

## **Basic explanation of the Self Certifications for CDL**

A key reminder is that **you must submit a new medical certificate before its expiration date** – that might be three months, six months, nine months, one year – whatever that date is the date that will be tied to your CDL driving privileges – not your underlying operator license, just your CDL privileges. If your CDL privileges are removed due to an expired medical certificate, you will have to go through whatever steps are needed to restore your license and pay whatever fees are associated with that. So it is vital to stay on top of the expiration dates of your medical cards. **If your card is expired, you will not be eligible to drive commercially until you get the medical card renewed.** Stay aware of the expiration dates on your medical cards, and make sure your certifications are current.

One of the first things that drivers must do is certify to one of four driving types. They are: non-excepted interstate, excepted interstate, non excepted intrastate, and excepted intrastate. These sound very confusing and they can be. There are many categories and exceptions to these categories. Let's break these down a bit and make it a little easier to understand.

The first question to ask is “Am I currently required to be carrying a medical card?” If your answer to this question is yes, then you are certifying to non-excepted. The basic meaning of non-excepted is that you do not have a legal exception from carrying a medical card. If your answer to this question is no, then you are certifying as excepted, meaning that you have a legal exception from carrying a medical card.

The next question to ask is if the materials you are carrying commercially is going to be crossing the state borders. If the answer is yes, then you certify to driving interstate. If the load never crosses state borders, then you are an intrastate driver.

That is the basics of the self certification. Note that **the only time the Department of State is required to collect your medical certificate is if you certify to non-excepted interstate.** If you certify to non-excepted interstate, then we will need to collect the additional information that is carried on your medical cards.

Emphasize that these **certifications are required any time you renew, correct, or get an original CDL license.** Also, if your medical certificate is required, we collect and store all of the information on your medical card on our computer system.

Emphasize that these **certifications do not cost anything to do.** They do not have to be done with any transactions in the branch, so if the type of driving you will be doing changes, you can simply go online and recertify to the new driving type. We have really tried to make this as simple as possible to do. There is a new website just for this project – [www.michigan.gov/CDL](http://www.michigan.gov/CDL). This will take you to frequently asked questions, links to the CDL manual, and the forms that you need to complete. The website was designed to allow you to do this from your office or your home and never have to come into the branch office. That branch office option is always available, as is the ability to print the form and fax or mail it into the CDL Help Desk.