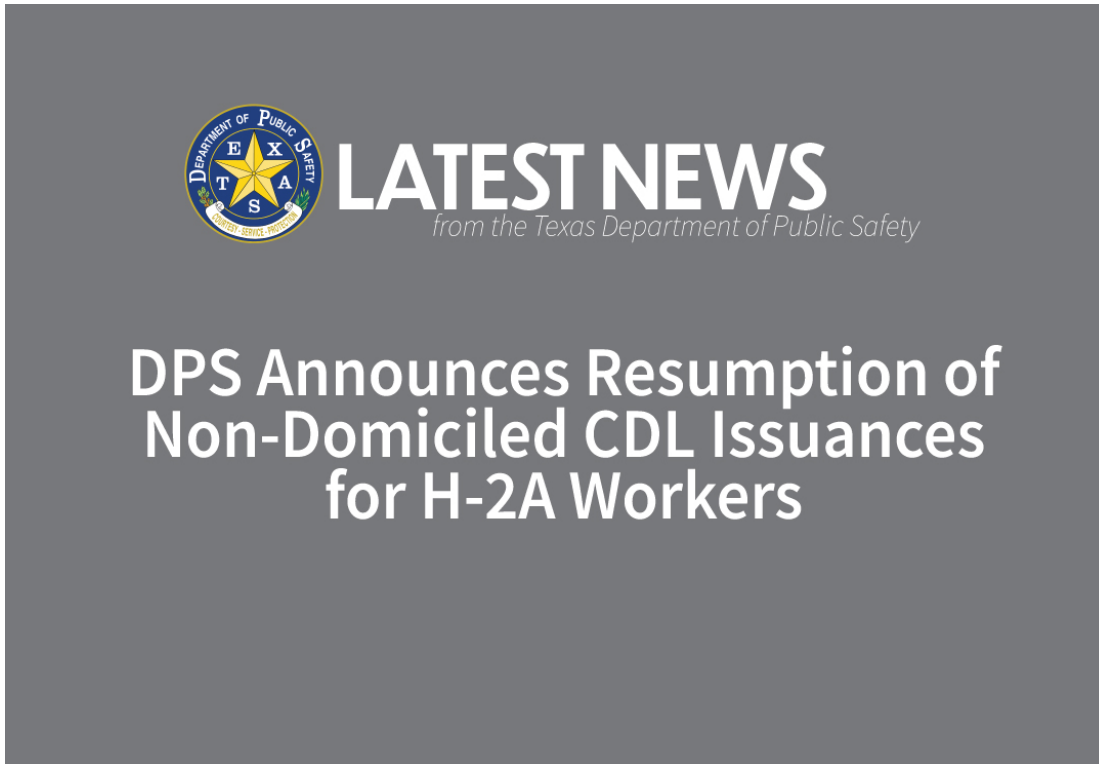


DPS Announces Resumption of Non-Domiciled CDL Issuances for H-2A Workers

June 1, 2026



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AUSTIN – The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) announces approval by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to resume the issuance of non-domiciled commercial driver licenses (CDL) and commercial learner permits (CLP) for individuals with H-2A (Temporary Agricultural Workers) status, effective today, June 1, 2026.

Under updated FMCSA guidelines (Final Rule [91 FR 7044](#)), which went into effect on March 16, 2026, eligibility for non-domiciled credentials is limited to individuals with lawful presence status category codes H-2A, H-2B (Non-Agricultural Workers) and E-2 (Treaty Investors). At this time, Texas has only been approved to process H-2A CDL/CLP transactions. The resumption of issuance for customers with H-2B and E-2 status will be announced at a later date.

Requirements for Issuance

Eligible H-2A CDL/CLP applicants **must** complete their transactions in person at a DPS Driver License Office and bring the following documents during their visit:

- An unexpired foreign passport;
- An unexpired or expired visa; and
- Form I-94 or I-797A that clearly indicates H-2A status.

Per federal guidelines, all non-domiciled licenses will be limited to a maximum term of **one year or less**. For more information about obtaining a non-domiciled CDL/CLP, visit the [DPS website](#).

Current Non-Domiciled CDL/CLP Holders

Drivers currently holding a valid non-domiciled CDL or CLP may continue to use their credentials until the printed expiration date. Immediate action is only required if the driver needs to renew, transfer out of state or upgrade their license.

As a reminder, under the new federal rule, individuals whose credentials were previously issued based on Employment Authorization Documents (EAD) – including Deferred Action and Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Temporary Protected Status (TPS) or refugee/asylum seeker status – are no longer eligible to renew a CDL once it expires.

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(HQ 2026-056)

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Other Inquiries

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DPS Announces Changes to CDL Knowledge Testing

June 1, 2026



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AUSTIN – The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) announces changes to the state’s commercial driver license (CDL) testing process. **Effective today, all Texas CDL and commercial learner permit (CLP) knowledge examinations will be administered in English only.**

This change aligns Texas’ testing procedures with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration’s (FMCSA) English language proficiency requirements and will help ensure that all newly licensed commercial drivers have the communication skills necessary to operate these vehicles safely on Texas roads. Previously, CDL knowledge tests were offered in both English and Spanish. The hands-on CDL skills test, which includes pre-trip inspection, basic control skills and the road test, has always been conducted in English only.

Applicants scheduled for CDL/CLP knowledge testing on or after June 1, 2026, should be prepared to complete all written and automated knowledge exams in English.

Interpreters for these exams are prohibited. Updated study materials for these exams, as well as the Texas Commercial Motor Vehicle Driver's Handbook, are available to applicants free of charge on the DPS website, [here](#) .

DPS personnel on Texas roads, along with other certified commercial vehicle inspectors, will continue to conduct English language proficiency evaluations during routine traffic stops and at weigh stations. These evaluations are a critical measure to ensure drivers possess

the necessary communication skills for on-road safety and compliance with federal regulations, and any commercial vehicle driver who does not meet the proficiency standard will be placed out of service.

All these actions, and others like them, are part of the department's continued efforts to make roads safer across the state and nation.

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