



Commercial Non-Domicile Program

PLEASE NOTE: This information is subject to change as more information is received from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).

FMCSA has issued an interim final rule (IFR) that makes immediate changes to the eligibility and issuance requirements for Non-Domiciled commercial driver licenses (CDL) and commercial learner permits (CLP). The new requirements are effective as of September 29, 2025. The RMV was notified on Friday, September 26, 2025, by the US Department of Transportation and FMCSA of the following:

- Starting September 29, 2025, all issuances must comply with the new eligibility requirements to issue a Non-Domiciled CLP or CDL.
- All states must pause their Non-Domiciled CDL Program until they can meet the IFR requirements. **Note:** As required by FMCSA, the RMV has paused issuance of Non-Domiciled CLPs and CDLs, and related transactions and testing while we update our policies and business system to be compliant with the new requirements.
- Once the RMV resumes processing Non-Domiciled CLP and CDL transactions, they must be conducted in person at the RMV. This applies to every renewal, transfer, upgrade, amendment, endorsement, correction, reprint or other duplication of a previously issued Non-Domiciled CLP or CDL.
- Only those applicants with lawful status in the United States in one of the following employment-based nonimmigrant categories will be eligible for a Non-Domiciled CLP or CDL:
 - H-2A (Temporary Agricultural Workers); or
 - H-2B (Temporary Non-Agricultural Workers); or
 - E-2 (Treaty Investors)

Application must also be accompanied by I-94/I-94A (Arrival/Departure Record) and unexpired passport.

- The expiration date for any non-domiciled CLP or CDL should match the expiration date of the Form I-94/I-94A or 1 year, whichever is sooner.

- These changes also require current Non-Domiciled license holders to meet these new requirements for their next renewal. Non-Domiciled permit holders will also need to meet the new requirements when renewing or scheduling a CDL Skills Test. We anticipate that there will be some drivers that will no longer be eligible based on the IFR.

Immediate Impacts

- MA Non-Domiciled CLP holders cannot schedule or take a commercial Skills Test.
 - The RMV is reaching out to these drivers.
- Until the RMV is able to resume the Non-Domiciled Program and is able to evaluate eligibility under the IFR:
 - Massachusetts Non-Domiciled CDL license holders cannot renew or upgrade, amend, or order a duplicate of their CDL.
 - The RMV cannot convert Non-Domiciled CDLs from other states.
 - The RMV cannot process any new applications for a Non-Domiciled CLP or CDL.

FAQs

Q: *I already have a Non-Domiciled CDL and I'm expiring next month, what do I do?*

A: *Based on FMCSA guidance, until the RMV is able to resume their Non-Domiciled CDL program in compliance with the new federal interim rule, you will not be able to renew. You do have the option to downgrade to a Class D license, but you **cannot operate a commercial motor vehicle** with an expired CDL or a Class D license*

To obtain a Class D License, please call us at 617-657-3623 to set up an appointment to visit one of our Service Centers.

Q: *Can I use my EAD card to get my CDL?*

A: *No. An EAD card can no longer be accepted to obtain your Non-Domiciled CDL. Going forward, you will be required to provide your I-94/I-94A and unexpired passport with the H-2A, H-2B, and E-2 VISA statuses. If you cannot provide one of these documents, you will not be eligible to apply for a Non-Domiciled CDL.*

- Q:** *I already have a CDL Skills Test scheduled, what do I do?*
- A:** *Unfortunately, your CDL Skills Test will be canceled. If you have submitted a payment for CDL Skills Test, a refund will be issued to the payor on file. Once the RMV is able to resume issuing Non-Domiciled CDLs, we can review your eligibility to make sure the documents you provided us with comply with the IFR. If the documents do not comply, you may provide updated documents that meet the requirements. If approved, you can move forward with booking another CDL Skills Test.*
- Q:** *I am trying to pay my fees and schedule my CDL Skills Test. Can I still schedule it?*
- A:** *No. Due to the FMCSA required pause, no CDL Skills Testing for Non-Domiciled CLP holders can occur. Once the RMV is able to resume issuing Non-Domiciled CDLs, we can review your eligibility to make sure the documents you provided us with comply with the IFR. If they do, you can provide updated documents that meet the requirements, you can move forward booking a CDL Skills Test.*
- Q:** *I start a job next week and my CDL is required. They told me that they will put me through school and get me all squared away. Can I still go work for them?*
- A:** *You should talk to your new employer about the requirements for the role. If a CDL is required, and you are applying for a Non-Domiciled CDL, the RMV is currently unable to process that application.*
- Q:** *I wanted to come in to add the airbrakes endorsement to my Non-Domiciled CDL. Can I still do that?*
- A:** *No. The RMV is currently unable to process any transactions on a Non-Domiciled CDL while we are updating our system to comply with the IFR. Once we are able to resume processing transactions, you will be able to add the endorsements for which you are eligible and as long as the transaction is compliant with the new regulations.*
- Q:** *I just moved here from Connecticut. Can I convert my Non-Domicile CDL to Massachusetts?*
- A:** *No. Currently, Massachusetts RMV is unable to process any out of state conversions of Non-Domiciled CDLs. Once we can resume this transaction, we can look at the documents you provided us to ensure that you are eligible based on the IFR.*

- Q:** *Is Massachusetts the only state that can't process any transactions on Non-Domiciled CDLs and CLPs?*
- A:** *We encourage you to reach out to a specific state directly with any questions about their policies and processes. FMCSA directed all states to pause issuing Non-Domiciled CLPs and CDLs until they become compliant with the IFR.*
- Q:** *When will you be able to start issuing Non-Domiciled CLPs and CDLs again?*
- A:** *We do not know yet. We are working as quickly as possible on implementing the required system and policy changes enabling us to resume issuing Non-Domiciled CLPs and CDLs to applicants meeting the new requirements in the IFR. We will provide updates as they become available.*
- Q:** *I just tried to renew my CDL online. Why is it not allowing me to renew?*
- A:** *All transactions for Non-Domiciled CDLs have been paused while we make the required system and policy changes to comply with the new eligibility and issuance requirements in the IFR. Going forward, as we implement these changes, the IFR requires all Non-Domiciled CLP and CDL related transactions to be processed in person at one of our Service Center locations.*
- Q:** *I just hired some people who need to get their Non-Domiciled CDLs. What do I do now?*
- A:** *Your new employees will not be able to apply for their Non-Domiciled CDL until we resume issuing Non-Domicile CDL licenses. Once we resume, we can look at the documents they provide us to ensure that they are eligible based on the new regulations. Your employees will need to have an I-94/I-94A with an unexpired passport and either an H-2A, H-2B, or E-2 VISA status.*
- Q:** *I have school bus drivers who have Non-Domiciled CDLs. What do they need to do?*
- A:** *If their CDL is still active, they do not need to do anything at this time. But if their CDL expires before the RMV is able to resume issuing Non-Domiciled CDLs, then they will not be able to renew until the program resumes.*

Note: Once the RMV is able to resume, we can review your employees' eligibility to make sure the documents they provided us with comply with the IFR. If they do, or if they can provide updated documents that meet the requirements, they can move forward with renewal.

Q: *I meet the new requirements, why can't I renew now?*

A: *The RMV is required to pause the entire Non-Domiciled CDL program until their business and system changes are compliant with the IFR. Until we are able to resume performing transactions on Non-Domiciled CDLs, you will not be able to renew.*

*If your Non-Domiciled CDL is expiring, you do have the option to downgrade to a Class D license, but you **cannot operate a commercial motor vehicle** with an expired CDL or a Class D License. To downgrade, please call our Contact Center at 857-368-8000 to set up an appointment to visit one of our Service Centers.*

Q: *I have a Non-Domiciled CLP or CDL, but I no longer meet the eligibility requirements under the IFR, what can I do?*

A: *Non-Domiciled CLPs and CDLs that were issued prior to September 29, 2025, in accordance with the applicable regulations in effect at that time remain valid until their expiration.*

Q: *What happens if the RMV receives information that a Non-Domiciled CDL or CLP holder no longer has a lawful immigration status in the United States?*

A: *If the RMV receives this information from FMCSA, DHS, the State Department, or any Federal agency with jurisdiction, the RMV is required to initiate a downgrade of the CDL or CLP within 30 days of receipt of such information.*

Q: *Who should customers contact for more information?*

A: *The U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration can be reached at 1-800-832-5660 or fmcsa.dot.gov.*