



FMCSA UPDATE- NON-DOMICILED (NONRENEWABLE / NONTRANSFERABLE) CDL

February 2, 2026

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), which is the federal authority for Commercial Driver License (CDL) requirements, has recently revised policies and guidance to all state motor vehicle licensing agencies concerning the issuance of non-domiciled CDLs. This new guidance, among other things, narrows the type of acceptable immigration documents that can be used to demonstrate legal presence as part of the issuance process.

In order to comply with the updated guidance and meet FMCSA requirements that state motor vehicle licensing agencies perform a review of all non-domiciled CDLs issued, the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) immediately paused all issuance of non-domiciled CDLs in September of 2025. As part of our internal review, the Ohio BMV requested clarification and guidance on FMCSA's interpretation of which United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) documents were acceptable for issuance.

To ensure compliance with FMCSA policy, Ohio will be notifying all current non-domiciled/NRNT CDL holders that they must appear in person at a BMV license agency to verify current legal presence by presenting either:

- 1) an unexpired employment authorization document (EAD) issued by USCIS, or
- 2) an unexpired foreign passport with an unexpired USCIS I-94 form.

The Ohio BMV asks all impacted CDL holders to follow directions detailed on the letter they will receive, which includes the date they will be eligible to re-verify status and apply for a new CDL. Individuals should not attempt to appear at a BMV licensing agency before the date provided on the above-mentioned notification. Individuals who do not verify status and meet all CDL requirements by the date instructed in the notification will have their CDL downgraded to a Class-D driver license.

Please note the State of Ohio's longstanding policy is to only issue credentials to individuals who have presented documentation establishing legal status which is then confirmed by USCIS's electronic verification system. Additionally, the expiration date on all noncitizen Ohio credentials aligns with the immigration documentation expiration date.