



# Inspection Bulletin

North American Standard Inspection Program

## 2019-04 – Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Under-21 Military CDL Pilot Program

Created: Dec. 10, 2019

### Summary

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) began accepting applications from motor carriers to participate in its Under-21 Military CDL Pilot Program on June 3, 2019. This inspection bulletin summarizes the program and provides information on the enhancements the agency made to Query Central (QC). Specifically, the enhancements to QC allow roadside enforcement personnel to verify a carrier and driver's participation in the pilot program. The pilot program is expected to run for up to three years.

### Background

Section 5404 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act directed FMCSA to establish a pilot program to study the feasibility, benefits and safety impacts of allowing a covered driver to operate a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) in interstate commerce. A covered driver is defined as an individual who is:

- Age 18, 19 or 20
- A member or former member of the armed forces, reserve components or National Guard
- Qualified in a military occupational specialty to operate a CMV or similar vehicle

On July 6, 2018, FMCSA published a Federal Register notice that outlined the standards for motor carriers and drivers to participate in the pilot program. The Under-21 Military CDL Pilot Program allows a limited number of individuals ages 18, 19 and 20 to operate CMVs in interstate commerce if the individual received specified heavy-vehicle driver training while in military service and is hired by a participating motor carrier.

#### What are the motor carrier participation standards?

To be accepted into the Under 21 Military CDL Pilot Program, a motor carrier must meet the following minimum safety criteria:

- Have proper operating authority and registration
- Have the minimum levels of financial responsibility
- Not be a high- or moderate-risk motor carrier
- Not have a conditional or unsatisfactory safety rating
- Not have any open or closed enforcement actions (e.g., civil penalties, imminent hazard, out-of-service (OOS) order, patterns of safety violations, etc.) within the past six years
- Not have a crash rate above the national average
- Not have a driver OOS rate above the national average
- Not have a vehicle OOS rate above the national average

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- Have no unpaid civil penalties
- Agrees to comply with all pilot program procedures, including the monthly submission of data

A carrier will be removed or suspended from the program, if the carrier:

- Does not have proper operating authority and registration
- Does not have the minimum levels of financial responsibility
- Is prioritized as a high risk
- Is prioritized as a moderate risk for two consecutive months
- Receives a conditional or unsatisfactory safety rating
- Is the subject of an open federal enforcement action pending review, e.g., imminent hazard, OOS, patterns of safety violations (enforcement actions resulting in civil penalties will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis)
- Has a crash rate above the national average for three consecutive months
- Has a driver OOS rate above the national average for three consecutive months
- Has a vehicle OOS rate above the national average for three consecutive months
- Fails to report required monthly data
- Poses a safety risk, which is determined at FMCSA's discretion

## What are the driver participation standards?

To be accepted into the Under-21 Military CDL Pilot Program, a driver must obtain certification from his/her commanding officer, or the official designee, that the driver had formal training and experience in operating heavy motor vehicles while in military service in one of the military occupational specialties specified in the 2018 Federal Register notice. A driver is ineligible for participation in the pilot program if, during the two-year period preceding the date of hire by an approved motor carrier, the driver:

- Had more than one license (except for a military license)
- Had his/her license suspended, revoked, cancelled or disqualified for a violation related to 49 CFR 383.51 in any state
- Had any conviction for a violation of military, state or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control (other than parking violation) arising in connection with any crash and has no record of a crash in which he/she was at fault
- Had any conviction for any violations described below in any type of motor vehicle:
  - Being under the influence of alcohol as prescribed by state law
  - Being under the influence of a controlled substance
  - Having an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or greater while operating a CMV
  - Refusing to take an alcohol test as required by a state jurisdiction under its implied consent laws or regulations as defined in 49 CFR 383.72
  - Leaving the scene of a crash
  - Using the vehicle to commit a felony
  - Driving a CMV while his/her CDL is revoked, suspended, cancelled; or while disqualified from operating a CMV
  - Causing a fatality through the negligent operation of a CMV (including motor vehicle manslaughter, homicide by motor vehicle or negligent homicide)

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- Having more than one conviction for any of the violations described below in any type of motor vehicle:
  - Driving recklessly, as defined by state or local law or regulation (including offenses of driving a motor vehicle in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property)
  - Driving a CMV without obtaining a CDL (except for operation of military vehicles)
  - Violating a state or local law or ordinance on motor vehicle traffic control prohibiting texting while driving
  - Violating a state or local law or ordinance on motor vehicle traffic control restricting or prohibiting the use of a hand-held mobile device while driving

A driver will be disqualified or removed from the program if at any time while in the Under-21 Military CDL Pilot Program, the driver is disqualified for a major offense, serious traffic violations, railroad-highway grade crossing or violation of an out-of-service order, as outlined in section 383.51 of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations.

**NOTE:** FMCSA reserves the right to not accept or remove from the Under-21 Military CDL Pilot Program a carrier or driver who poses a safety risk.

### Are drivers restricted from transporting certain cargo or operating certain vehicles?

Yes. While participating in the pilot program, drivers may not transport passengers or hazardous materials and may not operate special configuration vehicles, including doubles, triples and cargo tanks.

### How many motor carriers and drivers are expected to participate in the pilot program?

FMCSA expects to have approximately 75 motor carriers and at least 200 under-21 drivers participating in the pilot program.

### How do you verify if a motor carrier or driver is participating in the pilot program?

Roadside inspectors will begin to encounter Under-21 Military CDL Pilot Program participants at the roadside in the last quarter of calendar year 2019. Each carrier and driver will be provided an exemption letter from FMCSA. The exemption letters must be kept in the cab or on the driver's person. Roadside personnel will be given the tools to verify a motor carrier's or driver's participation in the pilot program by querying a carrier's USDOT number or a driver's license number in QC.

## Motor Carrier Verification

To determine if a motor carrier is participating in the Under-21 Military CDL Pilot Program, roadside inspectors should enter the company's USDOT number in the "Carrier Search" in QC.

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**Query Central**

Driver Vehicle Carrier

**QUICK SEARCH**

Carrier Search:

USDOT#:  Search

Vehicle Search (VIN -or- Plate/State):

VIN#:  Search

Plate:  State: << Select >>

Driver Search (Status):

Driver Search

If a motor carrier is participating in the Under-21 Military CDL Pilot Program, the following message will appear after you have entered the company's USDOT number.

### **Carrier Search Alert Message**

*This motor carrier has an exemption that allows its 18, 19 and 20-year-old drivers to operate in interstate commerce. For the purposes of the Under-21 Military CDL Pilot Program, this motor carrier and driver are only exempted from the age requirement in 49 CFR 391.11(b)(1) and must adhere to all other regulatory requirements that apply.*

Searching a motor carrier's USDOT number will also provide the roadside inspector with a list of the drivers employed by the carrier who are approved to participate in the pilot program.

U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration  
Query Central

UNDER 21 DRIVERS

Driver Vehicle Carrier Help Home

[Carrier Summary](#) [Carrier Detail](#) [Violation History](#) [2 Past Inspection\(s\)](#) [PRISM](#) [Summary Report](#) [\[NEW\] UNDER 21 PILOT DRIVERS](#)

Under 21 Pilot Program

Legal Name:	[REDACTED]	USDOT#:	[REDACTED]
DBA Name:	[REDACTED]	MC/MX#:	[REDACTED]

LIST OF DRIVERS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE  
IN UNDER 21 PILOT PROGRAM

DRIVER NAME	DOB	LICENSE NUMBER	LICENSE STATE
[REDACTED]	7/9/2000	[REDACTED]	NEW JERSEY

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## Driver Verification

If a driver is participating in the Under-21 Military CDL Pilot Program, the following message will appear after you have entered the driver's license number when you do a "Driver Search."

### Driver Search Alert Message

The carrier or driver you have queried is participating in the Under-21 Military CDL Pilot Program. If inspected, you must check the carrier and driver to verify if they are eligible to participate in the program. See the [NEW] Under-21 Pilot Program Page.

<b>CDLIS Credentials</b> If you would like to access CDLIS data, please enter your CDLIS ID and password below. (Leave blank to search for Past Inspections only.) CDLIS ID: <input type="text"/> Password: <input type="password"/>			<b>Co-Driver Information:</b> Query Type: <input type="text"/> Country: USA State: << Select State >> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Indicates Required Data</b> <input type="checkbox"/> CDL#: <input type="text"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First Name: <input type="text"/> Middle Name: <input type="text"/> Last Name: <input type="text"/> Suffix: <input type="text"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DOB: Month: <input type="text"/> Day: <input type="text"/> Year: <input type="text"/> <input type="checkbox"/> SSN: <input type="text"/>		
<b>Driver Information:</b> Query Type: History Country: USA State: New Jersey <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Indicates Required Data</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CDL#: <input type="text"/> <input type="checkbox"/> First Name: JOHN Middle Name: <input type="text"/> Last Name: DOE Suffix: <input type="text"/> <input type="checkbox"/> DOB: Month: July Day: 09 Year: 2000					

<a href="#">Driver</a> <a href="#">Vehicle</a>		<a href="#">Help</a> <a href="#">Home</a>	
<b>ALERT: The carrier or driver you have queried is participating in the Under 21 Military CDL Pilot Program. If inspected, you must check the carrier and driver to verify if they are eligible to participate in the program. See the [NEW] Under 21 Pilot Page.</b>			
<b>Driver Summary Information</b>			
CDL Number: <input type="text"/>		CDL State: NJ	
This Driver has <b>2 Past Inspection(s)</b>			

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### What should I do if a motor carrier or driver is discovered operating in interstate commerce and is not a part of the pilot program?

The inspector should ensure the motor carrier or driver is not operating under a different exemption (e.g., custom harvester). If a motor carrier or driver is found to be operating in interstate commerce and is not exempted, the inspector should follow the procedures established in his or her jurisdiction (e.g., cite the driver, place the driver out of service) to enforce the regulations. These procedures should also be followed if there are other issues discovered at the roadside; for example, if an approved driver is discovered operating a CMV in interstate commerce for a carrier that has not been approved for the pilot program.

### What should I do if a motor carrier or driver has an Under-21 Military CDL Pilot Program exemption letter but QC does not have the carrier or driver's information listed?

The information in QC is real time; however, it may take FMCSA up to four hours to add or delete motor carriers or drivers to or from the list. If you are unable to verify the information, we recommend that you contact one of the following individuals to confirm that a motor carrier or driver is part of the Under-21 Military CDL Pilot Program:

Selden Fritschner – 202-366-0677 ([selden.fritschner@dot.gov](mailto:selden.fritschner@dot.gov))

Nicole Michel – 202-366-4354 ([nicole.michel@dot.gov](mailto:nicole.michel@dot.gov))

Francisco Soto – 202-366-6511 ([francisco.soto@dot.gov](mailto:francisco.soto@dot.gov))

General Info: [Under21Pilot@dot.gov](mailto:Under21Pilot@dot.gov)

### What if I need additional information about the Under-21 Military CDL Pilot Program?

If you want additional information about the Under-21 Military CDL Pilot Program, visit FMCSA's website at [www.fmcsa.dot.gov/under21pilot](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/under21pilot).