

Missouri Department of Transportation
Patrick K. McKenna, Director

P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0270
Toll Free: 866.831.6277

Alternative Vision Standard-Effective March 22, 2022

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration announced a final rule implementing a new alternative vision standard for commercial motor vehicle drivers. The new regulation allows drivers normally requiring a vision exemption, to now be physically qualified under specified conditions. The alternative vision standard will replace the current vision exemption program. The new rule takes effect on Tuesday, March 22, 2022.

Evaluation by Optometrist or Ophthalmologist

Before an individual can be medically certified under the new alternative vision standard, the driver must undergo a vision evaluation by an optometrist or ophthalmologist. This optometrist or ophthalmologist will provide specific medical opinions on the Vision Evaluation Report, Form MCSA-5871.

The Vision Evaluation Report form to take with you can be found online at:

<https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/regulations/medical/vision-evaluation-report-form-mcsa-5871>

Annual Medical Examination

Within 45 days following the vision evaluation by the optometrist or ophthalmologist, the vision evaluation report must be provided to the certified medical examiner performing the DOT physical. The medical examiner will consider the information provided in the vision evaluation report and determine from the new standard whether the driver meets the physical qualifications. If so, the examiner will issue a medical certificate valid for no more than 12 months. A vision exemption certificate will no longer be required.

Vision Exemptions Expiring after March 22, 2023

Current vision exemption holders will have one year to comply with the new alternative vision standard. If you have a current vision exemption certificate issued by MoDOT that expires after March 22, 2023, you must be qualified under the new alternative vision standard on or before March 22, 2023. All vision exemption certificates will be void on March 23, 2023.

Elimination of 3 Years Intrastate Driving Experience

Three years of intrastate driving experience with the vision deficiency is no longer required. Drivers physically qualified under the new alternative vision standard for the first time must complete a road test by the employing motor carrier before operating in interstate commerce.

First time applicants or drivers renewing the vision exemption/waiver must submit the completed exemption packet no later than **March 16, 2022** for a certificate to be issued prior to the rule change. If not submitted by March 16th, drivers will need to follow the new alternative vision standard process outlined above, which would require a new DOT physical.

If you switch to the new alternative vision standard prior to the expiration of your current waiver, please contact Pam Lueckenotto once you are fully qualified to allow our records to be updated.

Any questions please contact Program Specialist **Pam Lueckenotto at 636-288-6082.**

