



LAW ENFORCEMENT INFORMATION MEMO: 21-01
SUBJECT: TSA Hazmat Extension Due to COVID-19
Memo Date: January 15, 2021

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Purpose

To notify California law enforcement agencies of a possible delay in commercial driver license (CDL) card renewals specific to hazmat endorsements and Transportation Safety Administration (TSA) security threat assessment clearance on record for commercial licenses.

Background

On March 4, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency due to an outbreak of novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

On April 2, 2020, TSA granted a temporary exemption from requirements regarding the expiration of the TSA security threat assessment for hazmat endorsement holders (49 CFR 1572). This exemption permitted states to extend the expiration date for a hazmat endorsement for up to 180 days for individuals with a hazmat endorsement that expired between March 1, 2020, and July 31, 2020, even if the individual did not initiate or complete submission of required information for a security threat assessment of at least 60 days before expiration of the hazmat endorsement.

On July 31, 2020, TSA announced an extension of the exemption effective August 1, 2020, permitting states to extend the expiration date for a hazmat endorsement for up to 180 days for individuals with a hazmat endorsement that expired between March 1, 2020, and October 29, 2020.

Pursuant to the authority given to the state by TSA, DMV extended the expiration date for a hazmat endorsement for 180 days for individuals with a hazmat endorsement that expired between March 1, 2020, and October 29, 2020.

New Information

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, certain populations have been advised to stay home due to the risk of exposure to COVID-19. Some Californians are required to visit a DMV field office in order to renew their CDL, or a TSA facility to renew their security threat assessment and may be unable to do so at this time.

On October 28, 2020, TSA announced an additional extension of the exemption which was set to expire as of October 29, 2020. This extension of the exemption will be effective October 30, 2020, through December 31, 2020. TSA indicated the extension was issued because several states continue to experience greater than normal employee

**New
Information
Continued**

absences or have closed offices of their State Driver Licensing Agencies resulting in many CDL and CLP holders being unable to complete the necessary application process.

Pursuant to the authority given to the state by TSA, DMV has extended the expiration date for a hazmat endorsement for 180 days for individuals with a hazmat endorsement that expires between March 1, 2020, and the end date of this exemption December 31, 2020, even if the individual did not initiate or complete submission of required information for a security threat assessment of at least 60 days before expiration of the hazmat endorsement.

Note: While DMV has taken action to extend hazmat endorsements, the department will not update driver license records to reflect this extension. For those with expired security threat assessments during this time period, eligible cardholders' hazmat endorsements remain valid to transport hazardous materials. A message indicating "LICENSE VALID PENDING REVIEW" status has been added to the record of eligible commercial drivers.

Due to this emergency, California law enforcement personnel are asked to honor the exemption mentioned above, accept a record with "license valid pending review" as valid, and are encouraged to exercise flexibility and discretion when reviewing CDL records. Please disseminate this information to all interested persons and agencies within your jurisdiction.

Contact

Please direct any questions or concerns regarding this memorandum or changes to the email distribution list to the Information Policy and Liaison Section at (916) 657-7732 or via email at jaglaw@dmv.ca.gov.



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