

Q & A – CODE W
(CANADA/U.S. MEDICAL RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT
FOR COMMERCIAL DRIVERS)
STAKEHOLDERS USE ONLY

**Q&A – CODE W
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Q1. What is the Code W project?

A1.

- The Code W project is the implementation of the Canada/U.S. Medical Reciprocity Agreement For Commercial drivers.
- Since September 2003, this agreement has placed inactive W codes on internal records of class “A”, “B”, “C”, “D”, “E” and “F” commercial drivers who have one of four medical conditions restricted in the U.S; a hearing impairment, monocular vision, diabetes requiring insulin or a history of epilepsy or seizures.
- Ontario commercial drivers with any of the above conditions, or drivers who have not filed a cyclical medical report and were downgraded to a Class D as a result, are prohibited from operating a commercial vehicle in the U.S.
- To identify these drivers, a code “W” will be placed on the driver’s licence record.
- This initiative improves road safety by ensuring the medical fitness of drivers operating commercial vehicles.
- Drivers may operate commercial vehicles in Canada with a Code W on their driver’s licence.

Q2. When will the Code W project come into effect?

A2.

- The Code W project will be implemented May 26, 2013.
- Affected commercial drivers will receive a new, no charge, replacement licence with a W code indicator starting in late May.

Q3. Where will the W Code appear on the DL?

A3.

- The W Code indicator will appear on the front of the DL card in the “Rest/Cond” field.

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A “W” code will be displayed in the “Rest/Cond” field.

- The associated descriptor for the “W” code, shown on the back of the card will display “Comm Veh CA/Véhic. comm. CA”.

Q4. Why are Class D drivers being requested to file a medical after being downgraded in order to drive in the U.S.

A.4

- This is in accordance with the Canada/U.S. Medical Reciprocity Agreement for Commercial Drivers. This Agreement requires that certain medical fitness conditions are met for those operating a commercial vehicle in the U.S.
- Effective April 1, 2013 all commercial drivers who fail to file their cyclical medical will be downgraded to a Class G. These drivers will need to file a medical in order to upgrade their driver’s licence.

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