



Inspection Bulletin

North American Standard Inspection Program

2020-04 – Commercial Driver’s License Queries Should Be Conducted Through CDLIS

Created: May 28, 2020

Revised: June 16, 2020

Summary

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is issuing this advisory to alert commercial motor vehicle (CMV) enforcement officials that safety gaps may exist if commercial driver’s license (CDL) status queries are not conducted through FMCSA’s Commercial Driver’s License Information System (CDLIS), or FMCSA’s Query Central; FMCSA recommends that CMV enforcement officials conduct CDL status queries through <https://cdlis.dot.gov> to obtain the most thorough results.

Background

The Foreign Convictions and Withdrawals Database (FCWD) is a Congressionally mandated system that serves as the repository of the U.S. conviction histories of drivers who hold a Canadian or Mexican CDL. The FCWD allows FMCSA to disqualify such drivers from operating in the U.S. if they are convicted of disqualifying offenses by one or more of the U.S. states. In this regard, FMCSA serves as the “51st state” to prohibit foreign CDL holders from operating in the U.S. based upon convictions for disqualifying offenses under 49 CFR § 383.51 that have been transmitted to the FCWD by the states. FMCSA disqualifies approximately 100 Mexican and Canadian licensed CMV drivers annually.

On Jan. 6, 2020, FMCSA implemented the new Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse. Employers, or their designated representatives, and medical review officers are required to report information about drug and alcohol program violations to the clearinghouse. Drivers with a drug or alcohol program violation are prohibited from performing safety-sensitive functions, including driving a CMV, until they have successfully completed the substance abuse professional (SAP) evaluation, referral and education treatment process set forth in 49 CFR Part 40, Subpart O, and have a negative return-to-duty test result. If a CDL or commercial learner’s permit (CLP) holder has violation data in the clearinghouse and has not completed the return-to-duty process, the driver is prohibited from operating in the U.S. In the first two months after implementing the clearinghouse, more than 9,000 drivers have had information reported that makes them ineligible to drive in the U.S.

Potential safety gaps if CDL status queries do not access CDLIS

CDL status queries that do not go through CDLIS will not identify Mexican or Canadian licensed drivers who have been disqualified by FMCSA based on driving convictions in the U.S. Similarly, CDL status queries that do not go through CDLIS will not identify drivers (including U.S.-licensed drivers) prohibited from operating in the U.S. based upon drug and alcohol violation data reported to the clearinghouse.

Use of any other data systems to query the operating status of a CDL or CLP holder will not identify whether the driver is subject to an FMCSA disqualification or is prohibited from operating a CMV due to drug and alcohol program violations.

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Law enforcement officials who do not currently have an active account on CDLIS may utilize FMCSA’s Query Central system to determine if a driver is prohibited from operating a CMV due to drug and alcohol program violations; however, without a CDLIS account, they will not receive FCWD disqualification data for foreign drivers.

The table below summarizes various databases queried for CDL status and potential disqualification/prohibition information that is and is not returned.

| Query Approach | Systems Queried for U.S. Drivers to Determine CDL Driver’s Overall Status | Systems Queried for Canadian or Mexican Drivers to Determine CDL Driver’s Overall Status |
|---|--|---|
| CDLIS | Data returned from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of record • Clearinghouse | Data returned from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status from Canada province/territory and Mexico federal government • FCWD • Clearinghouse |
| Query Central without a CDLIS account | Data returned from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearinghouse | Data returned from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearinghouse Data will not be returned from FCWD |
| Standard NLETS Query: Goes straight to licensing jurisdiction and does not query CDLIS | Data returned from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of record Data will not be returned from the clearinghouse | Data returned from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status from Canada province/territory and Mexico federal government Data will not be returned from FCWD or the clearinghouse |
| NLETS Query with CL destination code selected (This will query CDLIS) | Data returned from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of record Data will not be returned from the clearinghouse | Data returned from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status from Canada province/territory and Mexico federal government Data will not be returned from FCWD or the clearinghouse |
| Problem Driver Pointer System (PDPS) | Data returned from PDPS reflects data submitted to the national driver registry by all 51 U.S. jurisdictions on U.S. licensed drivers operating throughout the U.S. Data will not be returned from the clearinghouse | Data will not be returned from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada province/territory • Mexico federal government • FCWD • Clearinghouse |
| State-specific driver’s license query system | Data returned on their state’s licensed drivers Data will not be returned from the clearinghouse | Data will not be returned from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada province/territory • Mexico federal government • FCWD • Clearinghouse |

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Below and on the following pages are screenshots for CDLIS and Query Central to provide examples of both queries when a foreign driver is subject to a FCWD disqualification or any driver is prohibited from operating a CMV due to drug and alcohol program violations.

FCWD – Query Central Screenshot

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

DRIVER SUMMARY

[Driver](#)
[Vehicle](#)
[Carrier](#)

[Help](#)
[Home](#)

No Past Inspections

| Driver Identification | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|------|------------|
| Driver Name: | [REDACTED] | | |
| Address: | [REDACTED] | | |
| CDL#: | [REDACTED] | SSN: | N/A |
| St/Prov: | BC | DOB: | [REDACTED] |

| License Summary | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|----------|
| Commercial Status: | Not Eligible | Class: A |
| Non-Commercial Status: | Licensed | Class: 5 |
| Expires: | 3/20/2025 | |
| Restrictions: | No Restrictions Listed | |
| Endorsements: | Passenger | |
| Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse Status | | |
| Not prohibited | | |

| Conviction History | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|--|-----|--------|--|
| Citation Date | Conviction Date | Conviction ID | Conviction State | Court Type | OFFENSE | CMV | HAZMAT | |
| 4/18/2018 | 5/10/2018 | 1 | WA | District | S16 - 16-20 >SPEED LIMIT(DETAIL OPTIONAL) | Yes | No | |
| 12/7/2007 | 12/7/2007 | 2 | WA | Admin Adjud | A98 - ADMINISTRATIVE PER SE FOR BAC AT OR OVER .08 | No | No | |

| Withdrawal History | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|------------|------------|------------------|--|-------|-----------------------|------------|
| Withdrawal ID | Effective Date | Elig. Date | Rein. Date | Action | ACD Code | STATE | Basis | Extent |
| 1 | 12/5/2019 | 12/5/2020 | | Disqualified | A98 - ADMINISTRATIVE PER SE FOR BAC AT OR OVER .08 | | Administrative Per Se | Commercial |
| 2 | 2/6/2008 | 5/6/2008 | | Other withdrawal | A98 - ADMINISTRATIVE PER SE FOR BAC AT OR OVER .08 | | Administrative Per Se | All |

2020-04 – Commercial Driver’s License Queries Should Be Conducted Through CDLIS

FCWD – CDLIS Screenshot

History Search Results

/BC/5203810 202004151037527227A5093WS

Driver General Information

| | | | |
|------------|-------------|------------|--------|
| First Name | Middle Name | Last Name | Suffix |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | |
| SSN | Birth Date | Height | Weight |
| N/A | [REDACTED] | 506 | 176 |
| Eye Color | Sex | | |
| | M | | |

Residence

| | | | | | |
|------------|------------|--------|-------|------------|---------|
| Street | City | County | State | Zip | Country |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | | BC | [REDACTED] | |

Mailing Address

| | | | | | |
|------------|------------|--------|-------|------------|---------|
| Street | City | County | State | Zip | Country |
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | | BC | [REDACTED] | Canada |

Driver License Details

| Jurisdiction | Driver License | Issue Date | Exp. Date | Commercial Class | Non Commercial Class | Commercial Status | Non Commercial Status | Withdrawal Action Pending |
|--------------|----------------|------------|------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| BC | [REDACTED] | 2020-02-08 | 2025-03-20 | A | 5 | Not Eligible | Licensed | No |

Endorsements

| |
|-----------|
| Value |
| Passenger |

| Convictions # | Accidents # | Withdrawals # | Permits # | License Restrictions # |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|-----------|------------------------|
| 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 00 |

Convictions

| Citation Date | Conviction Date | Conviction ID | State of Conviction | Court Type | ACD Code | ACD Detail | CDL Holder | CMV | Hazmat | Locator Reference | State Code |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------|-------------|---|------------|------------|-----|--------|-------------------|------------|
| 2018-04-18 | 2018-05-10 | A0 | WA | District | S16 - 16-20 > REGULATED OR POSTED SPEED LIMIT (DETAIL OPTIONAL) | | Yes | Yes | No | WA029023J | 0A |
| 2007-12-07 | 2007-12-07 | A1 | WA | Admin Adjud | A98 - ADMINISTRATIVE PER SE FOR .08 BAC | | Yes | No | No | CNV309192.0 | A98 |

Withdrawals

| Effective Date | Elig. Date | Rein. Date | Withdrawal ID | Linkage | Action | ACD Code | State | Basis | Extent | Locator Reference | Reason Ref Code | Due Process Status |
|----------------|------------|------------|---------------|---------|------------------|---|-------|-----------------------|------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2019-12-05 | 2020-12-05 | | A1 | A1 | Disqualified | A98 - ADMINISTRATIVE PER SE FOR .08 BAC | FH | Administrative Per Se | Commercial | 191122172150b2f7 | FH172150 | Hearing offered but not requested |
| 2008-02-06 | 2008-05-06 | | A0 | A1 | Other withdrawal | A98 - ADMINISTRATIVE PER SE FOR .08 BAC | WA | Administrative Per Se | All | 1403322371 | A98 | Not Defined |

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Clearinghouse – Query Central Screenshot

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

DRIVER SUMMARY

Driver, Vehicle, Carrier Help, Home (Last Page)

| Driver Identification | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Driver Name: | [REDACTED] |
| Address: | [REDACTED] |
| CDL#: | [REDACTED] |
| SSN: | [REDACTED] |
| St/Prov: | IN |
| DOB: | [REDACTED] |

| License Summary | |
|--|---|
| Commercial Status: | Licensed |
| Class: | A |
| Non-Commercial Status: | Licensed |
| Class: | D |
| Expires: | 6/18/2026 |
| Restrictions: | Corrective Lenses must be worn |
| Endorsements: | No Endorsements Listed |
| Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse Status: | Driver is prohibited from operating under 49 CFR § 382.501(a) |

| First Name | Middle Name | Last Name | SUFFIX | Birth Date | License | State |
|------------|-------------|-----------|--------|------------|------------|-------|
| | | | | | [REDACTED] | GA |
| | | | | | [REDACTED] | IN |

| Issue Date | Expiration Date | SPE Issue | SPE Expiration | Med WE Issue | Med WE Expiration | Status Code | Self Certification |
|------------|-----------------|-----------|----------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| 10/18/2018 | 10/18/2019 | | | | | Certified | Non-excepted Interstate |

| Restriction | Expiration Date |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Corrective Lenses | |

Clearinghouse – CDLIS Screenshot

History Search Results

Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse - Driver is prohibited from operating under 382.501(a)

/MX/ [REDACTED] 202004151253163817CC186WS

Driver General Information

| First Name | Last Name |
|------------|------------|
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] |

| BFC | Birth Date | Height | Weight | Eye Color | Sex |
|------------|------------|--------|--------|-----------|-----|
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | 505 | 175 | N/A | M |

Mailing Address

| Street | City | County | State | Zip | Country |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----|---------|
| [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | 0 | Mexico |

Driver License Details

| Jurisdiction | Driver License | Issue Date | Exp. Date | Commercial Class | Non Commercial Class | Commercial Status | Non Commercial Status | Withdrawal Action Pending |
|--------------|----------------|------------|------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| MX | [REDACTED] | 2018-02-02 | 2022-02-02 | A | N/A | Eligible | N/A | No |

Endorsements

| Value |
|-----------------|
| Doubles/Triples |
| Tank |

Medical Certification

| Issue Date | Expiration Date | Status Code | Self Certification |
|------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| 2018-01-10 | 2020-01-10 | Certified | Non-excepted Interstate |

License Restrictions

| Restriction | Expiration Date |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Corrective Lenses must be worn | |

| Convictions # | Accidents # | Withdrawals # | Permits # | License Restrictions # |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|-----------|------------------------|
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

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Inspection Guidance

Federal and state enforcement personnel should cite the following violation if a foreign CDL or CLP holder is discovered operating in the U.S. when disqualified per CDLIS:

- 49 CFR § 383.51(a)-SOUT – Driving a CMV while CDL is suspended for safety-related or unknown reason and outside the state of driver's license issuance.

Federal and state enforcement personnel should cite the following violation if a driver is found to be operating in a prohibited status based on clearinghouse information:

- 49 CFR § 390.3 – Prohibited from performing safety-sensitive functions per § 382.501(a) in the Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse.

Both violations are out-of-service conditions in the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) North American Standard Out-of-Service Criteria (OOSC) and the driver should be placed out of service if found to be operating while in a prohibited status.

State law enforcement officials seeking a CDLIS account should complete an account request form which may be requested by sending an email to FMCTechsup@dot.gov. The completed form and associated rules of behavior should be submitted to the appropriate FMCSA division office for approval. Once the account is set up, FMCTechsup@dot.gov will send an e-mail to the user with a link to set up their password and obtain access.

For questions on FCWD disqualifications: State law enforcement officials should contact Michael Gordon, FMCSA CDL Division, at 304-549-2651 or michael.gordon2@dot.gov, or Carla Vagnini, FMCSA North American Borders Division, at 202-366-3771 or carla.vagnini@dot.gov.

For any additional clearinghouse information or questions, contact the clearinghouse team at DACHenforcement@dot.gov.