

A Training Provider's Guide to ELDT Requirements

1. Introduction

1.1 Welcome

Welcome. This course is designed for organizations that train entry-level commercial motor vehicle drivers. It will help training providers understand their requirements under the Federal entry-level driver training regulations that training providers, drivers, and States must comply with beginning February 7, 2022.

We'll refer to entry-level driver training by the acronym "ELDT" throughout this course.

1.2 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)

Throughout this course, you will see references to the Code of Federal Regulations, what we'll refer to as the "CFR." The CFR is the official source for all Federal regulations. This course provides plain language information regarding the ELDT regulations, but does not modify or replace applicable regulations documented in the CFR. You can access the electronic version of the CFR online at www.eCFR.gov.

The CFR is separated into Titles, parts, and sections, as well as related appendices. Title 49 includes regulations related to transportation, so all sections referenced in this course can be found under Title 49. References may also be shown with the section symbol followed by the part and section numbers.

The CFR is updated regularly when regulations are added or amended.

1.3 Main Menu

During this course, you'll learn:

- What are the entry-level driver training regulations and to whom do they apply?
- What is the Training Provider Registry and who will use it?
- What the entry-level driver training regulations require of training providers.
- What training providers should do before, during, and after registering in the Training Provider Registry.

2. What is ELDT?

2.1 What is the ELDT Final Rule?

The ELDT final rule, issued on December 8, 2016, set a Federal standard for mandatory training of entry-level commercial motor vehicle, or CMV, drivers. The ELDT regulations will improve safety on our Nation's roads by establishing uniform requirements for both theory and behind-the-wheel training.

Training providers must comply with Federal requirements, as well as requirements of each State where they train entry-level drivers.

2.2 Which Drivers are Subject to the ELDT Regulations?

Entry-level drivers are individuals applying to obtain specific types of commercial driver's licenses, also called CDLs, as well as drivers who wish to add an endorsement to their existing CDL.

The below sections explain who is considered an entry-level driver and therefore subject to the ELDT regulations, and who is not.

2.2.1 Subject

The entry-level driver training regulations apply to individuals who, on or after February 7, 2022:

- Obtain a Class A or Class B commercial driver's license (known as a CDL) for the first time;
- Upgrade an existing Class B CDL to a Class A CDL; or
- Obtain a school bus (S), passenger (P), or hazardous materials (H) endorsement for the first time.

2.2.2 Not Subject

Some drivers are not subject to the ELDT regulations. Specifically:

- Any individual currently exempt from taking a skills test to obtain a Class A or Class B CDL, or an S or P endorsement;
- Drivers who are removing a restriction from their existing CDL; and
- Anyone that has a Class A or Class B CDL, or an S, P, or H endorsement, prior to February 7, 2022.

Note: individuals who hold a commercial learner's permit (called a CLP) prior to February 7, 2022, may obtain a CDL without completing Federal ELDT requirements, as long as they obtain the CDL before their CLP, or renewed CLP, expires.

For more information on applicability, visit § [380.603](#). For more information on exempt drivers removing a restriction from their existing CDL, visit § [383.135\(b\)\(7\)](#).

3. What is the Training Provider Registry?

3.1 What is the Training Provider Registry (TPR)?

The Training Provider Registry, sometimes referred to as the TPR, is a web system that will help individuals looking to get a CDL or CLP connect with training providers that meet the Federal requirements.

In addition, the Training Provider Registry will receive, retain, and relay to State Driver Licensing Agencies the records of trainees who completed the required entry-level driver training through a registered training provider.

Beginning February 7, 2022, CDL applicants cannot get their license unless they have completed training from a provider that is registered with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

3.2 How Does the Training Provider Registry Work?

The below sections explain how the Training Provider Registry works.

3.2.1 Search

First, driver-trainees will search the Training Provider Registry website for training providers. Next, trainees will contact providers to learn about their services and sign up for applicable courses. Then the trainee will complete the training.

Note that all trainee contact with the training provider takes place outside of the Registry. Trainees only use the Registry to identify authorized providers and, later, to view their own training certification record.

3.2.2 Submit

Training providers first register with FMCSA via the Training Provider Registry.

After each trainee completes an entry-level driver training course, the provider electronically submits specific information about the driver's training to the Training Provider Registry.

3.2.3 Retain

The Training Provider Registry maintains a list of registered training providers. It also retains information about all drivers that have successfully completed one or more entry-level driver training courses.

3.2.4 Retrieve

Before administering skills or knowledge tests, as applicable, States will check the Training Provider Registry to verify that the driver has completed training from a registered training provider. If a State cannot verify a driver's ELDT compliance based on the information submitted to the Registry, the driver will not be eligible to take required tests.

4. What Does ELDT Require of Training Providers?

4.1 Training Provider Requirements

The below sections provide an overview of the ELDT requirements for training providers.

4.1.1 Register with FMCSA

Beginning February 7, 2022, entities that provide entry-level driver training meeting the Federal requirements must be registered with FMCSA via the Training Provider Registry. The registration process requires training providers to self-certify that they meet Federal and applicable State requirements.

Training providers are required to register even if they do not provide training to the general public. For example, motor carriers that provide training for their own employees must also register and meet the ELDT requirements. These providers will have the option to omit some of their contact information if they do not wish to be contacted by individuals seeking entry-level training.

For more information, visit § [380.703\(7\)](#).

4.1.2 Curricula

Training providers must cover all topics outlined in the Federal ELDT curricula, but there is no minimum number of instruction hours for either theory or behind-the-wheel instruction. The curricula for each type of CDL or endorsement can be found in [49 CFR part 380 appendices A through E](#).

Please note:

1. Separate training providers may deliver the theory and behind-the-wheel portions of the training, but both portions of the behind-the-wheel training (range and public road) must be delivered by the same training provider.
2. Driver-trainees must complete the theory and behind-the-wheel portions of entry-level driver training within one year of each other, except for individuals seeking the H endorsement for transporting hazardous materials, since only theory training is required for this endorsement.
3. A simulation device cannot be used for behind-the-wheel instruction but may be used as part of theory instruction.

Keep in mind that States may have curricula requirements that exceed the Federal standards, and training providers must adhere to those requirements in the States where they conduct training.

For more information, visit [49 CFR part 380 appendices A through E](#).

4.1.3 Instructors

Theory and behind-the-wheel instructors must hold a CDL of the same (or a higher) class and with all endorsements required to operate the type of CMV for which training is provided. Instructors must also have either:

- At least two years of experience driving a CMV requiring a CDL of the same (or a higher) class or the same endorsement, or
- At least two years of experience as a behind-the-wheel CMV instructor.

Additionally, instructors must meet all applicable State qualifications for CMV instructors.

Note that if an instructor's CDL has been cancelled, suspended, or revoked due to offenses identified in part 383 section 51, the instructor is prohibited from teaching for two years following the date his or her CDL is reinstated.

For more information on instructor requirements, visit § [380.713](#). For more information on instructor definitions, visit § [380.605](#).

4.1.4 Facilities

Classroom and range facilities must comply with all applicable Federal, State, and/or local statutes and regulations.

“Range” means an area that is free of obstructions and has adequate sight lines. It must enable the driver to maneuver safely and without the interference from other vehicles and hazards.

For more information, visit § [380.709](#).

4.1.5 Vehicles

Training vehicles must comply with applicable Federal and State safety requirements and be in the same group and type that trainees intend to operate for their CDL skills test.

For more information, visit §§ [380.711](#), [392](#), [393](#), [396](#).

4.1.6 State Licensing

Training providers must be licensed, certified, registered, or authorized by the State where the training is conducted, as applicable.

However, State qualification requirements related to theory instruction do not apply to providers offering theory instruction only online.

For more information, visit § [380.703\(5\)\(i-ii\)](#).

4.1.7 Assessments

For theory training, training providers must use tests, known as “assessments,” (in written or electronic format) to determine driver-trainees' proficiency with all units in the theory curriculum. Students must earn a minimum overall score of 80 percent on the theory assessment.

For the behind-the-wheel training, training instructors must evaluate and document a driver-trainee's proficiency in behind-the-wheel skills. While there is no minimum number of clock hours required by Federal regulation, instructors must document the total number of clock hours each driver-trainee spends to complete the behind-the-wheel curriculum.

For more information, visit § [380.715](#).

4.1.8 Training Certification

Beginning on February 7, 2022, training providers must submit to the Registry information about each trainee who has completed the entry-level driver training curriculum. After a student completes training, certification must be submitted by midnight of the second business day.

The following information must be submitted to the Training Provider Registry for each trainee.

- Trainee name, date of birth, and license/permit number and State of issuance
- CDL class or endorsement type
- Specifics about the type of training completed (ex. theory, behind-the-wheel road, behind-the-wheel range)
- Score on written theory assessment (if applicable)
- Total number of clock hours spent for behind-the wheel road and behind-the-wheel range training (if applicable)
- Date the training was completed

For more information, visit § [380.717](#).

4.1.9 Documentation

All training providers must retain specific records outside of the Training Provider Registry, including:

- Certifications by all behind-the-wheel trainees stating that they will comply with U.S. Department of Transportation regulations in parts [40](#), [382](#), [383](#), and [391](#), as well as State and/or local laws related to controlled substances and alcohol testing, age, medical certification, licensing, and driving record;
- A copy of each trainee's CLP or CDL;
- Instructor qualification documentation;
- Lesson plans for theory and behind-the-wheel training; and
- Records of individual entry-level driver training assessments.

Training providers must retain these records for a minimum of three years from the date each required record is generated or received. Electronic copies of the records are acceptable.

For more information, visit [§ 380.725](#).

4.1.10 FMCSA Audits

A training provider must allow FMCSA or its authorized representative to audit its operations to ensure it meets all requirements. If FMCSA determines that the training provider does not meet all applicable requirements, FMCSA may remove that provider from the list of registered training providers.

For more information on FMCSA audits, visit [§ 380.703\(6\)](#). For more information on removal from the TPR, visit [part 380 section 721 \(factors considered\)](#) and [part 380 section 723 \(removal procedures\)](#).

5. What to Do Before, During, and After Registration

5.1 Are You Prepared?

Now that you know what the ELDT regulations require of you as a training provider, you might be wondering where to begin. Next, we'll break down the process to steps you'll take before, during, and after registering as a training provider.

5.1.1 Before

Remember when you register in the Training Provider Registry, you are required to self-certify that you meet all the Federal requirements outlined earlier and listed in [Title 49, section 380, subparts F and G](#) of the Code of Federal Regulations. You can prepare for registration by verifying that your curricula, instructors, facilities, etc. meet the minimum ELDT standards and making changes to your operation as needed.

As you prepare to register, decide how you will submit driver training certification records to FMCSA. All registered training providers will be able to log in to the Registry to manually enter this information using an online form. Training providers with their own IT systems also have an option to set up a web interface to the Registry.

The TPR Web Service submission option may be a good fit for you if you:

- Anticipate submitting a significant number of driver training records on a regular basis,
- Have an existing IT system that you use for tracking driver training information, and
- Have an IT team that can both develop and support your connection to the Registry.

Training providers can visit the Registry website to access the [Developer Toolkit](#) with additional resources for IT staff.

5.1.2 During

When registering in the Training Provider Registry, you will be asked to submit the following information.

- Provider name and contact information
- Facility name and contact information
- Type of provider
- Type of training provided, average number of hours, and average cost
- Third-party affiliations, certifications, or accreditations

You will also be asked to self-certify that you meet all ELDT requirements for training providers.

If you have more than one campus or training location, you must register each location. If you don't provide training services to the public (for example, if you only train drivers for a specific company or organization), you can choose to omit some of your contact information from the searchable list of training providers available to the public on the Registry.

There are no fees associated with either initial or continuing registration.

5.1.3 After

Beginning on the February 7, 2022 ELDT compliance date, all registered training providers are required to electronically submit to the Registry training certification information for all drivers who have completed an entry-level driver training course.

To remain eligible for continued listing on the Training Provider Registry, training providers must:

- Meet all requirements for listing on the Registry;
- If any of your business information changes, update your TPR registration within 30 days of the change;
- Confirm your TPR registration every two years, even if nothing has changed;
- Maintain documentation of State licensure, registration, or certification verifying that you are authorized to operate in all States where you provide in-person training, if applicable;
- Allow FMCSA to complete an audit, if requested; and
- Provide all required documentation to FMCSA within 48 hours, if requested.

6. Conclusion

Congratulations! You have completed this course. For more information about entry-level driver training requirements, visit the [TPR website](#). We appreciate the important role you play in keeping our Nation's roads safe for everyone.