

Code W for Commercial Drivers

Fact Sheet

What is Code W?

Code W is an identifier to be placed on the front of a commercial driver's licence, to indicate that the operator has a medical condition that prohibits the operation of a commercial vehicle in the United States.

In November of 2013 an amendment to the *Motor Vehicle Act* was brought into force through an Order-in-Council, which allows BC to issue licences with the Code W identifier.

What is changing?

Drivers with specified medical conditions are currently not allowed to operate commercial vehicles in the United States. The specified medical conditions which result in a Code W identifier are:

- Profound hearing impairment
- Epilepsy
- Diabetes requiring insulin to treat

All Canadian jurisdictions are now identifying these drivers with a "W" to comply with the North American Free Trade Agreement and for enforcement purposes.

How Does it Work?

ICBC began issuing licences with the Code W identifier on January 30, 2014.

There is no time frame for drivers to acquire a new licence with the Code W requirement, nor penalty for not doing so. Drivers will be notified if their commercial licence requires a Code W identifier. They will have the opportunity to attend a driver licensing office for a free duplicate to have the Code W applied to their licence. Those who do not attend a driver licensing office for a free duplicate will have the Code W applied during the next paid renewal of a photo commercial licence.

For more information . . .

- RoadSafetyBC website: www.gov.bc.ca/roadsafetybc
- Phone 250 387-7747 (in Victoria)