



Inspection Bulletin

North American Standard Inspection Program

2021-04 – Mexican Federal Licenses

Created: April 29, 2021

Summary

On April 1, 2021, Mexico's Ministry of Communication and Transportation (SCT) implemented its federal digital driver's license (FDDL) program. As of April 1, 2021, all Mexican commercial driver's license (CDL) credentials will be produced in a digital format and the printing of such documents on plastic material has been discontinued. Enforcement officials who engage with Mexico-licensed drivers will begin to see licenses presented through the driver's smartphone and will need to recognize and accept valid CDL formats, including the new digital license and the traditional plastic licenses, which will remain valid until their expiration date. This bulletin will assist enforcement personnel to recognize valid CDL formats, identify relevant data fields and determine the status of the CDL for Mexico-licensed drivers.

Background

On Nov. 19, 1991, U.S. and Mexican states signed a memorandum of understanding that allowed the reciprocal recognition of CDLs and allowed CDL holders to operate commercial motor vehicles in each other's territory. Similarly, on March 1, 1994, Transport Canada and the SCT entered into a memorandum of understanding allowing for CDL reciprocity.

The transportation of persons and property across the U.S.-Mexico border is an integral part of both countries' economies and resulted in approximately 6.45 million border crossings by commercial motor vehicles in 2020 alone. These border crossings were largely accomplished by the 97,705 drivers licensed, as of February 2021, to operate commercial motor vehicles internationally by the SCT. In furtherance of the motor carrier safety mission, U.S. jurisdictions report conducting more than 250,000 roadside inspections on Mexico-domiciled motor carriers every year.

Regulatory Information

On Feb. 15, 2021, Mexico's SCT published new rules to require the issuance of the federal digital driver's license (FDDL) in place of the traditional plastic CDL credential for Mexico-licensed drivers. The objectives of the new rules are to make the Mexican federal licenses procedures more expeditious and to provide greater user confidence regarding their authenticity and security in the handling and exchange of personal information through the principles of technological innovation, regulatory improvement, transparency and increased public engagement.

The FDDL rules went into effect on April 1, 2021, with the following provisions:

- Dictates that all licenses will be issued in a digital format beginning on April 1, 2021
- Retains the validity of all plastic CDL credentials until their expiration date
- Requires the SCT to develop a mobile application (app) to allow license holders to download their FDDL to their smartphone or print a copy of their FDDL, valid for 30 days from the date of printing
- Mandates the use of QR codes or other similar technology for the verification of FDDLs by Mexican enforcement officials

© 2021 Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance All rights reserved.



2021-04 – Mexican Federal Licenses

Current Valid Mexican CDLs

There are currently three valid formats of the CDLs issued by the SCT. In addition, there is a temporary print version that is valid for 30 days after printing.

As outlined in CVSA’s Licencia Federal de Conductor (LFC) inspection schematic, the following examples represent the two current valid plastic formats (physical) of the CDLs issued by the SCT. These plastic CDLs will be phased out by 2025.

Plastic Format #1



1	Licencia Federal de Conductor
2	Driver's License Number
3	Validity Period
4	Original Issuance Date
5	Driver's Name
6	Date of Birth
7	License Class
8	Corrective Lenses Restriction
9	Phrases of Classes, Endorsements and Restrictions
10	eLicencias

2021-04 – Mexican Federal Licenses

Plastic Format #2



1	Licencia Federal de Conductor
2	Driver's License Number
3	Validity Period
4	Original Issuance Date
5	Driver's Name
6	Date of Birth
7	License Class
8	Corrective Lenses Restriction
9	Phrases of Classes, Endorsements and Restrictions
10	eLicencias

2021-04 – Mexican Federal Licenses

The following represents the new (digital) format of the CDLs issued by the SCT.

New Digital Format

COMUNICACIONES
SECRETARÍA DE TRANSPORTES Y INFRAESTRUCTURA

LICENCIA FEDERAL CONDUCTOR 1

2

No. de Licencia: 3

FIRMA DEL TITULAR DE LA LICENCIA

4 CURP

5 NACIONALIDAD
MÉXICO

6 VIGENCIA
24/03/2021 - 24/03/2025

7 ANTIGÜEDAD
24/03/2021

8 CATEGORÍA
B, E

9 Válida solo para circular en la República Mexicana. Esta licencia podrá renovarse a partir de 24/02/2023.

10 NO. EXPEDIENTE MÉDICO

11 OBSERVACIONES

LENTES	NO
DIABETES	NO
HIPERTENSIÓN	NO

AUTORIZACIÓN
Ventanilla Única Dictaminación Auto
24/03/2021 12:31:32

12 Salomón Elnecavil Korish
Director General de Autotransporte Federal

Esta licencia se otorga con base en lo dispuesto en el artículo 000 de la Ley Reglamentaria de la Dirección de Autotransporte Federal

1	Licencia Federal de Conductor
2	Driver's Name
3	Driver's License Number
4	Unique Identification Number Population Registry
5	Nationality
6	Validity Period
7	Original Issuance Date
8	License Class
9	National or International Designation
10	Medical Certificate Number
11	Phrases of Classes, Endorsements and Restrictions
12	Issue Date and Time Through the Single Window System

2021-04 – Mexican Federal Licenses

Validity of Various CDL Formats

The SCT issued the license in Plastic Format #1 with the validity period reflected on that CDL with a maximum term limit that will expire on Jan. 15, 2023.

The SCT issued the license in Plastic Format #2 with the validity period reflected on that CDL with a maximum term limit that will expire on March 31, 2025.

The SCT is currently issuing FDDLs in the digital format. All FDDL licenses are valid for four years, except Class “E” which is valid for two years. Refer to the CVSA North American Standard Out-of-Service Criteria Handbook for the Licencia Federal de Conductor inspection schematic. It provides guidance for Mexico’s CDLs and class equivalency as the classes differ from jurisdictions in Canada and the U.S.

The paper format of the digital FDDL is valid for 30 days from the day it is printed and can be printed as many times as the driver requires, as long as the license is valid.

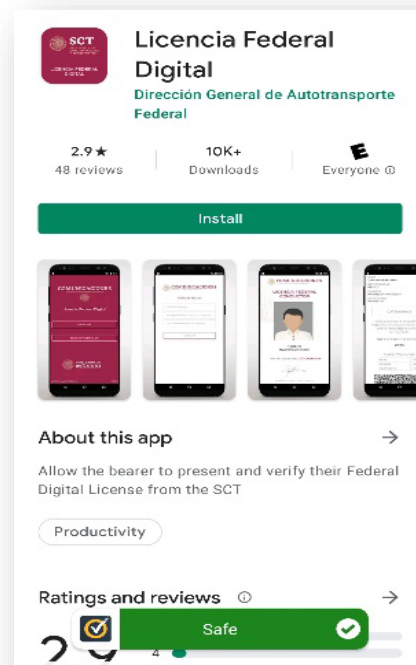
Verification of CDLs/FDDLs

The status of Mexican CDLs and FDDLs should always be verified electronically. For U.S. jurisdictions, a query may be submitted through the International Justice and Public Safety Network (NIets), the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration’s Commercial Driver’s License Information System (CDLIS), using CDLIS.dot.gov, or through FMCSA’s other query interfaces.

For Mexican or Canadian jurisdictions, queries may be submitted through the SCT’s website at <http://app.sct.gob.mx/ConsultaInfracciones/detalleLicFederal.do>.

App Downloads

The SCT’s driver app can be downloaded from the major app stores under the name “Licencia Federal Digital.”



2021-04 – Mexican Federal Licenses

Inspection Guidance

During an inspection of a Mexican CDL driver, the inspector must take into consideration the three different formats of LFCs that are currently valid and the one-month temporary printed format.

If the driver produces a printed copy of the Mexican CDL, ensure it is valid and not older than 30 days. Refer to the illustration on page 6 for the location of the print date.

In all cases, the driver's credentials should be confirmed by querying the license through CDLIS.dot.gov, Nlets or other FMCSA interfaces, or by accessing the SCT's website.