



Inspection Bulletin

North American Standard Inspection Program

2017-04 – Medical Certification Information Available in Nlets

Created: Dec. 6, 2017

Summary

The National Law Enforcement Telecommunication System (Nlets), the interstate public safety data exchange network for law enforcement personnel, added commercial drivers' medical certification information from the driver's Commercial Driver's License Information System (CDLIS) record to the Nlets information available at roadside. This Inspection Bulletin summarizes these Nlets enhancements. Specifically, this enhancement allows users to review and validate medical certification data elements by using a new selection option when inspecting drivers with a commercial driver's license (CDL) or a commercial learner's permit (CLP). The new selection option targets CDLIS transactions involving state-to-state status, state-to-state history and also-known-as (AKA) inquiry status responses, including medical certification status.

Background

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has been working with the Nlets staff to ensure that the complete medical certification information, currently located in CDLIS, is also available to Nlets users. FMCSA has successfully integrated the information seen in CDLIS to the Nlets software and this enhancement will allow us to make the nation's roads safer for all drivers.

CDLIS is a nationwide database that enables state driver's licensing agencies (SDLAs) to ensure that each commercial driver has only one driver's license and one complete driver record. Each SDLA uses CDLIS to complete various procedures, including transmitting out-of-state convictions and withdrawals, transferring the driver record when a CDL holder moves to another state, and responding to requests for driver status and history. Driver data from the states' databases is the authoritative source of CDL records for each state. Nlets is an information-sharing system available to law enforcement agencies and the objective of that system is to provide secure information exchange between federal, state and local agencies and support services of justice-related computer programs.

FMCSA has been providing CDLIS information on license status and history for U.S.-licensed CDL holders to U.S. and Canadian law enforcement via the Nlets network to ensure that only safe and qualified drivers are operating on our nation's highways. This medical certification information is now available to all Nlets authorized agencies using a new CDLIS-specific destination-code option.

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It is important to note that this destination code is optional only. As such, enforcement officials need to select this new destination code – a “CL” code entered at the destination field – to access CDLIS content. If not chosen, a review of CDL status, history and additional information, such as medical certification status, may not be available.

Users have had longtime access to the main driver status and history information by use of the “DQ” and “KQ” destination codes. Through this recent Nlets integration, some state users will be able to see the available medical certification fields from the DQ or KQ results. It is important to note that variations in responses may exist, first, because each state may program its users’ access coding differently, and, second, the user can enter different combinations – name/date of birth or state/driver license number – and obtain different results such as AKA status and/or history results. If medical certification information is not included in either DQ or KQ results and the CDL status is “licensed,” enforcement can assume that the medical certification is valid, as long as the query is searching the driver’s licensing state.

However, to ensure state users receive the CDLIS information directly from the CDL/CLP driver’s SDLA, select the “CL” destination code. The search using the “CL” code is specific to CDLs/CLPs and no other license types. If a DQ or KQ destination code is entered, the user may receive status, history and additional information, like medical certification, only from the state entered, which may not be the driver’s SDLA. Ultimately, licensing status and medical certification can only be confirmed with the driver’s SDLA and most reliably through the “CL” destination code results.

Explanation of Updates Made to Nlets/Steps to Access Medical Certification Data

This section explains the updates made to Nlets and the information that CDLIS is now transmitting for Nlets users. Again, this information is only available from a search completed on Nlets by selection of the “CL” destination code to obtain CDL or CLP information from the home/licensing SDLA via the CDLIS network.

Running a search on a CDL/CLP

Per normal procedures, enter Nlets to obtain general license information for the driver being inspected. After reviewing this information, choose the “CL” destination code from the selection menu specifically for a CDL or CLP driver. Remember that this is optional as some states do not have the “CL” inquiry available to them (to have such access, the state needs to program this functionality); however, to obtain complete information on CDL/CLP status, this “CL” selection must occur. Nlets is directed to send a query to CDLIS. CDLIS will generate and transmit to the user’s Nlets screen the complete driver information, including the medical certification information. The “CL” code located on the top line of the response confirms that the correct inquiry was made.

Figure 1 shows the first screen the Nlets user will see. There have been no changes made to this screen. (Personally identifiable information has been removed throughout this document).

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Figure 1

HITS: 0 + P	HIGHLIGHTS: 0	MRI LOCAL: 0	QR -
JOHNSON, ERIC BRIAN [REDACTED]			
NAME: [REDACTED]	SSN: [REDACTED]	DOB: [REDACTED]	
STREET: [REDACTED]	CITY: PACE	STATE: FL	
STREET: [REDACTED]	CITY: PACE	STATE: FL	
HEIGHT: [REDACTED]	GENDER: M	RACE: W	
OLN: [REDACTED]	OLS: FL	LIC STATUS: VALID LICENSE	
LIC CLASS: [REDACTED]			
REM: EMERGENCY			
REM: [REDACTED]			
REM: [REDACTED]			
REM: [REDACTED]			
HISTORYEVENT: NO FCIC DRIVER HISTORY IN RESPONSE			
JOHNSON, ERIC BRIAN 06/30-1965			
NAME: [REDACTED]	SSN: [REDACTED]	DOB: [REDACTED]	
STREET: [REDACTED]			
STREET: [REDACTED]			
GENDER: [REDACTED]			
OLN: [REDACTED]			
LIC CLASS: A			

After reviewing this information, specifically for a CDL or CLP driver, enter the “CL” destination code at the appropriate location. Remember that this is optional, but to obtain complete information on CDL/CLP status, history and medical certification, this selection must occur. By entering the “CL” destination code, Nlets is directed to send a query to CDLIS, which then responds with information from the driver’s SDLA. CDLIS will transmit to the Nlets screen the complete driver information, including the medical certification information, when entering the driver’s SDLA and driver’s license number.

The inquiry type “CL,” located on the second screen of Nlets, confirms that the correct inquiry was made. In this instance, the type “CL” is circled in red in **Figure 2**.

Figure 2

```

DR. CLOLN0000
16:56 03/30/2017 09018
16:56 03/30/2017 00176 DCFM000VS
*1000022997
TXT
NAME: ERIC BRIAN JOHNSON
RESIDENCE ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
PRIMARY CONTACT ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
DATE OF BIRTH: [REDACTED]
SSN: [REDACTED]
GENDER: MALE
MEDICAL DETAILS: false
    
```

[NOTE TO Nlets USER: "MEDICAL DETAILS" Field and response are no longer used for status evaluations; PLEASE IGNORE]

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The pertinent information Nlets is now providing through the CDLIS network includes the medical certificate expiration date and if the CDL/CLP driver is medically certified; both are indicated in the red boxes in **Figure 3**.

These medical certification fields help officers determine if a driver’s medical information is correct and up to date. FMCSA anticipates that this will alleviate any difficulties when determining whether a driver is medically certified to operate a commercial motor vehicle (CMV).

The medical information that Nlets now displays includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Medical Certificate Expiration Date
- Medical Certificate Issue Date
- Medical Certification Status Code (Certified or Not Certified)
- Medical Examiner Last Name
- Medical Examiner First Name
- Medical Examiner License Number
- Medical Examiner Specialty Code
- Medical Examiner Registration Number
- Medical Examiner State License Number
- Medical Examiner Telephone Number
- Driver Self Certification Information
- Any Restrictions

The medical information can sometimes be found in an area labeled “Additional Information,” depending on how each state programmed its layout response. **Figure 3** on the next page is a partial screen shot of the response.

It is important to note that “Field name” and “Field value” identify the compliance related information for inspectors to evaluate during the inspection. The fields in red blocks below highlight the starting points for review. Look for “field names” such as “medical certification expiration date” and “medical certification status code” to identify the compliance related information to evaluate during an inspection or stop. If questions arise regarding the accuracy of a paper document provided by a driver or if information from the “CL” response is incomplete, the “CL” response can be confirmed by contacting the SDLA or the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners at <https://nationalregistry.fmcsa.dot.gov>.

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Figure 3

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FIELD NAME: Medical Certificate Expiration Date  
FIELD VALUE: 20170714  
FIELD NAME: Medical Certificate Issue Date  
FIELD VALUE: 20150714  
FIELD NAME: Medical Certificate Status Code  
FIELD VALUE: Certified  
FIELD NAME: Medical Examiner Last Name  
FIELD VALUE: HERIP  
FIELD NAME: Medical Examiner First Name  
FIELD VALUE: DON  
FIELD NAME: ME Last Name Truncation Ind  
FIELD VALUE: U  
FIELD NAME: ME Last Name Transliteration Ind  
FIELD VALUE: U  
FIELD NAME: ME First Name Truncation Ind  
FIELD VALUE: U  
FIELD NAME: ME First Name Transliteration Ind  
FIELD VALUE: U  
FIELD NAME: Medical Examiner License Number  
FIELD VALUE: mel20918  
FIELD NAME: Medical Examiner Telephone Number  
FIELD VALUE: 8502086400  
FIELD NAME: Medical Examiner Registry Number  
FIELD VALUE: 1897103003  
FIELD NAME: Medical Examiner Specialty Code  
FIELD VALUE: Medical Doctor  
FIELD NAME: CDL Medical Self Certification Code  
FIELD VALUE: Non-excepted Interstate  
FIELD NAME: Number of Driver License Restrictions  
FIELD VALUE: 00  
FIELD NAME: Medical Licensing Jurisdiction Code  
FIELD VALUE: FL
```

Inspectors and officers are to ensure that the driver is not operating under an expired medical certificate or without being medically certified. These medical certification fields allow users to determine if a driver's medical information is correct and up to date. FMCSA anticipates that this will alleviate any difficulties in determining whether a driver is medically certified to operate a CMV.