June 10th, 2015

Good afternoon, here is some information for our client base that we feel is timely. The first deals with the December 18th, 2014, ruling pertaining to the decision to rescind the requirement of documenting post-trip inspections on inspections with no defects found. The second item pertains to required documents proving citizenship. It should be noted that companies we have done business with have, as part of their application, proof of citizenship or authority to work in the US requirements already. This rapidly approaching rule applies to obtaining a Commercial Driver’s License (CDL).

Point one: It should be noted a recent poll of our Department of Transportation (DOT) Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration shows that most companies are still requiring their drivers to complete a written post-trip Driver’s Vehicle Inspection Report (DVIR) whether there is a mechanical issue or not. This is to ensure and prove in the case of an accident, as well as to provide the company general peace-of-mind, that a post-inspection on the equipment was indeed done, thus giving the company the assurance that their fleet is safe. DOT still requires pre- and post-trip inspections to be conducted, and, in the US, it only requires written documentation of the post-accident inspection. Canada requires both pre- and post-inspections to be written.

Point two is a reminder to reference Federal Guidelines that go into effect this summer.

The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) would like to inform commercial drivers about federal guidelines relating to proof of citizenship. Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulation 383.71 requires all Commercial Driver License (CDL) drivers to present proof of citizenship or legal presence and proof of North Dakota residence address when applying or renewing your license.
Effective July 8, 2015, all Commercial Learner’s Permit applicants and holders will be required to show the Driver License Examiner at least one document to prove citizenship or legal presence and one document to prove North Dakota residence address.

Also, effective August 1, 2015, all current North Dakota CDL license holders and out-of-state CDL transfers will be required to show the Driver License Examiner at least one document to prove citizenship or legal presence and one document to prove North Dakota residence address at the time of regular CDL renewal.

Documents to show Proof of Citizenship or Legal Presence in the United States:

1. Valid, unexpired U.S. Passport
2. State or U.S. Territory Certified Birth Certificate
3. Report of Birth Abroad issued by the U.S. Department of State
4. Certificate of Naturalization
5. Certificate of Citizenship
6. Valid, unexpired Permanent Resident Card
8. Unexpired Foreign Passport with I-94
9. I-94 Card stamped Refugee or Asylee

Documents to show Proof of North Dakota Residence Address:

All documents must contain your name and physical residence address. Post Office boxes are not acceptable for residence address. You may present the paper document or a virtual image from your smartphone. Acceptable documents are:

1. Government-issued tax form
2. Bank statement
3. Mortgage document
4. Homeowners/renter’s insurance policy  
5. Utility bill  
6. Credit card statement  
7. Pay stub or earnings statement  
8. Rent receipt  
9. Phone bill  

It should be noted for our client base in other states, the listed 2015 deadline for implementation on the required documentation when obtaining a CDL permit and license will affect your CDL process as well.  

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