



A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



10/28/25

Dear Members:

California has been subject to several mandates to comply with new federal requirements like the **English Language Proficiency out-of-service criteria enforcement** and the issuance of **non-domiciled CDLs** (commercial driver's licenses for non-US citizens).

On September 26, FMCSA published an [Interim Final Rule](#) (IFR), which amended the acceptable documentation for obtaining and maintaining a non-domiciled CDL including restricting the eligibility for these licenses to holders of specific employment visas (H-2A, H-2B, and E-2 visas). The IFR explicitly excludes asylees, refugees, asylum seekers, and DACA recipients from eligibility. The IFR's amendments became effective immediately.

On the same day, FMCSA and the U.S. DOT sent a [letter of non-compliance](#) to California after an audit found the state previously issued non-domiciled CDLs inconsistent with federal guidelines. California was directed to immediately:

- Pause issuance of non-domiciled CDLs.
- Identify all unexpired non-domiciled CDLs that fail to comply with FMCSA regulations.
- Revoke and reissue all noncompliant non-domiciled CDLs if they comply with the new federal requirements

The federal government required California to take corrective action within 30 days to comply, or the federal government will withhold \$160 million in federal highway funds. California immediately paused the issuance of non-domiciled CDLs and any activities associated with these licenses.

On October 24, **Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy found California to be non-compliant with the federal directive** following a fatal incident in California involving a non-domiciled CDL holder issued by the state.

Even though the federal government may withhold funding from the state, California DMV indicated that the agency will continue to work to fully comply with the requirements of the Interim Final Rule and the letter of non-compliance as soon as possible. CTA is in constant communication with the DMV and will share the details of the agency's corrective action plan with members once it is available. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out Nick Chiappe at nchiappe@caltrux.org.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric Sauer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eric" and last name "Sauer" clearly distinguishable.

Eric Sauer
Chief Executive Officer
California Trucking Association

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