

From: [SOS, Third Party Testing](#)
To: [SOS, Third Party Testing](#)
Subject: Notice to truck schools and CDL testers 5-1-15
Date: Friday, May 01, 2015 4:16:27 PM
Attachments: [Notice to truck schools and CDL testers 5-1-15.pdf](#)

The attached message describes changes to Michigan CDL issuance policies. Email drivered@michigan.gov or thirdpartytesting@michigan.gov, or call 517-241-6850 if you have questions.



STATE OF MICHIGAN
RUTH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

May 1, 2015

CHANGES TO MICHIGAN CDL ISSUANCE POLICIES

You are receiving this message because you operate a truck driver school or a driver testing business that conducts commercial driver license (CDL) driving skills tests. New federal rules require Michigan to implement certain changes in how CDLs are issued. This notice describes some of those changes.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS PROHIBITED (May 4, 2015)

Interpreters will not be allowed to assist applicants with the written CDL knowledge tests at Secretary of State Branch offices. This policy is effective beginning Monday, May 4, 2015.

Interpreters also are not allowed to assist with CDL driving skills tests. Hearing-impaired applicants should contact a tester to learn about the availability of special procedures for their CDL driving skills tests.

WAITING PERIOD FOR A CDL SKILLS TEST (July 8, 2015)

An applicant for a CDL must hold a Commercial Learner's Permit—the CDL temporary instruction permit—for 14 days prior to taking a CDL driving skills test. This policy is effective beginning July 8, 2015.

Also, all CDL skills tests are subject to observation by State and Federal officials. CDL skills testers must report each scheduled CDL skills test at least two business days prior to the test.

NEW CDL RESTRICTIONS (July 8, 2015)

Manual transmission- A driver who tests in a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) equipped with an automatic transmission is restricted from driving a CMV equipped with a manual transmission.

Tractor/trailer- A driver who tests for a CDL group A designation in a CMV that is not a tractor/trailer combination vehicle will be restricted from driving a tractor/trailer combination vehicle.

Partial air brake- A driver who tests in a CMV equipped with an air-over-hydraulic brake system will be restricted from driving a vehicle equipped with a full air brake system.

These new restrictions are in addition to current CDL restrictions. They become effective beginning July 8, 2015. CDL testers will receive details regarding how to administer modified skills tests to clear these new restrictions.

Contact Driver Programs Division if you have questions.