

Prepared Script for Anne S. Ferro

FMCSA Administrator

National Registry 's Healthy Drivers: Safer Highways Podcast

May 24, 2012

Welcome to the National Registry's *Healthy Drivers: Safer Highways* podcast.

Hello, I am Anne Ferro, Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. Thank you for joining us today. I'd like to introduce you to an exciting agency initiative we launched on April 20, 2012 – the *National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners* or *National Registry* for short. As with other FMCSA programs, this program is about highway safety, particularly the safety of interstate commercial motor vehicle drivers and the general public on our highways.

Why this program? Almost 4,000 people die and over 100,000 are injured in large truck-related crashes EACH YEAR in the United States. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has found evidence that improper medical certification of CMV drivers with serious disqualifying medical conditions has directly contributed to significant fatal and injury crashes. FMCSA wants to remove driver health as a factor in these crashes.

The National Registry requires medical examiners be trained on FMCSA's regulations and guidelines, the CMV driver's role, and how certain medical conditions can impair a CMV driver. Through this initiative, we can increase the

likelihood that CMV drivers on the road are mentally and physically able to perform their jobs safely.

Please note that the National Registry does not change any of the existing regulations regarding the physical qualification standards of CMV drivers or the types of medical professionals that are able to perform physical examinations of CMV drivers.

This is the first in a series of podcasts. Please listen for more information on how medical examiners and training and testing organizations can help to improve the safety of our highways.

Thank you for your interest in the National Registry and the role you are playing to make this program a success. It's all about making our roads safer and ensuring the safety of all motorists.

Stay up-to-date with information about this exciting, new initiative by visiting <http://nrcme.fmcsa.dot.gov>.