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Jesse White Issues Reminder of Federal CDL Rule Changes Effective July 1

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White is reminding commercial motor vehicle operators of testing and eligibility changes to federal CDL rules effective July 1, 2015. The CDL changes were enacted by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) in the form of the Commercial Driver's License Testing and Commercial Learner's Permit Standards Final Rule.

"Over the last two years my office has worked tirelessly to communicate with CDL holders and the trucking industry about these new federal CDL rules," said White. "I want to thank the Mid-West Truckers Association and the Illinois Trucking Association for their efforts in further helping educate the public on these federal CDL rule changes."

The following changes in rule establish new federal standards for knowledge and skills testing and eligibility criteria relating to the issuance of Commercial Learner's Permits (CLP) and Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDL). Policies include:

- A one-time federal mandate to provide Proof of Legal Presence. Applicants wishing to renew, transfer, upgrade or obtain a CLP or CDL will be required to show this proof. Any facility can accept the Proof of Legal Presence documents provided that no written exams are required. The Secretary of State's CDL Web page provides the list of acceptable documents. If written exams are required, applicants must visit one of the CDL Facilities.
- The CLP will be a hard card document, instead of paper, containing the driver's photograph.
- Applicants must be at least 18 years of age to obtain a CLP and must hold a valid Illinois CDL or non-CDL.
- A CLP will be valid for 180 days – instead of one year – and may be renewed for another 180 day period.
- An individual may renew a CLP up to 30 days prior to the expiration date with no additional written tests, providing the CLP does not expire for more than five days.

The Secretary of State's office has engaged in substantial outreach efforts to help ensure that all CDL holders are aware of these federal changes to their CDL privileges. These outreach efforts included presentations at truck and trade shows as well as communication with regional superintendents of education, the trucking industry and dozens of professional organizations whose members include CDL holders.

Drivers may obtain detailed information regarding these new requirements and locate their nearest CDL facility by calling the Illinois CDL Help Desk at 217-785-3108 or visiting the Secretary of State's website at www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

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