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July 15, 2019

Notification of Changes Regarding Commercial Driver License Exams

In order for Delaware to maintain consistency and remain compliant with national standards, an array of changes to the Commercial Driver License (CDL) exams will occur on July 22, 2019. These changes are based upon the research, work and best practices supported by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to ensure safety on our roadways.

The information in this notice provides general guidance and does not discuss all potential changes. Some of the changes include:

- **Pre-Trip Vehicle Inspection** – Driver applicants will be required to point to/touch and **name** the necessary items. Outlined in Section 11, page 11-1
- **Pre-Trip Vehicle Inspection – Light Operations Check** - Prior to this change, before your actual exam began, you participated in a DMV skills examiner-led external lights operation check. This was a “safety check” of all the external lights. This process was to ensure the lights and signals are functioning properly. *The driver applicant did not receive credit for any of these components.* Effective July 22, 2019 each driver applicant will be required to conduct a **driver applicant-led** external Light Operations Check. Applicants must correctly name each light(s) they are checking and demonstrate the light(s) are functioning properly. Applicant may request the assistance from the skills examiner when demonstrating the functionality of the lights, for example activating the right turn signal. *The driver applicants will receive points during this lights operations check.* Outlined under “Lights /Reflectors / Reflector Tape Condition (Sides & Rear) in Section 11, page 11-2
- **Pre-Trip Vehicle Inspection - Hydraulic Brake Check** – Failure to perform both components of the hydraulic brake check will result in an automatic failure. Procedure is outlined in Section 11, page 11-2
- **Pre-Trip Vehicle Inspection – Air Brake Check** – Failure to perform all three components of the air brake check will result in an automatic failure. Procedure is outlined in Section 11, page 11-2

- **Pre-Trip Vehicle Inspection – Exhaust System, Emissions After-Treatment Equipment, Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF)** - In 2010 the EPA is requiring new vehicles to achieve a new diesel exhaust emissions regulation limit, which is .2 NOx down from 1.2 in 2007. If the vehicle you will use for your skills test is equipped with emissions after-treatment equipment you are required to:
 - check the DEF tank to ensure the level of diesel exhaust fluid in the tank is adequate (more than 1/8th tank)
 - Check that the DEF indicator on the dash is working properly.

Procedure is outlined in Section 11, page 11-4

- **Basic Vehicle Control Skills- Final position-** Failure to be in final position at the end of a basic control skills maneuver will result in an unsuccessful exam.

Please note, these changes will impact the facilitation of an applicant's CDL exam. Make sure to obtain (in person or online) the latest *State of Delaware Commercial Driver License Manual, version July 2017*. The manuals will be available at all four of our locations on July 15, 2019. It will also be available to view online by visiting our website at www.dmv.de.gov, under "Forms and Manuals".

If you have additional questions, feel free to contact the CDL department at (302) 744-2650.

Commercial Driver License Department

