

761—607.14(321) Third-party testing.

607.14(1) Purpose and definitions. The knowledge tests required by rule 761—607.12(321) and the skills test required by rule 761—607.13(321) may be administered by third-party testers and third-party test examiners approved and certified by the department. For the purpose of administering third-party testing and this rule, the following definitions are adopted:

“College or university” means an Iowa postsecondary school established under Iowa Code chapter 261B.

“Community college” means an Iowa community college established under Iowa Code chapter 260C.

“Government agency” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 553.3.

“Iowa business” means a corporation, association, partnership, company, firm, or other aggregation of individuals that has a principal place of business in this state and that is authorized to conduct business in this state.

“Knowledge test” means the knowledge tests required by rule 761—607.12(321).

“Motor carrier” means the same as defined in 49 CFR Section 390.5 effective October 1, 2025.

“Nonprofit” means a corporation or association that satisfies the requirements under Iowa Code chapter 498 or 504.

“Permanent commercial driver training facility” means a facility dedicated to a program of commercial driving instruction that is offered to employees or potential employees of the motor carrier as incident to the motor carrier’s commercial operations, that requires at least 40 hours of instruction, and that includes fixed and permanent structures and facilities for the off-road portions of commercial driving instruction, including classroom, pretrip inspection, and basic vehicle control skills. A permanent commercial driver training facility must include a fixed and paved or otherwise hard-surfaced area for basic vehicle control skills testing that is permanently marked and capable of inspection and measurement by the department.

“Principal place of business” means a building actually occupied where the public and the department may contact the owner or operator during regular business hours. The principal place of business must be located in this state.

“Public transit system” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 324A.1.

“Regional transit system” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 324A.1.

“Regular business hours” means to be consistently open to the public on a weekly basis at hours reported to the motor vehicle division.

“Skills test” means the skills test required by rule 761—607.13(321).

“Subsidiary” means a company that is partly or wholly owned by a motor carrier that holds a controlling interest in the subsidiary company.

“Third-party tester” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321.187.

“Third-party test examiner” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 321.187.

607.14(2) Certification of third-party testers.

a. The department may certify any of the following entities as a third-party tester to administer knowledge and skills tests:

- (1) A college or university.
- (2) A community college.
- (3) A government agency.
- (4) An Iowa business.
- (5) A nonprofit.
- (6) A public transit system or regional transit system.

b. An entity seeking certification as a third-party tester shall contact the motor vehicle division and schedule a review of the proposed testing program, including the proposed testing courses and facilities, and provide information sufficient to identify all proposed third-party test examiners, and any other information necessary to demonstrate compliance with 49 CFR Parts 383 and 384 as amended to October 1, 2025, applicable to knowledge and skills testing.

c. No entity will be certified to conduct third-party testing unless and until the entity enters an agreement with the department that meets the requirements of 49 CFR Section 383.75 and demonstrates, to

the satisfaction of the department, sufficient ability and facilities to conduct knowledge and skills tests in a manner that consistently meets the requirements of 49 CFR Part 383, Subpart E, and 49 CFR Part 384, Subpart B, applicable to knowledge and skills testing.

d. The department will issue a certified third-party tester a certificate of authority that identifies the classes and types of vehicles for which knowledge and skills tests may be administered. The certificate is valid for the duration of the agreement executed pursuant to paragraph 607.14(2) “c,” unless revoked by the department for engaging in fraudulent activities related to conducting knowledge and skills tests or failing to comply with the requirements, qualifications, and standards of this chapter, the agreement, or 49 CFR Part 383, Subpart E, and 49 CFR Part 384, Subpart B, applicable to knowledge and skills testing.

e. The department will revoke a certificate of authority originally issued after July 1, 2023, to a third-party tester if the third-party tester fails to administer a minimum of 50 percent of all knowledge and skills tests given in a calendar year to Iowa applicants. However, the department will not revoke a certificate of authority of a third-party tester who administers a minimum of 10 percent of all knowledge and skills tests given in a calendar year to Iowa applicants if the remainder of the tests are given to current or prospective employees of the third-party tester. For the purpose of this paragraph, an “Iowa applicant” is defined as an individual who holds a valid commercial learner’s permit, commercial driver’s license, noncommercial driver’s license, or nonoperator identification card issued by the department or who otherwise qualifies as a resident of this state under Iowa Code section 321.1A(1).

607.14(3) *Certification of third-party test examiners.*

a. A certified third-party tester shall not employ or otherwise use as a third-party test examiner a person who has not been approved and certified by the department to administer knowledge or skills tests. Each certified third-party tester shall submit for approval the names of all proposed third-party test examiners to the department. The department will not approve as a third-party test examiner a person who does not meet the requirements, qualifications, and standards of 49 CFR Part 383, Subpart E, and 49 CFR Part 384, Subpart B, applicable to knowledge and skills testing, including but not limited to all required training and examination, who has been barred from conducting commercial driver’s license testing in another state, or who has not passed a nationwide criminal background check. The criteria for passing the nationwide criminal background check means no felony convictions within the last ten years and no convictions involving fraudulent activities.

b. The department will issue a certificate of authority for each person certified as a third-party test examiner that identifies the certified third-party tester for which the person will administer knowledge or skills tests and the classes and types of vehicles for which the person may administer knowledge or skills tests. The certificate is valid for a period of four years from the date of issuance of the certificate.

c. The department will revoke the certificate of authority for a third-party test examiner to administer skills tests if the person holding the certificate does not administer skills tests to at least ten different applicants, each of whom has successfully passed all three segments of the skills test, per calendar year; does not successfully complete the refresher training required by 49 CFR Section 384.228 every four years; is involved in fraudulent activities related to conducting knowledge or skills tests as determined by the department; or otherwise fails to comply with and meet the requirements, qualifications and standards of this chapter or 49 CFR Part 383, Subpart E, and 49 CFR Part 384, Subpart B, applicable to knowledge and skills testing. Notwithstanding anything in this paragraph to the contrary, as provided in 49 CFR Section 383.75, if the person does not administer skills tests to at least ten different applicants per calendar year, the certificate will not be revoked for that reason if the person provides proof of completion of the examiner refresher training in 49 CFR Section 384.228 to the department and successfully completes one skills test under the observation of a department examiner or attends and passes with a score of 80 percent or better a certified commercial examiner training test and successfully completes one skills test under the observation of a department examiner.

d. The department will revoke the certificate of authority for a third-party test examiner to administer knowledge tests if the person holding the certificate does not successfully complete the refresher training required by 49 CFR Section 384.228 every four years, is involved in fraudulent activities related to conducting knowledge or skills tests or otherwise fails to comply with and meet the requirements,

qualifications and standards of this chapter or 49 CFR Part 383, Subpart E, and 49 CFR Part 384, Subpart B, applicable to knowledge testing.

e. A third-party test examiner certified by the department to administer skills tests who is also a skills instructor shall not administer a skills test to an applicant who received skills training from that third-party test examiner.

f. A third-party test examiner may only administer CDL tests for the examiner's primary employer, unless authorized by the department to administer CDL tests for another county or third-party tester.

607.14(4) *Bond.* As a condition of certification in accordance with 49 CFR Section 383.75, a third-party tester that is not a government agency as defined in Iowa Code section 553.3 must maintain a bond in the amount of \$50,000 to pay for the retesting of drivers in the event that the third-party tester or one or more of its third-party test examiners are involved in fraudulent activities related to conducting tests of CDL applicants.

607.14(5) *Training and refresher training for third-party test examiners.* All training and refresher training required under this rule shall be provided by the department, in form and content that meet the recommendations of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators' International Third-Party Examiner/Tester Certification Program.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 321.187.

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