/2008	5/6/2008		Other withdrawal	A98 - ADMINISTRATIVE PER SE FOR BAC AT OR OVER .08		Administrative Per Se	All

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FCWD – CDLIS Screenshot

History Search Results

/BC/5203810 202004151037527227A5093WS

Driver General Information

First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Suffix
██████████	██████████	██████████	
SSN	Birth Date	Height	Weight
N/A	██████████	506	176
Eye Color		Sex	
		M	

Residence

Street	City	County	State	Zip	Country
██████████	██████████		BC	██████████	

Mailing Address

Street	City	County	State	Zip	Country
██████████	██████████		BC	██████████	Canada

Driver License Details

Jurisdiction	Driver License	Issue Date	Exp. Date	Commercial Class	Non Commercial Class	Commercial Status	Non Commercial Status	Withdrawal Action Pending
BC	██████████	2020-02-08	2025-03-20	A	5	Not Eligible	Licensed	No

Endorsements

Value				
Passenger				
Conversions #	Accidents #	Withdrawals #	Permits #	License Restrictions #
2	0	2	0	00

Convictions

Citation Date	Conviction Date	Conviction ID	State of Conviction	Court Type	ACD Code	ACD Detail	CDL Holder	CMV	Hazmat	Locator Reference	State Code
2018-04-18	2018-05-10	A0	WA	District	S16 - 16-20 > REGULATED OR POSTED SPEED LIMIT (DETAIL OPTIONAL)		Yes	Yes	No	WA029023J	0A
2007-12-07	2007-12-07	A1	WA	Admin Adjud	A98 - ADMINISTRATIVE PER SE FOR .08 BAC		Yes	No	No	CNV309192.0	A98

Withdrawals

Effective Date	Elig. Date	Rein. Date	Withdrawal ID	Linkage	Action	ACD Code	State	Basis	Extent	Locator Reference	Reason Ref Code	Due Process Status
2019-12-05	2020-12-05		A1	A1	Disqualified	A98 - ADMINISTRATIVE PER SE FOR .08 BAC	FH	Administrative Per Se	Commercial	191122172150b2f7	FH172150	Hearing offered but not requested
2008-02-06	2008-05-06		A0	A1	Other withdrawal	A98 - ADMINISTRATIVE PER SE FOR .08 BAC	WA	Administrative Per Se	All	1403322371	A98	Not Defined

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Clearinghouse – Query Central Screenshot

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
Query Central

DRIVER SUMMARY

Driver, Vehicle, Carrier Help, Home
(Last January 1st)

Driver Identification		License Summary	
Driver Name:	[REDACTED]	Commercial Status:	Licensed Class: A
Address:	[REDACTED]	Non-Commercial Status:	Licensed Class: D
CDL#:	[REDACTED]	Expires:	6/15/2026
SSN:	[REDACTED]	Restrictions:	Corrective Lenses must be worn
St/Prov:	IN	DOB:	[REDACTED]
		Endorsements:	No Endorsements Listed
		Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse Status:	Driver is prohibited from operating under 49 CFR § 382.501(a)

First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	SUFFIX	Birth Date	License	State
					[REDACTED]	GA
					[REDACTED]	IN

Medical Certification							
Issue Date	Expiration Date	SPE Issue	SPE Expiration	Med WE Issue	Med WE Expiration	Status Code	Self Certification
10/28/2018	10/28/2019					Certified	Non-excepted Interstate

Medical Certificate Restrictions	
Restriction	
Corrective Lenses	

Clearinghouse – CDLIS Screenshot

History Search Results

Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse - Driver is prohibited from operating under 382.501(a)

/MX/ [REDACTED] 202004151253163817CC186WS

Driver General Information

First Name	Last Name				
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]				
BFC	Birth Date	Height	Weight	Eye Color	Sex
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	505	175	N/A	M

Mailing Address

Street	City	County	State	Zip	Country
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	0	Mexico

Driver License Details

Jurisdiction	Driver License	Issue Date	Exp. Date	Commercial Class	Non Commercial Class	Commercial Status	Non Commercial Status	Withdrawal Action Pending
MX	[REDACTED]	2018-02-02	2022-02-02	A	N/A	Eligible	N/A	No

Endorsements

Value	
Doubles/Triples	
Tank	

Medical Certification

Issue Date	Expiration Date	Status Code	Self Certification
2018-01-10	2020-01-10	Certified	Non-excepted Interstate

License Restrictions

Restriction	Expiration Date
Corrective Lenses must be worn	

Convictions #	Accidents #	Withdrawals #	Permits #	License Restrictions #
0	0	0	0	1

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Inspection Guidance

Federal and state enforcement personnel should cite the following violation if a foreign CDL or CLP holder is discovered operating in the U.S. when disqualified per CDLIS:

- 49 CFR § 383.51(a)-SOUT – Driving a CMV while CDL is suspended for safety-related or unknown reason and outside the state of driver's license issuance.

Federal and state enforcement personnel should cite the following violation if a driver is found to be operating in a prohibited status based on clearinghouse information:

- 49 CFR § 390.3 – Prohibited from performing safety-sensitive functions per § 382.501(a) in the Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse.

Both violations are out-of-service conditions in the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) North American Standard Out-of-Service Criteria (OOSC) and the driver should be placed out of service if found to be operating while in a prohibited status.

State law enforcement officials seeking a CDLIS account should complete an account request form which may be requested by sending an email to FMCTechsup@dot.gov. The completed form and associated rules of behavior should be submitted to the appropriate FMCSA division office for approval. Once the account is set up, FMCTechsup@dot.gov will send an e-mail to the user with a link to set up their password and obtain access.

For questions on FCWD disqualifications: State law enforcement officials should contact Michael Gordon, FMCSA CDL Division, at 304-549-2651 or michael.gordon2@dot.gov, or Carla Vagnini, FMCSA North American Borders Division, at 202-366-3771 or carla.vagnini@dot.gov.

For any additional clearinghouse information or questions, contact the clearinghouse team at DACHenforcement@dot.gov.