UNDERSTANDING FMCSA AND NRCME
/RESPONSIBILITIES AND JOB TASKS OF
CMV DRIVERS

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“This ME training course conforms to FMCSA’s training curriculum modules and topics on regulations and guidelines for conducting CMV driver medical examinations. FMCSA regulations and guidelines are reviewed regularly, and the training is updated as required. This course was last updated on April 1, 2014.”
FMCSA and NRCME

• FMCSA established in 1999

Discuss the history of FMCSA and its position within the Department of Transportation including its establishment by the Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999 and emphasize FMCSA’s Mission to reduce crashes, injuries and fatalities involving large trucks and buses.
FMCSA

• One component of the DOT
The National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (National Registry) is a new Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) program. It requires all medical examiners (MEs) who wish to perform physical examinations for interstate commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers to be trained and certified in FMCSA physical qualification standards. Medical examiners who have completed the training and successfully passed the test are included in an online directory on the National Registry website.
Who Can Be An Examiner?

• Person must be licensed, certified, and/or registered in accordance with applicable State laws and regulations to perform physical examinations.

• MD – DO – DC – PA – NP

• Required to be trained, certified and listed on the national registry by May 21, 2014
Medical Examiners Skill Set

• Knowledge of physical and mental demands associated with operating a CMV
• Proficiency in the use of medical protocols and medical examination components
• Knowledge of regulation and guidance documents that the examiner must or should follow
Who Must Be Examined?

• An operator of a commercial vehicle in interstate commerce that:
  – Has a combined gross vehicle weight of weight rating of 10,001 pounds or more
  – Is designed or used to transport 9-15 passengers (including the driver) for compensation
  – Is designed for used to transport 16 or more passengers (including the driver) whether for compensation or not
  – Transports hazardous materials in quantities that require placarding under the hazardous materials regulations
  – INTRASTATE drivers may have requirements from their state to meet FMCSA criteria with some variations
What is Interstate Commerce?

• Refers to the property transported, not the operator
• Tools and vehicle may be considered property
Who Must Be Examined?

• Those not medically examined and qualified during the preceding 24 months
• Those not currently medically qualified
• Those who have had illness or injury that has impaired their ability to drive (even if their certificate has not yet expired)
  • This is frequently not adhered to by carriers
Duration of Certification

• Maximum of 2 years
• Examiner has ultimate discretion
• Guidance via Medical Examiner handbook
• Vision and Diabetes Exemption Programs require annual medical certification
• The expiration occurs on midnight of the day, month and year written on the certificate and there is NO GRACE PERIOD
CMV Driver Responsibilities and Tasks
Stress Factors Affecting Drivers

- Route type
- Schedules
- Environment
- Types of cargo
Driver’s Duties

• Coupling and uncoupling trailers from tractors
• Loading and unloading
• Inspecting vehicle and trailer
• Lifting, installing and removing chains and tarps
• Bend, stoop, couch and climb
Driver’s Necessary Skills

• Perceptual skills to monitor complex driving situation
• Judgment skills to make quick decisions
• Manipulative skills to control an oversize steering wheel, shift gears and maneuver vehicle in crowded areas
Can Employers Have More Stringent Requirements?

• 49 CFR 390 Subpart A 390.3
  – (d) Nothing in Subchapter B of this chapter shall be construed to prohibit an employer from requiring and enforcing more stringent requirements relating to safety of operation and employee safety and health.
QUESTIONS?