

NON-DOMICILED COMMERCIAL DRIVER LICENSE FACT SHEET

Pennsylvania law and Federal Regulation allows for the issuance of a non-domiciled Commercial Learner's Permit (CLP) or Commercial Driver's License (CDL) to individuals who are legally allowed to reside and work in the United States (U.S.) but are not U.S. Citizens or Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR) and are domiciled in a foreign jurisdiction or in a state whose CDL program was decertified. Citizens of Mexico (excluding Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals - DACA) and Canada are not eligible due to reciprocity agreements and as outlined in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Regulation and guidance.

What is a non-domiciled CLP/CDL?

A non-domiciled CLP or CDL is a Commercial Driver's License product issued to individuals who meet all qualifications but are not U.S. Citizens or Lawful Permanent Residents, are legally present, and hold a valid Employment Authorization Document (EAD) or an unexpired foreign passport accompanied by an approved I-94 (Arrival/Departure Record) form. A non-domiciled CDL allows individuals to operate commercial motor vehicles.

Who can apply for a non-domiciled CDL?

Individuals domiciled in a foreign country (except Canada and Mexico) meeting certain requirements and qualifications who wish to operate commercial vehicles in the U.S.

A State Driver's Licensing Agency (SDLA) may issue a non-domiciled CLP or CDL, using procedures under 49 CFR § 383.73(f) (2), to individuals who are citizens of Mexico and present in the United States under the DACA immigration policy and have obtained DACA status, provided that the applicants meet the requirements of 49 CFR § 383.71 (f)(2) and do not hold, and have never held, a Licencia Federal de Conductor issued by Mexico.

What documentation is required to apply?

Applicants must provide an unexpired Employment Authorization Document (EAD) issued by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) or an unexpired foreign passport accompanied by an approved I-94 (Arrival/Departure Record) form documenting their most recent admittance into the United States. The DHS-issued documents provided are verified in the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) system. Additional documentation may be required for proof of legal presence. Non-U.S. Citizens should refer to the PUB 195NC for additional information. Proof of Pennsylvania residency will also be required.

Can I apply for non-domiciled CLP/CDL if I do not have a Social Security Number or if I am not eligible for a Social Security Number?

No. Applicants must provide their Social Security Number (SSN) by providing acceptable proof of SSN if not already on file with PennDOT.

Does PennDOT verify lawful presence in the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) system?

Yes. The DHS-issued documents presented for proof of lawful presence will be verified in SAVE.

Can a U.S. Citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident apply for a non-domiciled CLP/CDL in a state where they are not domiciled?

Not usually. CDL drivers must be licensed in their home state.

Instead of applying for a non-domiciled CLP/CDL, a U.S. Citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident must apply for a standard-issuance CDL product from the state in which they are domiciled. Non-domiciled CDLs for U.S. Citizens and Lawful Permanent Residents are only an option when their home state is prohibited from issuing CDL products.

Can I transfer a non-domiciled CLP from another state to Pennsylvania?

No. Commercial Learner's Permits are non-transferrable.

Can I transfer a non-domiciled CDL from another state or licensing jurisdiction to Pennsylvania?

Yes. You must present your out-of-state valid non-domiciled CDL, and you meet all our requirements to transfer a license into Pennsylvania. You will be required to provide your current unexpired employment authorization document (EAD) issued by USCIS, or an unexpired foreign passport accompanied by an approved I-94 (Arrival/Departure Record) form documenting your most recent admittance into the United States, proof of social security number by presenting your Social Security Card or other approved acceptable documents for proof of social security number, a completed DL-180RCD and DL-11CD forms, and applicable licensing fees. If your DL-11CD driving status certification requires you to have a Medical Examination Certificate (MEC) you must have this completed before your visit and making application.

How do I apply for a non-domiciled CDL in Pennsylvania if I do not have a non-domiciled CDL from another state to transfer?

To apply for a non-domiciled CDL in Pennsylvania, you must have an underlying Pennsylvania non-commercial driver's license. If you have not already obtained your non-commercial driver's license, please visit www.pa.gov for information on how to apply.

If you have an underlying non-commercial Pennsylvania driver's license, you must appear in person at a PennDOT Driver License Center to make application. You will be required to provide your current Pennsylvania non-commercial driver's license, unexpired Employment Authorization Document (EAD) issued by USCIS, or an unexpired foreign passport accompanied by an approved I-94 (Arrival/Departure Record) form documenting your most recent admittance into the United States, proof of social security number by presenting your Social Security Card or other approved acceptable documents if not already provided and verified, a completed DL-31CD and DL-11CD forms, and applicable permit and licensing fees. If your DL-11CD driving status certification requires you to have a Medical Examination Certificate (MEC) you must have this completed before you visit a Driver License Center and make application. To obtain a non-domiciled CLP/CDL, you will need to take and pass all required knowledge and skills testing per testing standards outlined in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSR), Parts 383 and 384.

Are there language requirements during testing for non-domiciled CDL applicants?

Yes. Interpreters are not permitted during any portion of testing. Although applicants may take knowledge testing in a foreign language, you must be able to understand and converse in English during all skills testing. If you are unable to understand and converse in English, commercial skills testing will not be administered.

How long is a non-domiciled CDL valid?

A non-domiciled CDL is issued for the approved length of work authorization or stay as indicated on your most current unexpired Employment Authorization Document (EAD) issued by USCIS or an unexpired foreign passport accompanied by an approved I-94. The expiration date of your Pennsylvania license will not exceed 4 years.

My Pennsylvania non-domiciled CDL is expired or about to expire. What do I need to do?

If your non-domiciled CDL is expired or about to expire, you must appear in person at a PennDOT Driver License Center to make application to renew. You will be required to provide your unexpired Employment Authorization Document (EAD) issued by USCIS, or an unexpired foreign passport accompanied by an approved I-94 (Arrival/Departure Record) form documenting your most recent admittance into the United States, a completed DL-143CD and DL-11CD forms (if your status has changed), and licensing fees. If your DL-11CD driving status certification requires you to have a Medical Examination Certificate (MEC) it must be current, or you must have this completed before your visit and making application. Additional documentation may be required for continued proof of legal presence. Non-US Citizens should refer to the PUB 195NC for additional information. Proof of Pennsylvania residency will also be required if your address has changed.

I lost my Pennsylvania non-domiciled CDL. What do I need to do?

If you have lost your non-domiciled CDL, you must appear in person at a PennDOT Driver License Center to make application to replace. You will be required to provide your unexpired Employment Authorization Document (EAD) issued by USCIS, or an unexpired foreign passport accompanied by an approved I-94 (Arrival/Departure Record) form documenting your most recent admittance into the United States, a completed DL-80CD and DL-11CD forms (if your status has changed), and licensing fees. If your DL-11CD driving status certification requires you to have a Medical Examination Certificate (MEC) it must be current, or you must have this completed before your visit and making application. Additional documentation may be required for continued proof of legal presence. Non-US Citizens should refer to PUB 195NC for additional information. Proof of Pennsylvania residency will also be required if your address has changed.

Are non-domiciled CDL holders required to undergo medical certification like U.S. CDL holders?

Yes, non-domiciled CDL holders must meet the same Federal medical certification standards as U.S. CDL holders if they operate a Commercial Motor Vehicle in the United States.

How does a non-domiciled CDL differ from a regular CDL?

Both types of CDLs require the same knowledge and skills tests. The differences with a non-domiciled CDL are:

- Eligibility based on the applicant's legal status and approved length of stay.
- Shorter and tied-to-immigration-status validity.
- Stricter documentation and vetting requirements.

What are the federal regulations, per FMCSA, governing non-domiciled CLP or CDLs?

Federal regulations, specifically parts 383 and 384 outline requirements for non-domiciled CLPs and CDLs. Key points include:

- Applicants must provide an unexpired EAD card or foreign passport and an unexpired Form I-94/I-94A at every issuance, renewal, or upgrade.
- All renewals must be completed in person.
- The non-domiciled CLP/CDL can only be issued for the length of approved Employment Authorization or Date Admitted To, not to exceed four years.
- The word "Non-domiciled" must be prominently displayed on the CDL or CLP.