



# Ohio slams the brakes on 1,200 foreign truckers

Ohio is moving to revoke commercial driver's licenses from roughly 1,200 foreign truckers after a federal review found their paperwork no longer satisfies updated eligibility rules for non-domiciled CDLs.

The Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles has begun sending downgrade notices to drivers whose documentation failed to meet new Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration requirements. The licenses at issue are non-domiciled CDLs, which are issued to people who are legally in the United States and authorized to work but are not permanent residents.

Ohio officials said the review is still underway and could expand. The state is examining about 5,000 non-domiciled CDL holders, though most of Ohio's roughly 406,000 commercial drivers are not affected.

"At this time, the BMV has not finalized this full downgrade list," Ohio BMV spokesman Bret Crow [told](#) Transport Topics. "Approximately 1,200 individuals were sent notice of downgrade letters as part of the initial review batch."

The move follows a federal directive halting the issuance of new non-domiciled CDLs nationwide while states review existing licenses under updated federal rules. Those rules now sharply limit eligibility, largely to drivers holding specific employment-based visa categories such as H-2A, H-2B and E-2.

The crackdown comes as the Department of Transportation also pushes states to more aggressively enforce English-language proficiency requirements for commercial drivers.

The issue has drawn national attention after fatal crashes involving foreign commercial drivers raised questions about state licensing practices and whether many drivers should have received CDLs in the first place.

Ohio is not alone. Oregon reportedly revoked about 900 similar licenses and ended its non-domiciled CDL program to avoid risking federal funding. Other states have also tightened or

suspended their programs after the federal government warned that improperly issued licenses could put states out of compliance.

For affected drivers in Ohio, the consequences are immediate. Those who receive downgrade notices have 30 days to appeal and submit additional documentation proving they still qualify. Drivers who do not respond will see their CDL downgraded to a standard Class D license, ending their ability to legally operate commercial vehicles in the United States.

The state says drivers whose documentation meets the updated federal requirements may keep their commercial licenses until they expire. Those who do not qualify will be removed from the commercial driver pool unless they successfully challenge the downgrade.

The Ohio sweep is part of a long-overdue effort to clean up a commercial licensing system that let too many foreign drivers slip through weak state rules and loose enforcement. The standard is simple: no valid paperwork, no legal eligibility, no English proficiency, no CDL.