

The ELDT Final Rule

The Entry-Level Driver Training (ELDT) final rule

- Published in 2016, mandated by MAP-21.
- Set a Federal standard for mandatory training of entry-level drivers.
 - Establishes minimum requirements entry-level driver training providers must meet.
 - States may have requirements that exceed Federal requirements.
- Established need for the **Training Provider Registry**.
- Compliance Date: **February 7, 2022**.

How will ELDT improve safety on our Nation's roads?

- Ensures that only qualified drivers receive a new CDL, or a CDL upgrade, or S, P, or H endorsement.
- Sets a national baseline for entry-level driver training.
- Identifies standards that training providers must meet.
- Gives States information they need at critical safety checkpoints.
- Further ensures that drivers operate commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) safely and meet their operational responsibilities.

The Training Provider Registry ensures that these lifesaving requirements are met.

**What do the ELDT
regulations require
of entry-level
drivers?**

Entry-Level Drivers – Who is Covered?

The ELDT regulations establish new minimum training standards for entry-level drivers. This includes individuals applying for:

A Class A or Class B commercial driver's license (CDL) for the first time

An upgrade of an existing Class B CDL to a Class A CDL

A hazardous materials (H), passenger (P), or school bus (S) endorsement for the first time

- The rule does not cover individuals for whom States have waived the CDL skills test under 49 CFR 383 (§ [383](#)).

Driver Requirements

- Entry-level drivers must complete the applicable training from a training provider that has registered with FMCSA.
 - Registered training providers will be listed on the Training Provider Registry website (public listing coming fall 2021).
- Training must be completed prior to taking a CDL skills test or, if applying for the H endorsement, knowledge test.
- Whether or not a driver is subject to the ELDT regulations is determined by when they obtained their commercial learner's permit (CLP) or any pre-existing endorsements.

ELDT Applicability



ELDT Compliance Date February 7, 2022

- Drivers holding a CLP prior to the compliance date may obtain a CDL without completing entry-level training.
- If the CLP obtained prior to the compliance date, or renewed CLP, expires prior to obtaining a CDL, the driver would be subject to ELDT requirements for Class A or Class B CDL.
- If a driver holds S, P, or H endorsements prior to the compliance date, the driver is not subject to the ELDT requirements for the endorsement(s).
- Drivers who obtain a CLP on or after the compliance date are subject to ELDT regulations for CDLs.
- Drivers who apply for a S, P, or H endorsement after the compliance date are subject to ELDT requirements for those endorsements.

What are the ELDT training requirements?

Training Requirements

Entry-level drivers must receive training and demonstrate proficiency in the following areas:



THEORY TRAINING

- Lectures, demonstrations, computer-based, online learning, etc.
- May use a simulator
- No minimum number of hours; trainees must score at least 80% on assessment
- Training topics include:
 - Basic Operation
 - Safe Operating Procedures
 - Advanced Operation Procedures
 - Vehicle Systems and Reporting Malfunctions
 - Non-Driving Activities (e.g., Hours of Service)



BEHIND-THE-WHEEL (BTW) TRAINING

- Actual operation of a CMV
- Takes place on a range or public road
- May not use a simulator to meet requirements
- No minimum number of hours, training provider will determine driver's proficiency
- Basic vehicle control skills and mastery of basic maneuvers

Training Requirements (continued)

- Theory and BTW trainings may be delivered by different training providers.
 - Both training providers must be registered/listed on the Training Provider Registry.
 - Both training providers would separately submit driver training information.
- BTW range and BTW public road trainings must be provided by the same training provider.
- Driver-trainees must complete both the theory and BTW portions of training within one year of each other.

Training Requirements (continued)

BTW Public Road

- Instructors must cover all topics listed and “determine and document that each driver-trainee has demonstrated proficiency in all elements of the BTW curriculum unless otherwise noted.”
 - See Appendices A and B to Part 380.
- Does not allow for “test outs” of skills training on either range or public road.

**What do the ELDT
regulations require
of training
providers?**

What is a training provider?

An entity that is listed on the FMCSA Training Provider Registry.

May include:

- Training schools
- Educational institutions
- Rural electronic cooperatives
- Motor carriers
- State/local governments
- School districts
- Joint labor management programs
- Owner-operators
- Individuals

Training Provider Requirements



REGISTRATION



CURRICULA



INSTRUCTORS



FACILITIES



VEHICLES



STATE LICENSING



ASSESSMENTS



TRAINING
CERTIFICATION



DOCUMENTATION



FMCSA AUDITS

For full training provider requirements, see 49 CFR part 380 subparts F & G.



Registering with FMCSA

► For more information: [§ 380.703](#)

- To be authorized to provide entry-level driver training, training providers must register with FMCSA.
- During registration, training providers **must self-certify** that they meet all applicable Federal and State requirements.
- Only registered training providers will:
 - Be listed on the Training Provider Registry website (publicly viewable in late 2021).
 - Be able to submit driver training certification information to FMCSA (beginning on February 7, 2022).
- Training providers are required to register even if they do not provide training to the general public.
 - Providers may omit their contact information from the public list.



Curricula

Training providers must cover all topics described in [49 CFR part 380 appendices A through E](#), as applicable

- There is no required minimum number of instruction hours.
- Separate training providers may deliver the theory and behind-the-wheel (BTW) portions of the training, but both portions of BTW training must be delivered by the same training provider.
- Driver-trainees must complete both the theory and BTW portions of training within one year of each other.
 - Except for individuals seeking the H endorsement
- A simulation device cannot be used for BTW instruction, but can be used as part of theory instruction.

[Download the ELDT Curricula Summary](#) for an overview of requirements.



Instructors

► For more information: §§ [380.713](#), [389.605](#)

- Theory and BTW instructors must hold a CDL of the same (or higher) class and with all endorsements necessary to operate the CMV for which training is to be provided.
- They must also have either:
 - At least two years of experience driving a CMV requiring a CDL of the same (or higher) class and/or the same endorsement; *or*
 - At least two years of experience as a behind-the-wheel CMV instructor.
- If an instructor's CDL has been cancelled, suspended or revoked due to offenses identified in §383.51, the instructor is prohibited from teaching for two years following the date his/her CDL is reinstated.



Facilities

► For more information: § [380.709](#)

- Classroom and range facilities must comply with all applicable Federal, State, and/or local statutes and regulations.
 - “Range” means an area that:
 1. Is free of obstructions;
 2. Has adequate sight lines; and
 3. Enables the driver to maneuver safely and free from interference from other vehicles and hazards.
 - Training providers may conduct BTW range training in *any* area that meets the three above requirements. They are not required to maintain or rent a private facility or space.
 - If range training is conducted in publicly accessible area, all CLP requirements also apply.



Vehicles

▶ For more information: §§ [380.711](#), [392](#), [393](#), [396](#)

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



State Licensing

► For more information: [§ 380.703](#)

- Training providers must be licensed, certified, registered, or authorized by the State where the training is conducted, as applicable.
 - Note: Some States may not have instructor certification requirements for entry-level driver training providers.
- If a training provider offers theory instruction **only online**, the State licensing requirements do not apply.



Assessments

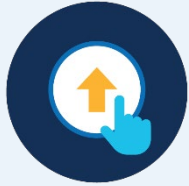
► For more information: § [380.725](#)

Theory Training

- Training providers must use assessments (in written or electronic format) to determine trainees' proficiency with all units in the theory curriculum.
- Students must earn a minimum overall score of 80 percent.

BTW Training

- Training instructors must evaluate and document a trainee's proficiency in BTW skills.
- Training instructors must document the total number of clock hours each trainee spends to complete the BTW curriculum, but there is no minimum number of training hours required.



Driver Training Certification

Training providers are not required to submit training certification information until February 7, 2022 and thereafter

- The following training certification information must be submitted to the Training Provider Registry by midnight of the second business day after each student completes training:
 - Driver-trainee name, date of birth, and license/permit number and State of issuance.
 - CDL class/endorsement and type.
 - Specifics about the type of training completed (for example, theory or BTW).
 - Score on written theory assessment (if applicable).
 - Total number of clock hours spent BTW (if applicable).
 - Date of successful completion of training.



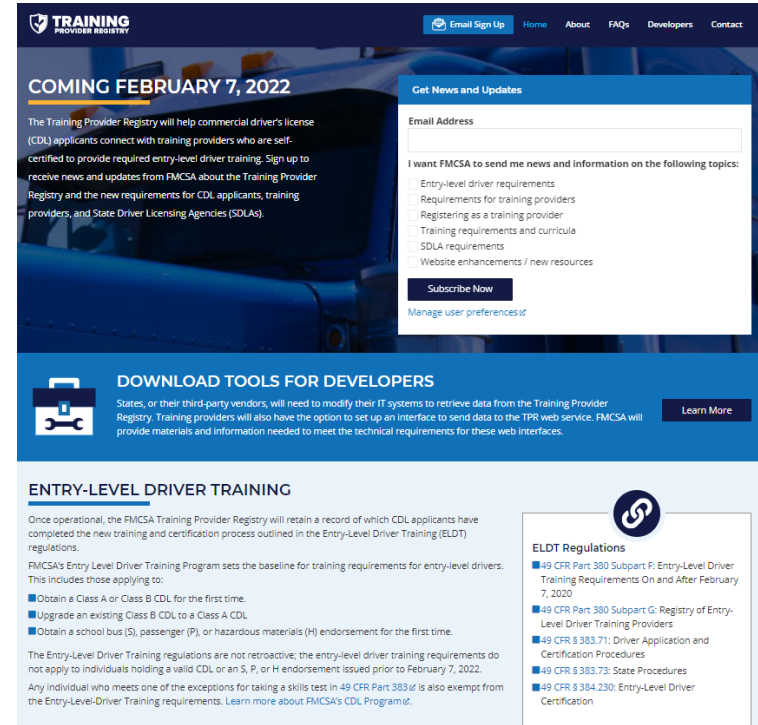
Documentation and Record Retention

► For more information: [§ 380.725](#)

- All training providers must retain specific records, including:
 - Self-certifications by accepted driver-trainees for BTW training attesting that they will comply with U.S. Department of Transportation regulations, 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 the trainee's CLP or CDL.
 - Instructor qualification documentation.
 - Lesson plans for theory and BTW (range and public road) training curricula.
 - Records of individual entry-level driver training assessments.
- Records must be maintained for at least 3 years.

The Training Provider Registry

- This FMCSA web system will:
 - List training providers eligible to provide entry-level driver training.
 - Retain a record of drivers that have successfully completed entry-level driver training.



The screenshot shows the Training Provider Registry website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Email Sign Up', 'Home', 'About', 'FAQs', 'Developers', and 'Contact'. The main content area features a prominent announcement: 'COMING FEBRUARY 7, 2022'. Below this, a text block explains that the registry will help CDL applicants connect with training providers. To the right, there is a 'Get News and Updates' section with an email address input field and a list of topics for which users can receive news, including entry-level driver requirements, training provider requirements, and SDLA requirements. A 'Subscribe Now' button is located below the list. Below the announcement, there is a 'DOWNLOAD TOOLS FOR DEVELOPERS' section with a brief description and a 'Learn More' button. The bottom section is titled 'ENTRY-LEVEL DRIVER TRAINING' and contains detailed information about the program, including a list of regulations that apply to the program and a list of exemptions. A small icon of a truck is visible in the bottom right corner of the screenshot.

COMING FEBRUARY 7, 2022

The Training Provider Registry will help commercial driver's license (CDL) applicants connect with training providers who are self-certified to provide required entry-level driver training. Sign up to receive news and updates from FMCSA about the Training Provider Registry and the new requirements for CDL applicants, training providers, and State Driver Licensing Agencies (SDLAs).

Get News and Updates

Email Address

I want FMCSA to send me news and information on the following topics:

- Entry-level driver requirements
- Requirements for training providers
- Registering as a training provider
- Training requirements and curricula
- SDLA requirements
- Website enhancements / new resources

Subscribe Now

[Manage user preferences](#)

DOWNLOAD TOOLS FOR DEVELOPERS

States, or their third-party vendors, will need to modify their IT systems to retrieve data from the Training Provider Registry. Training providers will also have the option to set up an interface to send data to the TPR web service. FMCSA will provide materials and information needed to meet the technical requirements for these web interfaces.

Learn More

ENTRY-LEVEL DRIVER TRAINING

Once operational, the FMCSA Training Provider Registry will retain a record of which CDL applicants have completed the new training and certification process outlined in the Entry-Level Driver Training (ELDT) regulations.

FMCSA's Entry Level Driver Training Program sets the baseline for training requirements for entry-level drivers. This includes those applying to:

- Obtain a Class A or Class B CDL for the first time.
- Upgrade an existing Class B CDL to a Class A CDL
- Obtain a school bus (S), passenger (P), or hazardous materials (H) endorsement for the first time.

The Entry-Level Driver Training regulations are not retroactive; the entry-level driver training requirements do not apply to individuals holding a valid CDL or an S, P, or H endorsement issued prior to February 7, 2022.

Any individual who meets one of the exceptions for taking a skills test in 49 CFR Part 383.42 is also exempt from the Entry-Level-Driver Training requirements. [Learn more about FMCSA's CDL Program.](#)

ELDT Regulations

- 49 CFR Part 380 Subpart F: Entry-Level Driver Training Requirements On and After February 7, 2020
- 49 CFR Part 380 Subpart G: Registry of Entry-Level Driver Training Providers
- 49 CFR § 383.71: Driver Application and Certification Procedures
- 49 CFR § 383.73: State Procedures
- 49 CFR § 384.230: Entry-Level Driver Certification

How does the Training Provider Registry support ELDT?



Search

DRIVER

selects registered training provider from list on Training Provider Registry, completes training



Submit

TRAINING PROVIDER

electronically submits driver training data to Training Provider Registry



Retain

FMCSA

retains driver data in Training Provider Registry



Retrieve

STATE

retrieves driver data from Training Provider Registry

ELDT and the Training Provider Registry (continued)



- **CDL applicant** searches the list of training providers on the Training Provider Registry website.
- CDL applicant contacts the training provider and secures their services outside the Training Provider Registry, and successfully completes required training.

ELDT and the Training Provider Registry (continued)



- **Training provider** submits driver training certification information to FMCSA electronically via the Training Provider Registry.
- Driver information must be submitted by midnight of the second business day after the driver-trainee completes the training.
- Must be done for each student when that student completes a training program.

ELDT and the Training Provider Registry (continued)



Retain

- **FMCSA** will retain the driver training certification information securely in the Training Provider Registry.

ELDT and the Training Provider Registry (continued)



Retrieve

- **The State**, prior to administering the relevant skills or knowledge test, must use information from the Training Provider Registry to verify that the driver has completed required training.



FMCSA Audits

► For more information: §§ [380.721](#), [380.723](#)

- Training providers must allow FMCSA or its authorized representative to audit their operations.
 - If FMCSA determines that a training provider does not meet all applicable requirements, FMCSA may remove the training provider from the Registry.
 - Any training conducted after a training provider's removal date will be considered invalid.
 - Training providers who wish to remain listed on the Registry may appeal FMCSA's decision or take corrective action.



Maintaining Registration

► For more information: § [380.719](#)

- **Within 30 days of a change**

Update your registration with any changes to key information, such as:

- Name, address, phone number.
- Type(s) of training offered.
- Training provider status.
- Change in State licensure, certification, or accreditation status.

- **Biennial update**

Confirm your TPR registration biennially, even if nothing has changed.

Training Provider Registry Timeline



Summer 2021

Training provider
registration begins



Fall 2021

List of training
providers **publicly**
available on the
Training Provider
Registry website



February 7, 2022

ELDT compliance date
Training providers begin
submitting training
certification information
States begin
verifying driver training
certification information

Training Provider registration begins summer 2021

Get Ready to Register

- Ensure your curricula, documentation, vehicles, etc. meet the minimum ELDT standards.
 - When you register, you must self-certify that you comply with all applicable ELDT requirements.
 - For a complete list of training provider requirements, visit [49 CFR part 380 subparts F and G](#) and [appendices A through E](#).
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How will your training provider submit driver training certification information?

Get Ready to Submit on February 7, 2022



MANUAL SUBMISSION

All training providers will be able to manually enter driver information using an online form.



WEB SERVICES SUBMISSION

Optional: Training providers with their own IT systems can set up a web interface to submit data via a TPR Web Service.

TPR Web Service

The TPR Web Service submission option may be a good fit for training providers that:

- Anticipate submitting a significant number of driver training certifications on a regular basis.
- Have an existing IT system to track driver training results.
- Have an IT support team that can update your IT system to interface with TPR Web Service, per the technical specifications in the Web Services Development Handbook.



Learn more at <https://tpr.fmcsa.dot.gov/DeveloperToolkit>

Resources from FMCSA

- Visit the TPR website: <https://tpr.fmcsa.dot.gov>
 - Sign up for email updates from FMCSA
 - Find answers to frequently asked questions
 - Access developer materials to help you build a connection to the TPR Web Service

Driver/General Information

- Training Provider Registry Factsheet
- ELDT Overview Presentation

Materials for Training Providers

- Training Provider Factsheet
- Countdown to ELDT Checklist
- ELDT Curricula Summary

Questions? Contact Us



To learn more about ELDT and the Training Provider Registry, visit:

<https://tpr.fmcsa.dot.gov>



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