Section: 1. Issuance of Driver's License

Effective Date: 03/03/1992

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Authority:
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations
49 C.F.R. 383.25
R.S. 32:408
To view Louisiana Statutes: http://www.legis.state.la.us/

Objective: This policy outlines the requirements for issuance of a commercial learner's permit (CLP).

Definitions:
- **Application Fee** – A fee assessed on a commercial driver’s license (CDL) for processing the application for issuance. This fee is charged for each application.
- **Commercial Driver’s License (CDL)** – A driver’s license issued by the state driver’s license agency, that specifically allows drivers to operate a commercial motor vehicle
- **Commercial Learner’s Permit (CLP)** – “A permit that only authorizes a person to practice on public roads with a qualified CDL holder accompanying the driver”¹
- **Intrastate Commerce** – Only having the ability to drive within the state without meeting requirements for interstate commerce

Eligibility:
- Must be 18 years of age or older
  - If under the age of 21, the applicant must certify intrastate on the Supplemental Form for CDL Application (DPSMV2211)
- Must pass all knowledge exams prior to the issuance of the CLP
- Must have a valid Louisiana driver's license to qualify for a Louisiana issued CLP, without the “02” restriction (operating a vehicle only with a licensed driver)
  - **Out of State Applicants**: Out-of-state students who are attending a driver training school may obtain and use a CLP in combination with a valid driver's license issued by their home state. The CLP and driver’s license must be from the same state.
General:

- Some applicants may require training during the CDL issuance process. On or after February 7, 2022, the CLP holder must have completed training from an approved ELDT training provider before taking a skills test. On or after February 7, 2022, applicants for a first time Hazmat endorsement must have completed training from an approved ELDT training provider before taking the written test.

- A Commercial Learner’s Permit (CLP) shall be obtained for the purpose of behind-the-wheel training of a commercial motor vehicle. While taking behind the wheel training:
  - A CDL holder must at all times be physically present in the front seat of the vehicle next to the CLP holder or, in the case of a passenger vehicle, directly behind or in the first row behind the driver, and must have the CLP holder under observation and direct supervision.
  - The CDL holder must have the proper class and endorsement for operation of the vehicle being used for training.
  - All applicants shall obtain a CLP prior to the administration of a skills test.
  - The CLP holder is not eligible to take the CDL skills test in the first fourteen (14) days after initial issuance of the CLP.

- Endorsements:
  - The only endorsements that can be issued on a CLP are:
    - "N" - Tank
    - "P" - Passenger
    - "S" - School Bus
  - Each endorsement indicated above will also have a corresponding restriction code. Restriction codes are:
    - "N" - Tank/69 restriction
    - "P" - Passenger/07 restriction
    - "S" - School Bus/07 restrictions

- Extension of Expiration Date: A CLP is issued for up to 180 days with an option to extend for an additional 180 days, if additional training time is needed.
  - The term of the CLP cannot exceed one year from the date of initial issuance.
  - There is no charge for the extension.

Required Documentation:

- Proof of Louisiana Residency, as defined in Section 1, Policy 3.04, Residency Requirements.
- Completed CDL Supplemental Form (DPSMV2211), required initially and anytime the type of commerce changes.
- Current Medical Examiner’s Certificate (MCSA5876), certifying the driver is qualified under the provisions of 49 CFR 391.41.
  - On or after May 21, 2014, all CDL physicals must be performed by a medical examiner certified by the National Registry of Medical Examiners. Please visit the National Registry for a list of certified medical examiners.

Fees:

- CDL Application Fee - Prior to examination, all applicants are required to pay a $15.00 application fee and to complete the necessary CDL application forms.
  - The application fee is forfeited if there is any attempt at cheating and the applicant must wait thirty (30) days before being allowed to take the exam again.
Related Policies:
Section 1, Policy 10.00, Knowledge Examinations for all Classes
Section 1, Policy 12.00, Road Skills Tests

References: