

## II. Overview

CMV in his or her home state with the vision deficiency for the previous three years and have a clean driving record. The medical certificate must be renewed annually.



Additional information about federal medical exemptions can be obtained by e-mail to [medicalexemptions@dot.gov](mailto:medicalexemptions@dot.gov) or [fmcsamedical@dot.gov](mailto:fmcsamedical@dot.gov). Certain exemption applications are available on the FMCSA website.

- **Hearing:** On a case-by-case basis, the FMCSA is now issuing exemptions from its hearing standard (§391.41(b)(11)). As of this writing, a specific application was not available. Hearing-impaired drivers who receive an exemption have to get annual medical exams and cannot operate buses with passengers on board.
- **Epilepsy/seizures:** Drivers with a history of epilepsy, seizure(s), or other conditions likely to cause a loss of ability to control a CMV can apply for an exemption from the epilepsy standard (§391.41(b)(8)). As of this writing, a specific application was not available. The prerequisites for applying for this exemption vary depending on the severity of the condition.
- **Limb disorders:** Drivers with physical impairments affecting their ability to safely operate CMVs (as determined by their medical examiner) or with missing limbs (e.g., hand, finger, arm, foot, or leg), are required to obtain Skill Performance Evaluation (SPE) certificates. Applicants have to demonstrate safe driving ability. An application is available on the FMCSA website or by contacting an FMCSA Service Center.

The federal exemptions above apply to drivers who intend to operate CMVs in *interstate* commerce; the FMCSA has no authority to grant a waiver/exemption from a state's in-state requirements.

**State exemptions** — Individual states can grant exemptions to drivers involved in intrastate commerce, as long