

Change 156
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** Revises Chapter 15, Section IV, article 15-107, Explosives Motor Vehicle Operator and Explosives Handler Examinations and Standards.
2. **Summary of Changes** This revision makes the following major changes:
 - a. Adds the requirement that examiners conducting Explosives Motor Vehicle Operator examinations for Navy civilians be trained and certified per the requirements of 49 C.F.R. §390.101 - 390.115; they must also be registered in the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (NRCME). This policy is also in BUMEDINST 1500.30.
 - b. Changes the periodicity of Explosives Motor Vehicle Operator exams (currently every 5 years for active duty personnel) to be consistent with the periodicity of exams for civilian Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers (every 2 years), per 49 C.F.R. §391. Therefore, periodicity of these exams will be the same for civilian workers and active duty members. Current certificates with 5-year expirations will remain valid until expiration.
 - c. Removes the change in periodicity of exams at age 60 for Explosives Vehicle Operators and Explosives Handlers. In the previous version, the periodicity of exams changed to annual at age 60; the new 2-year periodicity requirement will be applicable to all ages.
 - d. Introduces the concept of “exceptions” to address unique mission-critical situations while maintaining emphasis on safety and regulatory compliance.
 - e. Amends the language on waivers to explain the legacy Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) waiver program under 49 C.F.R. §391.64, by which FMCSA granted waivers to a small number of drivers. Waivers may be granted by commanding officers for Explosive Handlers with normally disqualifying limitations in specific situations where job safety is not compromised by their continued work.
 - f. Introduces the term “exemptions” as defined and issued by the FMCSA for drivers with specific medical conditions (i.e., insulin-dependent diabetes, monocular vision, and limb loss or impairment).
 - g. Adds language concerning drivers that use a controlled substance or drug prescribed by a licensed medical practitioner. In these cases, the practitioner must not only advise the driver, but also provide the examiner a written statement certifying that the prescribed substance or drug will not adversely affect the driver’s ability to safely operate a commercial motor vehicle (or equivalent). This is consistent with 49 C.F.R. §391.41.

h. Incorporates language regarding the new OPNAV 8020/6 (Rev Feb 2015), Department of the Navy Medical Examiner's Certificate.

3. **Action**

a. Remove pages 15-94 through 15-95b and replace with like-numbered pages from this change.

b. Record this Change 156 in the Record of Page Changes.



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Medicine and Surgery

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. It is DoD policy that civilian and military Explosives Motor Vehicle operators must meet physical qualification requirements as listed in 49 C.F.R. §391, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) regulations. Explosives are to be considered as "hazardous materials" with regard to FMCSA regulations related to vehicle operator medical certification. FMCSA regulations now require CMV driver physical examinations to be performed by licensed providers listed on the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (NRCME). DoD Civilian CMV driver exams are to be performed and reported to the FMCSA by NRCME providers. Military CMV driver exams 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 DOT 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 active duty and civilian personnel assigned as Explosives Motor Vehicle operators and Explosives Handlers. Certain military personnel are exempt from this standard based on mission and/or command requirements. Administrative, mission, and/or command requirement exemptions from this standard require review via the waiver process established by Naval Ordnance Safety and Security Activity. It is important to note the separation of the two qualifications as Explosives Motor Vehicle Operator and Explosives Handler. 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 as directed by 49 C.F.R. §391 based upon medical factors). For Explosives Handlers (721), the examination interval is every 5 years.

(4) **Concordance with other exams.** Examiners using another comprehensive Special Duty examination, such as a Special Duty examination contained in MANMED Chapter 15, section IV, as the basis for this Explosives Motor Vehicle Operator qualification must review the findings against the standards of this program. 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) Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) unit assigned personnel must meet the requirements of article 15-102 (Diving Duty) as well as 49 C.F.R. §391.

(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) Per the guidance in NAVSEA OP 5, civilian explosives handlers must meet the general standards for employment as provided by the Office of Personnel Management as well as the standards for qualification in 49 C.F.R. §391.

(d) Active duty members must meet the qualifications for retention per section III of this chapter, in addition to the standards described below.

(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 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 that military members and Department of the Navy Civilians who operate vehicles or machinery which transport explosives or other hazardous material on public roads are physically qualified. The Federal Department of Transportation and the Department of the Navy consider on-base roads connected to base entrances as being public roads for the purpose of vehicle operator certification and licensing. Personnel who are Explosives Motor Vehicle Operators must comply with the physical examination requirements in 49 C.F.R. §391 (and other Department of Defense instructions as applicable), via completion of a physical examination as specified in the NMCPHC-TM OM-6260, Medical Surveillance Procedures Manual and Medical Matrix, for Explosives Motor Vehicle Operators/DOT (720). Civilian contract drivers need only be qualified per 49 C.F.R. §391 and FMCSA standards and present applicable certificates to the command program coordinator. Medical examinations are not provided for civilian contractor personnel unless dictated by contract terms or agreements.

(b) Personnel who are medically qualified as Explosives Motor Vehicle Operators under this section meet the 49 C.F.R. §391 standards and must be issued a Medical Examiner's Certificate (OPNAV 8020/6, Department of the Navy Medical Examiners Certificate) marked category A (Civilians) or category B (Military).

(c) Personnel must not handle explosives or drive as a motor vehicle operator containing explosives unless he or she is 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 C.F.R. §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 a foot, a leg, a hand, or an arm, 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 C.F.R. §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° 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>) and NMCPHC-TM OM-6260, Occupational Medical Surveillance Procedures Manual and Medical Matrix.

(7) **Explosives Handlers (721).** The purpose of this program is to ensure that 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.** Explosives Handlers must meet the qualifications for retention per section III of this chapter, for active duty members, as well as the standards outlined above for Civilians.

(b) OPNAV 8020/6 indicating "Military/Civilian Explosives Handler NOT operating MHE (721)" will be issued to qualified Explosives Handlers.

(8) **Exceptions, exemptions, and waivers of medical standards or physical requirements.** Workers 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 an active duty Explosives Motor Vehicle Operator or civilian or active duty Explosives Handler 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 active duty 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 endorsement by the installation's Safety department. Exceptions are valid for the duration of the mission or temporary impairment only.

(b) **Exemptions** are issued by the FMCSA for 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 (SPE) 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 C.F.R. §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**

(1) For Explosives Motor Vehicle Operators, waivers are limited to a small group of drivers who participated years ago in a program described in 49 C.F.R. §391.64. Waivers are not currently issued for Explosives Motor Vehicle Operators or any CMV drivers.

(2) For Explosives Handlers, a waiver may be issued by a commanding officer, under the authority of OPNAVINST 8023.24, Navy Personnel Ammunition and Explosives Handling Qualification and Certification Program, for a worker performing a specific job with tasks limited such that the physical qualifications normally applicable are unnecessary. For example, an Explosives Handler moving exclusively large objects might be able, depending on the worker and the work site, to safely perform that job with visual acuity worse than 20/40. The commanding officer could grant a waiver to that worker for that specific job, but the worker would not necessarily be allowed to fill in for other Explosives Handlers. When a waiver is requested for either a civilian or active duty Explosives Handler found Not Physically Qualified (NPQ), a provider familiar with the job's physical and safety-related requirements must review the case. Due to the significant safety

and legal ramifications, an occupational medicine physician must be consulted. The provider will analyze the member's job tasks to determine whether the worker's medical condition would affect performing the essential functions of the job without increased risk of harm to self or others. If the worker fails to meet the standards, but the permanent medical condition will not reasonably interfere with safe performance of the job, then the worker may be considered "NPQ, but waiver medically recommended." If the permanent medical condition is such that it impairs safe performance of the job, then the worker is considered "NPQ and waiver not medically recommended." This finding will be maintained in the worker's occupational medical record, with a copy submitted to the worker's supervisor and the worker. Waivers for Explosives Handlers are valid for the duration of the certification provided by the examiner.