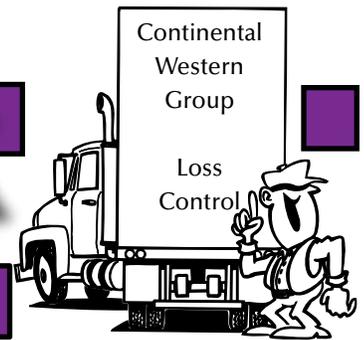
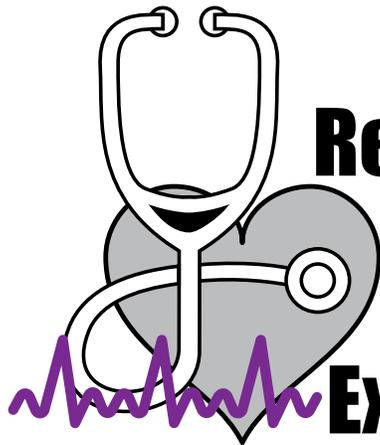


Truck Talk



April 2006



National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is proposing to establish a National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (NRCME). The proposed NRCME will provide a list of medical examiners authorized to examine interstate truck and motor coach operators and effectively determine their physical qualifications to operate commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) in interstate commerce. A national database of certified medical examiners who have received training to perform such examinations will ensure these examiners are knowledgeable of driver qualification standards and guidelines. It will also help the medical examiner better understand the physical and mental demands of driving a commercial vehicle. The medical examiner will perform physical examinations with full awareness of the conditions under which drivers work.

Information about the proposed NRCME certified medical examiners will be made available to CMV operators through the NRCME website. A resource center with a toll-free phone number will also be available. The NRCME website will also provide program information to the certified medical examiners, medical examiners who wish to become certified, and to the interested public.

The proposed objectives of the NRCME are to:

- maintain ongoing competency of medical examiners through training, testing, certification, and recertification;
- ensure medical examiners fully understand the medical standards in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) and how they apply to CMV operators;
- ensure that the list of certified medical examiners is easily accessible;

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- promote public confidence in the quality of the medical examinations of CMV operators; and disseminate information about the medical examination of CMV operators to meet the objectives of the President's strategy for e-government.

For more information go to: <http://www.nrcme.fmcsa.dot.gov/>.

New Kansas Program to Focus on Highway Safety

The Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) and the Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) are joining efforts to enhance the Kansas Safety Compliance Program through the newly created Civil Assessment Penalty Program. Their goal; **to reduce the number of injury/fatality accidents involving commercial motor vehicles.**

The new program emphasizes the responsibilities of drivers and motor carriers under the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSR) regarding "out-of-service" violations. These violations are serious and require a driver or vehicle be removed from service until the violations are corrected. This category of violations was established through the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA). CVSA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving motor carrier safety. CVSA consists of federal and state regulatory agencies, along with representation from the motor carrier industry.

Effective January 1, 2006, KHP officers are re-emphasizing the issuing of misdemeanor citations to drivers for out-of-service violations of the FMCSR discovered during roadside safety inspections. This change in policy emphasizes the drivers' responsibilities and holds them accountable for areas under their purview.

Beginning April 1, 2006, the KCC will assess civil penalties to motor carriers for out-of-service violations of the FMCSR. This component of the program emphasizes the responsibility of motor carriers to assure compliance with the FMCSR and holds them accountable for any failure to comply. For more information go to: www.kcc.state.ks.us.

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