

October 7, 2015

To: Driving School Owners and Instructors, Article 19-A Motor Carriers and Certified Examiners

Subject: Changes Regarding NYS Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Road Testing

To comply with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), New York State has begun the process of modifying current CDL road testing sites and procedures to achieve consistency with the AAMVA test model criteria as referenced in the final CDL Permit Rule.

The New York State Commercial Driver's Manual (CDL-10 and CDL-10S) covers all of the elements to successfully complete the modified skills test. Careful studying of the manual will lead to the most successful outcomes on the written and skills tests. These manuals can be found [online](#), as well as in any [DMV Office](#), or by calling the [NYS DMV Call Center](#) at 518-486-9786.

The following are the NYS CDL skills testing modifications:

- Tests will be given in three sections in the following order: pre-trip inspection, basic control skills maneuvers, and then the on-road portion;
- The test is scored in the three separate sections listed above, with three scores making up a complete test;
- If a driver fails any one section, the test is stopped and the driver is failed;
- The duration of skills testing appointments has been increased. Depending on a driver, a test may take anywhere from an hour to an hour and 45 minutes to complete.
- Engine compartment inspection is a required part of the pre-trip inspection;
- For school buses, inspection of the stop arm and safety arm is required;
- For school buses, a simulated student discharge is required; and
- A simulated Railroad Crossing is required;

The first CDL road testing site to be performing the modified testing is the Cobleskill CDL site located at the Sunshine Fairgrounds, Sunshine Pkwy at Sunshine Drive, Cobleskill, NY 12043. The information referenced above is now provided to applicants with their confirmation information.

As additional sites are being modified this information will be provided with the applicant's confirmation information. We anticipate gradually adding new sites after the first quarter of 2016. We will continue to provide updates to our industry partners as they become available.

Please share this information with the appropriate members of your staff. Thank you.