

The BASICS: Driver Fitness

Driver fitness violations with the highest severity

VIOLATION	SEVERITY
Jumping an “imminent hazard” out-of-service order	10
Driving a CMV with a fraudulent medical certificate	10
Driving a CMV with more than one license	8
Driving a CMV without a CDL or with the wrong class of CDL	8
Learner’s permit violations	8
Endorsement violations	8
Driving while disqualified or unqualified	8
Wrong license type	8

Top 10 most common driver fitness violations

VIOLATION	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER OF VIOLATIONS (2017)	SEVERITY
§391.41(a)	No medical card in driver’s possession	77,290	1
§383.23(a)(2)	Driving without a CDL	35,898	8
§391.11(b)(2)	Non-English-speaking driver	11,742	4
§383.51(a)	Driving a CMV (CDL) while disqualified/suspended	11,095	8
§391.45(b)	Expired medical examiner’s certificate	9,696	1
§391.15(a)	Driving a CMV while disqualified	7,169	8
§391.11(b)(5)	Driver lacking valid license for type of vehicle being driven	6,879	8
§391.11(b)(5)	Driving a CMV without proper endorsements or in violation of restrictions	5,384	8
§391.11(b)(4)	Driver lacking physical qualification(s)	5,317	2
§383.91(a)	Driving a CMV with improper CDL class	2,504	8

Avoiding Driver Fitness Violations

- **Carry your documentation.** Whenever you drive a CMV, you need to carry your driver's license. Carrying a medical card at all times is required for non-CDL drivers; CDL drivers must carry each new medical card for *at least* 15 days.
- **Watch those expiration dates!** Your license, medical certificate, and hazmat endorsement are no longer valid after their expiration dates — there is no grace period! Don't rely on someone else to remind you of an expiration date. Track the dates yourself so you never miss a deadline. When required, provide each new medical card to the state licensing agency as soon as possible.
- **Meet the standards.** Take charge of your qualifications and make sure you're always qualified to be behind the wheel. In particular, refer to §391.11, which lists the general qualifications CMV drivers need to have.
- **Stay fit.** Stay in good enough physical condition to pass the DOT medical exam, now and in the future. Take advantage of any wellness programs that are offered.
- **Is your license valid?** If you're convicted of an offense, make sure it's not on the list of disqualifying offenses in §391.15 (for all CMV drivers) or §383.51 (for CDL drivers). If you've been disqualified, stay off the road! If you hold a CDL, give each new medical card to the state licensing agency as quickly as possible to avoid a downgrade.
- **Are you trained?** Entry-level driver training is required for all interstate CDL drivers who have less than one year of experience. In addition, hazmat training is required for employees who affect hazardous materials transportation.