



**safe drivers
safe vehicles
secure identities
saving lives!**

**The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA)
Statement for the Record
Hearing before the 191st General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Joint Committee on Transportation
July 22, 2019**

The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization developing model programs in motor vehicle administration, law enforcement and highway safety. The association also serves as an information clearinghouse in these areas, and acts as the international spokesperson for these interests.

Founded in 1933, AAMVA represents the state, provincial and territorial officials in the United States and Canada who administer and enforce motor vehicle laws. AAMVA's programs encourage uniformity and reciprocity among the states, provinces and territories. The association also serves as a liaison with other levels of government and the private sector. Its development and research activities provide guidelines for more effective public service. AAMVA's membership includes associations, organizations and businesses that share an interest in the association's goals.

The Joint Transportation Committee has requested additional input on the Commercial Driver's License Information System (CDLIS). CDLIS is a nationwide computer system that enables state driver licensing agencies (SDLAs) to ensure each commercial driver has only one driver's license and one complete driver record. Driver licensing agencies use CDLIS to complete various procedures, including:

- Transmitting out-of-state convictions and withdrawals for commercial drivers
- Transferring the driver record when a commercial driver's license holder moves to another state
- Responding to requests for driver status and history.

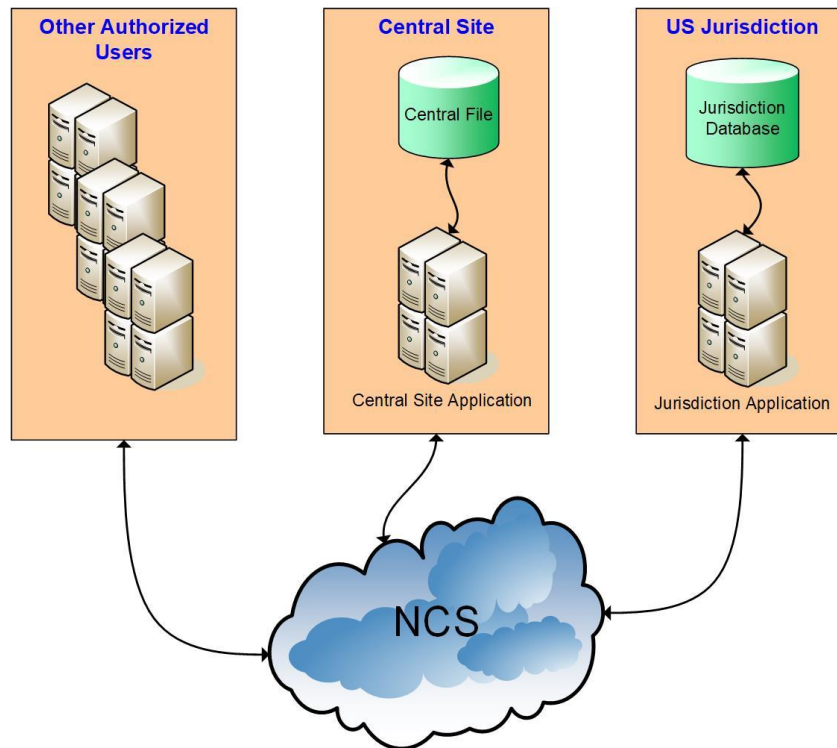
CDLIS was established under the [Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act \(CMVSA\) of 1986](#) and is based on the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) in [49 CFR 383 and 384](#).

The Commercial Driver's License Information System (CDLIS) is a nationwide system composed of:

- A central site identifying the current state in which the driver resides, aka State of Record (SOR) for each driver commercially licensed in the United States (SORs include the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. US Territories do not participate in CDLIS at this time);
- Detailed driver data distributed across the SORs;
- The associated computer and communication hardware that comprises the network; and the associated software used to manage the system.

Authorized users can report and access commercial driver identification information, commercial driver's license information, and driver history information needed to regulate commercial drivers in the U.S. CDLIS enables the jurisdictions to satisfy the requirements of [federal laws and regulations related to commercial drivers](#).

System Components:



1. CDLIS Central Site

The CDLIS Central Site is a repository of minimal identification data ("pointer" file), which points to the jurisdiction responsible for maintaining the driver's status and history information. The Central Site has one and only one record for each CDL

driver. This record contains information to uniquely identify the driver, and his SOR. The remainder of the driver record, including all convictions and withdrawals, is maintained at and by the SOR.

THE STATES STORE



CDLIS CENTRAL SITE STORES



The Central Site processes the CDLIS *Inquiry* and *Update* transactions. In the CDLIS architecture, most, but not all, transactions are routed through the CDLIS Central Site. The Central Site maintains active and inactive records which are based upon federal regulations and retention requirements.

2. State DMV CDLIS Applications / State Driver Licensing Agency (SDLA)

The state driver license agency maintain records of the drivers they license. A state will host databases, application programs, and system software to support its CDLIS functions and maintain its “pointer” records on the CDLIS Central Site.

3. AAMVAnet Network

The AAMVAnet™ network is a private network fully managed by Verizon under contract to AAMVA. Access to the network is controlled by Access Control Lists and other security mechanisms to ensure that each node on the network can only access authorized locations.

4. Network Control Software (NCS)

The Network Control Software (NCS) is a message switch or middleware that interconnects each network node. Every online message on the AAMVANet™ network transits via NCS and is directed to the proper destination based on information located in the header of the message.

5. Other Authorized Users

Authorized Federal and State government agencies and personnel may access CDLIS to utilize CDL-related information for compliance and enforcement monitoring and analysis.

Third party service providers can access CDLIS on behalf of employers of commercial drivers to obtain the list of jurisdictions where the driver is/was licensed. Once the jurisdictions are identified, the service providers must contract with the individual jurisdictions to obtain additional driver data/information. Authorized employers or third party service providers can retrieve the basic identification data from the CDLIS Central Site. Based on this information, the employers or third party service providers can make inquiries to the jurisdictions they have contracts with to obtain driver status and history.

Information on Mexican CDL holders is accessible by U.S. jurisdictions. Jurisdictions can post convictions and withdrawals to Mexican driver records via the FMCSA foreign convictions and withdrawals database which has a gateway to CDLIS. The U.S. and Canadian jurisdictions can also exchange driver status data within the allowances of their data privacy laws.

Basic Functions in CDLIS:

CDLIS helps SDLAs ensure that a CDL driver has only one driver record, and only one CDL. CDLIS achieves this by providing states with the ability to:

- View data at the Central Site.
- Add, update and delete data at the Central Site.
- View data, not stored on the central file, maintained by each SOR.
- Update the SOR on the Central Site record and transfer the driver history record for a particular CDL driver, when the driver moves to their State.
- Report convictions and withdrawals that occurred outside the driver's SOR to the driver's SOR.

Below are some of the key processes and how the SDLAs use CDLIS to perform these services:

1. Driver Obtains Initial CDL

- The SDLA verifies the driver's identity; license status; and driver history using CDLIS (and other federal systems such as the Problem Driver Pointer System (PDPS) operated by U.S. DOT's National Highway Transportation Safety Agency (NHTSA)).
- The SDLA requests the driver history from previous licensing States using CDLIS (and PDPS if applicable).
- The SDLA adds any information to the driver's record from the history of previous States where the driver was licensed (10 year history check) and issues any required withdrawals.
- The SDLA (SOR) creates the Master Pointer Record at the Central Site, within 10 days.
- The SDLA, as the SOR, collects the old non-commercial license and issues a new CDL. (This is assuming the applicant has taken the knowledge and driving skills tests relevant to the CDL class and endorsements desired.)

2. CDL Holder Renews a CDL

- The SDLA verifies the driver's identity; license status; and driver history using CDLIS (and other federal systems)
- The SDLA requests the driver history from previous licensing States using CDLIS (and PDPS if applicable).
- The SDLA (the SOR) collects the old CDL and issues a new CDL with an extended expiration date.
- The SDLA adds any information to the driver's record from history of the previous States where the driver was licensed (10 year history check) and issues any required withdrawals.

3. CDL Holder Transfers into another State

- The SDLA verifies the driver's identity; license status; and driver history using CDLIS (and other federal systems)
- The SDLA requests the driver history from previous licensing States using CDLIS (and PDPS if applicable).
- The SDLA (as the new SOR) collects the CDL from the old SOR and issues a new CDL.
- The SDLA adds any information to the driver's record from history from the previous States where the driver was licensed (10 year history check) and issues any required withdrawals.
- The SDLA (New SOR) takes ownership of the driver record at the CDLIS Central Site and transfers the driver history record from the old SOR. The new SOR resolves any problems with the history transfer, within 10 days.

- Now, if the new SOR receives an inquiry for a driver's record from another state, the new SOR responds with that driver's record.

4. CDL Holder is convicted and Withdrawn by SOR

- The in-State CDL holder, or person required to have a CDL (operating a CMV) is cited for a safety violation. The law enforcement officer notifies the court and/or the SDLA.
- The court convicts the in-State driver and reports the conviction to the SDLA and optionally withdraws the driver's license; or an administrative tribunal within the SDLA withdraws a driver's license.
- The SDLA posts the conviction to the driver's history record. When a conviction of a CDL driver is posted the SDLA analyzes the driver's complete history and issues any required withdrawals.
- After serving the withdrawal period, the driver's license will be reinstated and the driver is allowed to apply for a new license. The SDLA will add a reinstatement date to the withdrawal on the driver record.
- If the SOR receives an inquiry for that driver's record from another state, the SOR responds with that driver's record, including the conviction and/or withdrawal that was added.

5. CDL Holder is convicted and Withdrawn by Another State

- A law enforcement officer in another State cites a CDL holder or a person required to have a CDL (operating a CMV) for a safety violation. The law enforcement officer notifies the court and/or the SDLA.
- The court convicts the out-of- State driver and reports the conviction to the SDLA and optionally withdraws the driver's license; or an administrative tribunal within the SDLA withdraws a driver's license.
- The SDLA queries the CDLIS Central Site to verify the SOR and the driver's identity and license information (anticipates that the original ticket was probably hand-entered information and could be incorrect).
- The SDLA reports the conviction to the CDLIS Central Site, which forwards the information to the SOR.
- When required by the FMCSRs, the SDLA reports the withdrawal to the CDLIS Central Site, which forwards the information to the SOR.
- The SOR posts the conviction and withdrawal information, analyzes the driver's history record, and takes any withdrawal action required.
- After serving the withdrawal period, the driver's license will be reinstated and the driver is allowed to apply for a new license. The SDLA will add a reinstatement date to the withdrawal on the driver record.

- If the SOR receives an inquiry for that driver's record from another state, the SOR responds with that driver's record, including the conviction and/or withdrawal that was added.

AAMVA's Role as Operator

AAMVA's role as operator of the CDLIS system is based upon a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). The cooperative agreement entrusts AAMVA to:

- Maintain the infrastructure (hardware, software, and network) that allows states to send messages to the Central Site and to each other, and do so in line with Federal Security Standards.
- Provide help desk support to resolve production issues.
- Log and track problems, and report on this to FMCSA periodically.
- Conduct testing with states, when states update their systems, to check that their systems operate according to specifications.
- Maintain all system documentation (e.g. the master specification and the procedure manual).
- Provide training.
- Submit periodic reports to FMCSA on overall program status.

Conclusion

While CDLIS as a system relies on the interaction of state and central site components, it is important to understand that the majority of actions taken on data occur at the state level. It is also important to note that the system only accommodates the commercial driver population. For commercial drivers who hold a Commercial Driver's License (CDL), CDLIS connects all states to each other so that they can ensure that each commercial driver has only one driver's license and one complete driver record. CDLIS is a technical platform operated by AAMVA. The actual driver license information/record is maintained within each respective state system.

AAMVA thanks the Joint Committee on Transportation for holding this important hearing and stands ready to assist the Agency and Committee.