



**JESSE WHITE**  
SECRETARY OF STATE

## NEW FEDERAL CDL/MEDICAL MERGE CRITERIA

This cover letter will help you interpret the accompanying document. Effective January 30, 2012, all drivers applying for an Illinois CDL for the first time; and all current CDL holders renewing, upgrading or replacing their CDL must visit a CDL facility to declare which category of driver they are.

In order to meet this federal requirement, you must appear in person at one of the 47 Illinois CDL facilities to declare what category of driver you are or intend to be, and this must be accomplished before January 30, 2014. If you are a current CDL holder and you look at the expiration date on your license and if it expires between January 30, 2012 through January 30, 2014, you are required to visit a CDL facility and do both requirements at the same time. You would first declare what type of driver you are and then you would renew your CDL within that same facility visit. However, if your license does not expire during this two-year window, then you must personally visit one of the 47 CDL facilities to declare what classification of driver you will be. There will be four (4) choices for you to pick from:

1. Non-excepted interstate driver (NI)
2. Excepted interstate driver (EI)
3. Non-excepted intrastate driver (NA)
4. Excepted intrastate driver (EA)

If you mark #1 (NI), then your current DOT Medical Card must be given to the facility employee prior to being allowed to renew your license. All of the pertinent medical information which we need from your card will be loaded onto your driver's file. Then three (3) things will happen:

- a. This information will be immediately submitted to CDLIS.
- b. Your driving record will be instantly updated in real-time, so all law enforcement officials throughout the U.S. will be able to see that you are an interstate driver and should have all of your updated medical information on file.
- c. Your driving record will show the updated medical information in which you just provided, which then can be used in your company driver file by your employer.

If you marked #2 (EI), #3 (NA) or #4 (EA) we will renew your CDL as before without asking for any medical information off of your DOT Medical Card. Keep in mind, that all law enforcement officials in the U.S. will show that you did not declare as an interstate driver. So, if caught in an interstate operation you will be medically out of compliance. Anytime your driver's situation changes, you must notify our office so we may change your certification and the new information be sent out nationally.

If you are a first time driver applying for a CDL, you are required to do the above procedure effective January 30, 2012. As above, if you mark #1 (NI) we will not be able to allow you to obtain a commercial driver's license until you provide us the current medical information off of your DOT card. After this is done on your initial visit, you will then follow the above procedures of existing CDL drivers today.

If you have any questions about this new federal law and how it affects you and your commercial driver's license, you may call our CDL Medical area at (217)-785-3002.