

CATEGORY C PULMONARY CONDITIONS

1. Although impaired pulmonary function is seldom the cause of sudden death, it may seriously affect operators of vehicles in the following ways:
 - a. Sudden severe coughing while driving may result in an accident
 - b. Cough syncope may occur while driving
 - c. Impaired cerebral oxygenation caused by impaired pulmonary function may result in mental confusion and/or impaired judgment
 2. For these and similar reasons, it is important to obtain an accurate picture of the pulmonary status of all applicants for driver licenses who have a history of problems or are observed to have respiratory difficulties at the time of examination.
 3. In assessing the severity of pulmonary impairment, effort is made to limit the tests to those found in most medical offices, although occasionally more sophisticated studies may be needed (e.g. arterial blood gases, maximal voluntary ventilation, etc.).
 4. The objective of classification according to pulmonary capacity, as in other functional categories, is to allow as much latitude as is consistent with the safe operation of a motor vehicle.
 5. The basic function tests (FVC and FEV) are the principal guidelines and standards currently recommended. These are subjective/objective tests. When they are required, three graphs should be made and every effort should be made to elicit the full cooperation of the examinee. A bronchodilator may be used if the examiner feels it is safe and justifiable. The best reading, with or without bronchodilators, should be used.
 6. In more severe cases of pulmonary impairment, measurement of arterial blood gasses may be needed. If there is any question about the need for arterial gas measurements, the applicant usually would not qualify for Safety Assessment Levels 1 through 4, but the blood gas determinations may support a higher functional level than might otherwise appear indicated. They may also help in defining safety assessment levels appropriate to limited private driving.
 7. **COMMERCIAL INTRASTATE DRIVERS:** A commercial intrastate driver meeting the requirements of Safety Assessment Level 4 will qualify for a license to drive commercial vehicles within the state boundaries. Assessment Level 4 requires a yearly re-evaluation. If oxygen is required, even intermittently during driving, the driver will be limited to a Class D license with no K restriction allowed.
- NOTE:** Regular and/or commercial intrastate drivers using supplemental oxygen for treatment of sleep disorders are considered separately. **See Category K**

CATEGORY C: PULMONARY CONDITIONS

PRIVATE

Safety Assessment Level	Circumstances	Medical Report Required	Interval for Review	License Class and Restrictions
1	No current pulmonary disease or if past history, fully recovered; no current medication use	No	N/A	Private vehicles
2	Minimal pulmonary symptoms; sporadic use of medication (no steroids), FVC & FEV> 70% of predicted normal; PO ₂ within normal range	Yes	1 year	Private vehicles
3	Pulmonary symptoms only with greater than ordinary activity; may be on steroids intermittently; FVC & FEV > 50% - 70% of predicted normal	Yes	1 year	Private vehicles
4	Stable pulmonary disease on or off treatment, including intermittent supplemental oxygen or steroids, with dyspnea only on exertion; no cough syncope for six (6) months	Yes	1 year	Private vehicles
5	Moderate dyspnea or other symptoms with ordinary activity; no cough syncope within three (3) months ^b	Yes	6 months ^a	Private vehicles
6	Unpredictable more severe temporary dyspnea or other symptoms; cough syncope within three (3) months ^b	Yes	6 months ^a	Private vehicles; recommend speed, area, daylight only restrictions
7	Special circumstances not listed above or under evaluation ^b	Yes	As recommended	Private vehicles; special restrictions as recommended by health care professional
8	Severe dyspnea with any activity and/or cyanosis and/or PCO ₂ > 50 or PO ₂ < 50; cough syncope within the past three (3) months	Yes	N/A	No driving

a Or as recommended by health care professional, longer or shorter interval according to stability, up to a maximum period of 5 years

b If supplemental oxygen is required to maintain PO₂ over 50, constant use of oxygen is required while driving

CATEGORY C: PULMONARY CONDITIONS
COMMERCIAL

Safety Assessment Level	Circumstances	Medical Report Required	Interval for Review	License Class and Restrictions
1	No current pulmonary disease or if past history, fully recovered; no current medication use	No	N/A	Commercial unrestricted
2	Minimal pulmonary symptoms; sporadic use of medication (no steroids), FVC & FEV ₁ > 70% of predicted normal; PO ₂ within normal range	Yes	1 year	Commercial unrestricted
3	Pulmonary symptoms only with greater than ordinary activity; may be on steroids intermittently; FVC & FEV ₁ > 65% - 70% of predicted normal	Yes	1 year	Commercial unrestricted
4	Stable pulmonary disease on or off treatment, including intermittent supplemental oxygen (not while driving) or steroids, with dyspnea only on exertion; no cough syncope for six (6) months	Yes	1 year ^a	Commercial restricted
5	Moderate dyspnea or other symptoms with ordinary activity; no cough syncope within three (3) months; supplemental oxygen required while driving	Yes	6 months ^a	No commercial driving
6	Unpredictable more severe temporary dyspnea or other symptoms; cough syncope within three (3) months	Yes	6 months ^a	No commercial driving
7	Special circumstances not listed above or under evaluation	Yes	6 months ^a	Special restrictions as recommended by health care professional
8	Severe dyspnea with any activity and/or cyanosis and/or PCO ₂ > 50 or PO ₂ < 50; cough syncope within the past three (3) months	Yes	N/A	No driving

^a Or as recommended by health care professional, longer or shorter interval according to stability, up to a maximum period of 5 years