



Transportation Security Administration
Enrollment Services & Vetting Programs
601 South 12th Street
Arlington, VA 20598-6028

Hazardous Materials Endorsement | Exemption Notice

TSA published a notice, [Exemption From Renewal of the Hazardous Materials Endorsement Security Threat Assessment for Certain Individuals](#), on April 8, 2020. With this notice, TSA granted a temporary exemption from certain requirements in 49 CFR part 1572 regarding expiration of TSA security threat assessments (STAs) for Hazardous Material Endorsement (HME) holders. The exemption created a 120-day period during which a State could grant up to a 180-day extension to an individual who had a current, valid TSA STA for an HME as of March 1, 2020, that would otherwise have expired during the period of the exemption.

On July 31, 2020, TSA published an extension of this temporary exemption, [Notice to Extend Exemption from Renewal of the Hazardous Materials Endorsement Security Threat Assessment for Certain Individuals](#). With this notice, TSA determined it is in the public interest to extend the exemption for 90 days. This extension of the previously issued exemption becomes effective on August 1, 2020, and remains in effect through October 29, 2020, unless otherwise modified by TSA through a notice published in the Federal Register.

Q: Why is TSA granting this exemption?

A: TSA determined it is in the public interest to grant an exemption from certain process requirements in 49 CFR part 1572 related to STA HMEs, given the need for commercial drivers with an HME to continue to work without interruption during the current National Emergency created by the COVID-19 virus.

Q: Has the U.S. Department of Transportation (DoT) Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration provided guidance for States, CDL Holders and Interstate Drivers Operating Commercial Motor Vehicles?

A: Yes. On March 24, 2020, DoT FMCSA granted a waiver from certain regulations applicable to commercial driver's license and learner's permit holders. DoT's waiver extended the maximum period of CDL validity and waived knowledge or skills test as well as certain medical examination and certifications for drivers. For more information, visit: <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov>.

Q: Do Drivers need to take any action(s) to extend their Security Threat Assessment?

A: Drivers should refer to their State driver's license entity for more information or questions regarding their CDL validity. A State may grant an HME extension of up to 180 days to an individual who had a current, valid HME STA as of March 1, 2020. Also, a State must notify each individual holding an HME that expired on or after March 1, 2020, that the State is extending the expiration date of the HME. Notification may be via a State website in some instances determined by different circumstances in each State.

Q: Does this exemption compromise national or transportation security?

A: The risk to transportation security associated with this Exemption is low. TSA maintains the ability to recurrently vet HME holders and take action to revoke a HME if derogatory information becomes available, regardless of the expiration date.

Q: Where can I find more information on TSA's temporary exemption?

A: The exemptions were posted to the Federal Register on April 8, 2020 ([85 FR 19767](#)) and July 31, 2020 ([85 FR 46152](#)). For additional information, states may contact the TSA Hazardous Materials Threat Assessment Program at: HME.Question@tsa.dhs.gov.