

MVR FAQs



Understanding what MVRs are and why checking them often will reduce your risk.

Because past behavior is a good predictor of a driver's future actions, your drivers' motor vehicle records (MVRs) are a vital piece of your safety management program. By identifying risky behaviors now, you can help prevent crashes tomorrow.

Q. What is an MVR?

A. An MVR is a report of a driver's driving history as reported by a state's Department of Motor Vehicles or equivalent licensing authority. Information on this report can include:

- Driver's license number
- License issue date and expiration date
- Type of license
- License suspensions
- Driving restrictions
- Accident reports
- Traffic violations
- Driving record points
- Vehicular crimes
- Medical certification status for CDL drivers

Q. Who needs an MVR?

A. A motor carrier is required to have an MVR for anyone who drives a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) on a highway in interstate commerce with few exceptions. For intrastate-only drivers, motor carriers must follow their state's driver qualification file requirements, which may be the same or different than the federal requirements. Additionally, companies that prioritize safety and want to proactively address identified issues can benefit from having MVRs for all of their drivers, including those who drive both DOT- and non-DOT-regulated vehicles, as well as those who use their personal vehicles for work activities.

Q. When do I first need a driver's MVR?

A. For new drivers who do not hold a commercial driver's license (CDL), you must obtain an initial MVR within 30 days of hire, though obtaining it before the individual drives for you is recommended. For new drivers who hold a CDL, you normally must obtain the MVR before there is any CMV driving, because the MVR must be used to show that the driver is medically certified. In some cases, however, the driver and motor carrier may rely on a paper medical card for a short period of time before the updated MVR is obtained.

Q. When do I need to get updated MVRs?

A. To ensure all of your drivers continue to be properly licensed, you're required to request an MVR once every 12 months starting no later than their one-year hiring anniversary. Someone must review this annual MVR and document the review, taking note of any convictions (in both personal vehicles and CMVs) and any evidence the driver has violated safe-driving laws, even if still properly licensed.

For CDL drivers, you also need a new MVR after every medical recertification, to make sure the most recent medical exam has been added to the record.

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Q. How will I be notified of changes affecting MVRs that occur before the annual review occurs?

- A. CDL drivers must notify you of any traffic convictions, other than parking violations, occurring in any kind of vehicle within 30 days of the conviction. Both CDL and non-CDL drivers must also notify you of a loss of driving privileges before the end of the business day following the day they received notice of a suspension, revocation, cancellation, lost privilege, or disqualification.

If a driver fails to inform you of violations or suspensions, you're still responsible! A driver without proper licensing would still be placed out of service at a weigh station and the violation would be held against your company's CSA scores. During an audit, your company's safety management controls would be called into questions.

Q. How can I stay informed about my drivers' MVRs all year long?

- A. To reduce the risks associated with being unaware of a driver's violations or high-risk behaviors, you can subscribe to the licensing agency's "push" system for immediate notifications of any changes to your drivers' records. Not every state offers these push systems, and because this can be a time-consuming administrative task, companies like J. J. Keller offer third-party services to handle this on your behalf.

The sooner you're aware of a driver's citations, suspensions, violations or other negative driving events, the sooner you can take action to correct the behavior and prevent crashes!

Don't wait for an annual MVR pull to find out you have a problem driver...

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Our expert Compliance Advisors will help you take faster action to identify negative driving events that occur in your drivers' company or personal vehicles.

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