

# Aviation Group Client Update

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## FMCSA ESTABLISHES NATIONAL REGISTRY OF CERTIFIED MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Last week, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) issued a final rule establishing a National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (“National Registry”). The final rule requires all medical examiners who conduct physical examinations for interstate commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers to complete training on FMCSA’s physical qualification standards, pass a test to verify comprehension of those standards, and maintain and demonstrate competence through periodic training and testing. The National Registry was established to ensure that all medical examiners who conduct driver medical certifications have been trained in the FMCSA physical qualification standards and guidelines.

Current regulations require each CMV driver (with certain limited exceptions) to have a physical examination by a licensed health care provider to determine whether the driver meets the FMCSA physical qualification requirements; however, there was no required training program for the medical professionals who conducted driver physical examinations. Once the National Registry program is fully implemented, only medical certificates issued to drivers by medical examiners on the National Registry will be considered valid by the FMCSA as proof of medical certification.

Further to the final rule, the FMCSA published a Notice establishing the National Registry. The effective date of the final rule implementing the National Registry is **May 21, 2012** and compliance is required beginning on **May 21, 2014**. If you have any questions regarding implementation of the National Registry, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

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