



**FAQs about Trucking and the Coronavirus  
Florida Trucking Association  
March 23, 2020**

**CDLs**

**What should I do if my CDL is expiring?** Florida has given a 30-day extension of all drivers licenses, including CDLs.

**What if my med card or HAZMAT endorsement is expiring?** With MMCSA's permission, FLHSMV is extending med cards through April 15, just as it has done drivers licenses. TSA has not yet announced any decision on whether HAZMAT endorsements will be extended.

**Is Florida issuing new CDLs?** Technically, yes. However, finding a place open to give you your test or to process your CDL application is going to be a challenge. See next question.

**What if I need to get tested for med card renewal or Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse for pre-employment screening?** Companies have been given freedom to suspend random drug testing as long as they do it during 2020. For new hires, it's a challenge finding a place to get screened without the worry that others in the clinic are there being tested for coronavirus. The same goes for going to a clinic to get your med card renewal. Technically, both are happening, and you can get examined and tested, but it's in the company's and the employee's discretion.

**IRP/IFTA REGISTRATIONS AND TAGS**

**How can I get a renewal?** Online...FLHSMV is still up and operating as of this writing.

**How can I get a new tag?** Same as always...from a private tag agency or the office here in Tallahassee. The FLHSMV office is working right now, but their waiting room is not open. You drop your completed paperwork in a manned box at the front door, fill out a form on what you want done with the tags and how you can be reached. Then they process and contact you.

**What if I want a Florida tag, not IRP/IFTA?** You still get those through local tax offices, but many counties have closed theirs. You will need to make phone calls.

**WHO IS SHUTTING DOWN WHAT?**

**Is Florida shutting down anything?** Highways have not been shut down. Rest areas are still open. The Governor has shuttered or restricted a number of different types of business. Turnpike restaurants have been closed...as well as dine-in restaurants in general. However, trucking companies have not been closed, because Florida knows how essential we are.

**How do I know if my load or business is essential?** That's a combination of a federal, state, and local answer. So far, jurisdictions which have done closures have explicitly exempted trucking of essential supplies. At each end of the freight spectrum, it's easy to know if your load and your company are really essential. FTA is prepared to provide assistance if your are uncertain.

**How can FTA help?** We have been authorized by FDOT and FHP to collect specific questions and rationales from you on why your freight is essential. We can then submit these requests to specific individuals who will provide an answer as soon as practical. While dealing with FMCSA and other states is more difficult, we will do our best to help you there as well. The Department of Homeland Security has provided a helpful document that we think a number of governmental agencies will adopt. Its definitions of critical infrastructure workers are [HERE](#).

**What else can we do at our company?** It's no guarantee, but we would strongly consider putting on a piece of company letterhead your case for why your company and your freight are essential. If possible, make a reference to the FMCSA declaration or the Homeland Security document above. Have your employees and drivers carry it with them everywhere in case they get questioned.

## **HOURS OF SERVICE AND OVERSIZE/OVERWEIGHT WAIVERS**

**Where is FMCSA on HOS waivers?** Two declarations waiving HOS have come out. Both are on the FTA website ([www.FLTrucking.org](http://www.FLTrucking.org)) under the Resources tab. The definition of what services and supplies are essential has been expanded, and most loads are pretty common-sense decisions.

**Has Florida issued an overweight waiver?** Yes. The most common 5-axle vehicle gets up to 90,000 pounds, again if hauling critical freight. The driver needs to have a blanket permit, also on our website, and a map to be sure the truck is operating on an allowable road/bridge. The waiver does apply to federal and interstate highways too.

**What about other states doing overweight waivers?** Most have. The front page of ATA's website ([www.trucking.org](http://www.trucking.org)) has a link to state declarations which you can check to see what states in your path have done.

## **FEDERAL LAW CREATING PAID SICK LEAVE**

**Who can get it, and which companies have to provide it?** The law is effective Friday, April 3. FTA is hoping to soon do a conference call or webinar on this topic. But briefly, there are fairly strict rules on who can get the paid sick leave...an employee can't just stay home out of caution and receive the payments. Companies with fewer than 500 employees will receive an immediate tax credit against their payroll taxes.

**Is trucking exempt because of how important it is that we keep people at work?** No, trucking is not exempt.

## **KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE**

**What about my drivers and other staff?** We encourage you to take all precautions with your drivers, coaching them on appropriate forms of contact and protection. If you can obtain surgical masks for your high-contact people, require them to wear it. Hand sanitizing is obvious. Since technicians and other drivers frequently touch controls of a vehicle, wiping down with sanitary wipes is a good idea.

**How can I make sure my drivers are fed and rested?** We have been working both nationally and in Florida to keep truck stops open and to allow drivers to walk up to drive-through windows. We have been working with FMCSA to encourage states to keep rest areas open. Most states have done so—even Pennsylvania reversed course.

**What is FTA doing?** Our office is open. Alix (850-868-1050) and Ken (850-459-1256) are both available for questions. We are working almost round the clock with other states, other partners, FMCSA (Ken is in direct contact with the Administrator), and all Florida agencies. Our people are all healthy...and we hope yours are too! We postponed SuperTech. It's likely that we will postpone the Tort Reform Summit as well.

**How do I get updates?** Please continue to use the Coronavirus section of our website. When we get important declarations, they are going there.

The guidance provided here is not a legal opinion and is subject to rapid change. Consult with your legal counsel.