

Attention Class 5 drivers operating vehicles commercially in US

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has advised all Canadian provinces that effective April 1, 2016, drivers of vehicles that meet the US definition of a commercial vehicle will require medical certification. US enforcement officials will be placing all drivers found to be in violation of this requirement, out-of-service.

The U.S. definition of a commercial vehicle includes all vehicles weighing 10,001 lbs (4500 kg) and up or transporting placardable Hazardous Material or vehicles manufactured to carry 15 or more passengers (including driver).

In some instances, New Brunswick drivers operating these types of vehicles may hold a class 5 drivers licence and are not required to meet the same medical standard as commercial drivers in New Brunswick.

However, if operating a vehicle meeting the above definition, commercially in the US, you should either take the necessary steps to obtain a higher class of New Brunswick driver's licence or submit a medical fitness report completed by your doctor to the Department of Public Safety, Motor Vehicle Branch.

The medical fitness report will be reviewed, and provided you meet the standards established for a commercial driver, the Registrar of Motor Vehicles will provide you with a Medical Confirmation Letter that must be carried with you at all times when travelling in the U.S. and presented to enforcement as proof of medical certification.

A blank medical fitness report form can be requested in person at any Service New Brunswick office, by calling SNB Teleservices at 1-888-762-8600 or online at www.snb.ca. For further information contact our office at 506-453-2410 or FMCSA at 1-800-832-5660.