

Registry of Motor Vehicles

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Commercial Drivers Program Updates

Legislative Changes

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An Act Relative to Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDL) – amendment to Chapter 90F, Section 9

Lifetime Disqualification

- Limits lifetime disqualification to exclude passenger vehicle offenses that occurred before the federal implementation deadline of 9/30/05, except where required by federal law or in instances where a driver has 3 or more convictions for operating under the influence.
- Drivers disqualified for life or ineligible for a CDL under MA law for certain offenses occurring prior to 9/30/05, may have the ability to restore or obtain their commercial driving privilege.

Reinstatement & Rehabilitation Program

The RMV is drafting regulations to develop a federally compliant reinstatement and rehabilitation program for lifetime disqualified commercial drivers in MA. As required by the new legislation, the RMV will promulgate regulations by July 1, 2025 defining the parameters of the program.

Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse (DACH) Update

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- On 11/18/24, as required by federal law, MA joined the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) program called the Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse (DACH).
- This program requires a process to check the DACH to identify prohibited commercial drivers.
- Prohibited drivers are subject to a driver's license downgrade unless the customer completes certain required steps in a return-to-duty (RTD) process within 60 days.

To Date

- At go-live, 745 drivers were in prohibited status. Since then, **20.5%** (152) have completed their RTD process.
- Since go-live, 110 drivers have entered prohibited status. Of them, **23%** (25) have completed their RTD process to date.



Let's Get REAL ID Ready!

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- **56%** adoption rate of REAL ID with goal of 60% by May 7th.
- RMV promotions/campaign include:
 - 12-week marketing campaign launched at MBTA (subway, commuter rail, bus) in January
 - Visits to Worcester airport with informational table
 - Mass Municipal Conference in Boston to share adoption rates by county
 - Informational table at AAA Travel Expo held at Gillette Stadium
 - Increased awareness at RMV Service Centers and AAA sites



Vehicle Inspection Station Equipment Rollout

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- Upgrade and installation of the Inspection Station Workstation as required in the recently executed Vehicle Inspection contract extension between with the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV), Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), and Opus Technologies.
- The station network consists of 1,850 workstations (excluding motorcycle).
- Starting in March 2025, the vendor team will be visiting inspection stations to upgrade the workstation components including:
 - Computer and printer
 - Inspector camera
 - Sticker printer
 - Lane cameras

Upgrade will be completed at **no charge** to Station owners.



HERO Act

RMV Requirements

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- **RMV Fee exemptions:** Exempts disabled veterans from paying certain registration and driver's license fees. Veterans will qualify for the exemptions if the VA determines they have a 100% disability rating or deems them unemployable due to their service-connected disability.
- **Excise Tax Exemption:** Veterans will qualify for a motor vehicle excise tax exemption if the VA determines (not the RMV) they have a 100% disability rating or deems them unemployable due to their service-connected disability. Proof of eligibility must be presented to the city/town where excise tax is issued.
- **Medal of Liberty Plate:** The RMV will notify all past recipients of the Medal of Liberty, of their eligibility for the Medal of Liberty license plate through a letter, which shall include the application for the license plate.
- **Sales Tax Exemption:** Veterans who qualify for the disabled veteran license plate can use the Purple Heart specialty license plate for sales tax exemptions.



Thank You



Appendix

Springfield Media Event to Promote REAL ID

- [MassLive/Springfield Republican](#): Real ID compliance date nears: Hampden County Millennials, Gen Z yet to catch up
- [WWLP](#): RMV is seeing low numbers of Massachusetts residents obtaining a Real ID: How to apply
- [Western Mass News](#): MassDOT urging Real ID enrollment as deadline approaches

