

Change 166
Manual of the Medical Department
U.S. Navy
NAVMED P-117

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To: Holders of the Manual of the Medical Department

1. This Change. Updates chapter 15, section IV, article 15-107, Explosives Motor Vehicle Operator and Explosives Handler Examinations and Standards. Changes noted:

a. Removes the requirement for Department of the Navy (DON) military and civilian explosives handlers to meet the medical standards of 49 CFR §391, providing specific medical evaluation guidelines for these positions. Because contract explosives handlers are examined by civilian examiners who may be unfamiliar with the specific job, they must meet 49 CFR §391 standards, and be examined at least every 2 years.

(1) Directs examiners conducting medical qualification examinations for DON civilian explosives handlers to make an individualized assessment to determine whether the individual can safely perform the essential functions of the job with or without reasonable accommodation.

(2) Per 5 CFR §339, directs examiners conducting medical qualification examinations for DON civilian explosives handlers to make a medical qualification determination after the initial history, physical exam, and required testing.

(3) Provides a link to a list of essential job functions common to most DON explosives handler positions.

b. Clarifies which certificates are required for whom: the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's Medical Examiner's Certificate (MCSA-5876) is required for all medically qualified DON civilian and contract explosives motor vehicle operators and contract explosives handlers, while the OPNAV 8020/6, Department of the Navy Medical Examiner's Certificate, is required for military personnel who are medically qualified as explosives motor vehicle operators, as well as both military and DON civilian explosives handlers, including forklift operators transporting explosives.

2. Action

a. Remove pages 15-94 through 15-95b and replace with revised pages 15-94 through 15-95c.

b. Record this Change 166 in the Record of Page Changes.


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15-107**Explosives Motor
Vehicle Operator
and Explosives
Handler Examinations
and Standards**

(1) **Background.** Military personnel were previously exempt from the requirements of the Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) Safety Act of 1986, and, in particular, from the physical examination requirements to obtain a commercial driver's license. DoD policy requires civilian and military explosives motor vehicle operators to meet physical qualification requirements as listed in 49 CFR §391, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) regulations. Explosives are considered as "hazardous materials" with regard to FMCSA regulations related to vehicle operator medical certification. FMCSA regulations require CMV driver physical examinations be performed by licensed providers listed on the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (NRCME). DON civilian CMV driver examinations are to be performed and reported to the FMCSA by NRCME providers. Military CMV driver examinations are not to be reported to the FMCSA, and may be performed by NRCME or non-NRCME certified providers; however, non-NRCME providers must use Department of Transportation standards and be as knowledgeable about these standards as NRCME providers. BUMEDINST 1500.30, Training and Certification Requirements for Healthcare Practitioners Performing Commercial Driver Examinations, describes responsibilities related to CMV examinations.

(2) **Scope.** These special duty certification examinations are required for all military, DON civilian, and contract personnel assigned as explosives motor vehicle operators and explosives handlers. Medical examinations are not provided for civilian contractor personnel unless stipulated in contract terms or agreements. Contractors must obtain their examination and qualification documentation (MCSA-5876) from a civilian provider who meets the requirements of 49 CFR §391. Exceptions to the medical standards for explosives motor vehicle operators are described in paragraph (8) of this article and require review via the waiver process established by the Naval Ordnance Safety and Security Activity (NOSSA). The two qualifications as explosives motor vehicle operator and

explosives handler are separate. Those qualified as explosives motor vehicle operators are concurrently qualified as explosives handlers. However, explosives handler qualification does not confer qualification for explosives motor vehicle operator.

(3) **Periodicity.** The Explosives Motor Vehicle Operator (720) examination for both military and civilian workers is required every 2 years (or less, based on medical factors and 49 CFR §391). For Explosives Handlers (721), the examination interval is no longer than 5 years for military and civilian employees, and no longer than 2 years for contract employees.

(4) **Concordance with other examinations.** Examiners using another comprehensive special duty examination, such as a Special Duty examination contained in MANMED chapter 15, section IV, as the basis for the explosives motor vehicle operator qualification must review the findings against the standards of this program as identified in 49 CFR §391. For example, qualification for submarine duty does not automatically imply qualification for explosives motor vehicle operator, as vision in both eyes is not a requirement for submarine duty, but is required for explosives motor vehicle operation.

(a) Personnel assigned to Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal units must meet the requirements of MANMED chapter 15, article 15-102 (Diving Duty) as well as the requirements delineated in this article.

(b) Personnel assigned within the jurisdiction of United States Marine Corps (USMC) commands must additionally meet requirements of Marine Corps TM 11240-15, Motor Vehicle Licensing Official's Handbook.

(c) Military members must meet the qualification standards for any applicable programs described elsewhere in this chapter, in addition to the standards described here.

(5) **Reporting of Medical Status Changes.** Personnel assigned to duties as explosives motor vehicle operators or explosives handlers are responsible to report to their supervisor or the medical department any physical or mental condition, or any change in their medical status, which may impact their ability to operate a motor vehicle or handle explosives or otherwise pose a health or safety hazard to self, co-workers, or the public. Supervisors are responsible to direct such personnel to the appropriate medical department for evaluation.

(6) *Explosives Motor Vehicle Operators/DOT (720)*

(a) The purpose of this program is to ensure military members and DON civilians who operate vehicles or machinery which transport explosives or other hazardous material on public roads are physically qualified. Personnel who are explosives motor vehicle operators must comply with the physical examination requirements in 49 CFR §391 and FMCSA guidance (and other DoD instructions, as applicable).

(b) Civilian personnel who are medically qualified as explosives motor vehicle operators under this article must be issued only an FMCSA Medical Examiner's Certificate (MCSA-5876). Military personnel who are medically qualified as explosives motor vehicle operators must be issued only an OPNAV 8020/6, Department of the Navy Medical Examiner's Certificate.

(c) Personnel must not handle explosives or operate a motor vehicle containing explosives unless physically qualified to do so. An explosives motor vehicle operator must have, on his or her person, the original or photographic copy of the appropriate completed medical examiner's certificate stating that he or she is physically qualified.

(d) *Physical Qualifications.* The physical qualification standards for explosives motor vehicle operators are set forth in 49 CFR §391.41, Subpart E, Physical Qualifications and Examinations. A person is physically qualified as an explosives motor vehicle operator if that person:

(1) Has no loss of limb that impairs performance of assigned duties.

(2) Has no impairment of:

(a) A hand or finger which interferes with prehension or power grasping.

(b) An arm, foot, or leg limitation which interferes with the ability to perform normal tasks associated with operating a CMV (or equivalent).

(3) Has no established medical history or clinical diagnosis of diabetes mellitus currently requiring insulin for control.

(4) Has no current clinical diagnosis of myocardial infarction, angina pectoris, coronary

insufficiency, thrombosis, or any other cardiovascular disease of a variety known to be accompanied by syncope, dyspnea, collapse, or congestive heart failure.

(5) Has no established medical history or clinical diagnosis of a respiratory dysfunction likely to interfere with his or her ability to operate a CMV (or equivalent) safely.

(6) Has no current clinical diagnosis of high blood pressure (over 140 systolic or 90 diastolic) likely to interfere with his or her ability to operate a CMV (or equivalent) safely, according to guidelines contained in 49 CFR §391.43. Shorter qualification intervals apply to persons with high blood pressure.

(7) Has no established medical history or clinical diagnosis of rheumatic, arthritic, orthopedic, muscular, neuromuscular, or vascular disease which interferes with his or her ability to operate a CMV (or equivalent) safely.

(8) Has no established medical history or clinical diagnosis of epilepsy or any other condition which is likely to cause loss of consciousness or any loss of ability to control a CMV (or equivalent).

(9) Has no mental nervous, organic, or functional disease or psychiatric disorder likely to interfere with his or her ability to safely drive a CMV (or equivalent).

(10) Has distant visual acuity of at least 20/40 (Snellen) in each eye separately and in both eyes together with or without corrective lenses, field of vision of at least 70 degrees in the horizontal meridian in each eye, and the ability to recognize the colors of traffic signals and devices showing standard red, green, and amber.

(11) First perceives a forced whisper in the better ear at not less than 5 feet with or without the use of a hearing aid or, if tested by use of an audiometric device, does not have an average hearing loss in the better ear greater than 40 decibels at 500 Hz, 1,000 Hz, and 2,000 Hz with or without a hearing aid.

(12) Does not use a controlled substance or drug identified as Schedule I, an amphetamine, a narcotic, or any other habit-forming drug. *Exception:* A driver may use such a substance or drug, if the substance or drug is prescribed by a licensed medical practitioner who is familiar with the driver's medical history and assigned duties, and has advised the driver and provided to the examiner a written

statement certifying that the prescribed substance or drug will not adversely affect the driver's ability to safely operate a CMV (or equivalent).

(13) Has no current clinical diagnosis of alcoholism.

Note. For Explosives Motor Vehicle Operators/DOT (720), additional specific quantifiable parameters for certain medical conditions can be found in the FMCSA medical program guidelines (<http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/rules-regulations/administration/medical.htm>).

(7) **Explosives Handlers (721).** The purpose of this program is to ensure those who handle explosives, with or without industrial material handling equipment, are physically qualified. This examination may be conducted and signed by any Navy medical provider, including physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and (for military members only) Independent Duty Corpsmen.

(a) **Physical Qualifications.** Military explosives handlers must meet the qualifications for retention per section III of this chapter, and be evaluated per the guidance below. Civilian explosives handlers must be evaluated per the following guidance; the examiner must determine if the applicant or employee can safely perform the essential functions of the job with or without reasonable accommodation. As with all medical qualification examinations, the explosives handler medical qualification examination is a risk-based assessment, not a diagnostic examination. For each applicant or employee, determining medical qualification requires a case-by-case, individualized assessment. In order to make an accurate medical qualification determination, the examiner must be knowledgeable of the specific functional requirements and environmental factors of the job (per the job description and the Optional Form (OF) 178, Certificate of Medical Examination). A list of essential job functions common to most DON explosives handler positions is available at the NOSSA Web site, <https://go.usa.gov/xQCnf>. This list provides a sample of essential job functions and is not all-inclusive of DON civilian positions. Local management should tailor these functions for each specific explosives handler job or job class as needed.

(b) Per 5 CFR §339.304, once the provider has performed the initial history, physical exam, and required testing, he or she will make a determination as to the examinee's medical qualification. Occupational health providers having questions or needing assistance with unusual circumstances should contact their regional occupational medicine program manager or human resources representative.

(c) For DON civilian explosives handler positions, OF 178, or other appropriate form will be used by the examining physician to document the exam and the assessment of medical qualification. The examiner will identify work restrictions or limitations, if appropriate, and may suggest practices, aids, or devices that would allow the individual to safely perform the essential job functions under reasonable accommodation.

(d) The medical guidelines listed here are not all-inclusive. Many disorders not mentioned here can interfere with safe job performance and, therefore, would be medically disqualifying for explosives handler duties. Each case must be evaluated individually on its own merits.

(e) The purpose of the explosives handler medical evaluation is to identify evidence of medical conditions that would reasonably be expected to impair the ability to safely perform the essential functions of the job. The examiner should focus on finding medical conditions associated with sudden or gradual incapacitation, visual or hearing deficiency, or significant orthopedic or psychiatric impairments. The following conditions potentially interfere with safe explosives handler job performance:

(1) **Visual Impairment.** Unless more stringent vision requirements are specified on the OF 178, an explosives handler should generally have a distant visual acuity of 20/40 or better in each eye separately and in both eyes together with or without corrective lenses, field of vision of at least 70 degrees in the horizontal meridian in each eye, and the ability to recognize colors adequately to perform explosives handler duties. Some explosives handler jobs may, by reason of the specific work place (i.e., physical layout, presence or absence of co-workers, signage, etc.), allow for poorer visual acuity or require greater visual acuity.

(2) **Hearing impairment** that interferes with the ability to adequately communicate on the job and to sense hazards in the workplace.

(3) **Musculoskeletal condition** that impairs performance of explosives handler duties.

(4) **Cardiac disease** associated with potential for syncope, dyspnea, collapse, or heart failure (e.g., uncontrolled or severe hypertension, myocardial infarction, angina pectoris, coronary insufficiency, thrombosis, etc.).

(5) Respiratory dysfunction likely to interfere with safe performance of explosives handler job duties, such as severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or severe asthma.

(6) Metabolic conditions such as severe or poorly controlled diabetes mellitus.

(7) Neurologic conditions associated with sudden or gradual incapacitation, such as epilepsy or seizure disorders, severe migraine headaches, narcolepsy, history of severe head trauma, cranial defects, or multiple sclerosis.

(8) Psychiatric, mental, nervous, organic, or functional disorder likely to interfere with safe performance of explosives handler duties. Psychiatric disorders that could affect the ability to perform essential job functions require additional evaluation. The presence of any of the following specific psychiatric disorders, or a history of such signs or symptoms, may warrant further evaluation by a mental health professional. Other psychiatric disorders not listed here also may warrant further evaluation.

(a) Delirium, dementia, amnesia, or other cognitive disorders.

(b) Major depressive disorder.

(c) Manic-depressive disorder (bipolar).

(d) Dissociative disorders.

(e) Panic disorder and other anxiety disorders (depending upon cause, duration, and severity of clinical expression).

(f) Gambling disorder.

(g) Disruptive, impulse-control, and conduct disorders, to include, but not limited to kleptomania, pyromania, and intermittent explosive disorder.

(h) Schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders.

(i) Personality disorders.

(j) Intellectual disability.

(k) Substance use disorder, to include alcohol use disorder.

(9) Use of any drug likely to impair alertness or safe explosives handler duty performance. Current alcoholism or drug abuse should be considered disqualifying.

(f) **Periodicity.** For DON military and civilian explosives handlers, the usual exam interval is 5 years. Medical evaluation should be required more frequently if, in the interim, there are medical signs or symptoms suggestive of a medical condition that might interfere with the performance of essential job functions. Certification for less than 5 years is at the discretion of the examining provider.

(g) **Contract Explosives Handlers.** Prior to being assigned to perform explosives handler duties, all contract personnel will be required to undergo a medical examination; this will be at the contractor's expense unless specified otherwise in the contract. Contract explosives handlers must be examined by NRCME certified examiners, and must meet the medical requirements of 49 CFR §391. This requirement also applies to contract personnel currently working in such positions. Contract explosives handlers must be issued an FMCSA Medical Examiner's Certificate (MCSA-5876), which may be valid for up to 2 years.

(h) OPNAV 8020/6 will be issued to qualified military or civilian explosives handlers and is available at https://navalforms.documentservices.dla.mil/formsDir/OPNAV_8020_6_4422.pdf.

(8) **Exceptions, exemptions, and waivers of medical standards or physical requirements.** Certain CMV drivers who do not meet all physical qualification criteria for a position may potentially be considered for exceptions, exemptions, or waivers.

(a) **Exceptions.** An exception is issued by a commanding officer for unique, mission-critical situations in which a military explosives motor vehicle operator is temporarily unable to meet all qualification criteria, but is expected, either because recovery is imminent or because of limited driving or handling requirements, to be able to adequately perform the mission-specific functions. For military explosives motor vehicle operators, a commanding officer may grant an exception for limited special duty assignments to meet critical mission requirements, after consultation with an occupational medicine physician and the installation's explosives safety officer. Exceptions are valid for the duration of the mission or temporary impairment only.

(b) **Exemptions** are issued by the FMCSA for CMV drivers with certain medical conditions, including insulin-dependent diabetes with excellent blood glucose control, monocular vision with ophthalmologist or optometrist concurrence, and limb loss or impairment with a skill performance evaluation

certificate. An exemption indicates a normally disqualifying condition is either well-controlled or compensated for such that the driver is capable of safely operating a CMV (or equivalent). If a civilian is found not qualified during examination and produces conflicting information from his or her private physician, 49 CFR §391.47 provides criteria for submitting documents to the Department of Transportation for determination of qualification. Exemptions are valid for the duration of the certification provided by the examiner (maximum of 2 years).

(c) *Waivers.* For explosives motor vehicle operators, waivers are limited to a small group of drivers who participated years ago in a program described in 49 CFR §391.64. Waivers are not currently issued for explosives motor vehicle operators or any CMV drivers.

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