Entry-Level Driver Training Requirements for CDL Applicants

The new Entry-Level Driver Training (ELDT) regulations require that all entry-level drivers of commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) receive training from a provider listed on FMCSA’s Training Provider Registry.

**Beginning February 7, 2022,** to be eligible to take required skills or knowledge tests, commercial driver’s license (CDL) applicants must have completed applicable entry-level driver training from a registered training provider.

Use the scenario chart below to determine if you are required to complete entry-level driver training.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If</th>
<th>Then</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A driver holds a CLP that was issued before February 7, 2022...</td>
<td>The driver is not required to complete entry-level driver training, as long as the driver obtains a CDL before the CLP expires.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A driver was issued a CDL or an S, P, or H endorsement before February 7, 2022...</td>
<td>The driver is not required to complete entry-level driver training for the previously-issued license or endorsement, even if it has since lapsed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A driver holds a CLP that was issued before February 7, 2022, but the CLP expires before the driver applies for his or her CDL...</td>
<td>The driver must complete the required entry-level driver training.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A driver obtains a CLP on or after February 7, 2022...</td>
<td>The driver must complete the required entry-level driver training.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A driver held a CDL prior to the compliance date, and applies for an upgrade to a higher class of CDL, or an S, P, or H endorsement for the first time on or after February 7, 2022...</td>
<td>The driver must complete the required entry-level driver training for the class of CDL to which the driver is upgrading or the endorsement(s) for which the driver is applying.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ELDT EXCEPTIONS.** The ELDT regulations do not apply to individuals that are not required to have a CDL as outlined in 49 CFR part 383, or for whom the state has waived the CDL skills test.

**What must drivers do to meet the ELDT requirements?**

**Complete training with a registered training provider**

Entry-level drivers must select a training provider that is listed on the Training Provider Registry. Only registered training providers will be able to submit certification of a driver’s completion of entry-level driver training to the Training Provider Registry.

**When am I eligible to take my CDL skills or knowledge test?**

Training must be completed before taking a CDL skills test or, if the driver is applying for the H endorsement, the knowledge test.

*If the State Driver Licensing Agency cannot electronically verify that these requirements are met, the State is not permitted to administer the CDL skills or knowledge test to the driver.*
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**ELDT Training Requirements**

Entry-level driver training will include instruction addressing the following four areas ($380.503):  

- **(a) Driver qualification requirements**
  - The Federal rules on medical certification, medical examination procedures, general qualifications, responsibilities, and disqualifications based on various offenses, orders, and loss of driving privileges (part 391, subparts B and E of this subchapter).

- **(b) Hours of service of drivers**
  - The limitations on driving hours, the requirement to be off-duty for certain periods of time, record of duty status preparation, and exceptions (part 395 of this subchapter). Fatigue countermeasures as a means to avoid crashes.

- **(c) Driver wellness**
  - Basic health maintenance including diet and exercise. The importance of avoiding excessive use of alcohol.

- **(d) Whistleblower protection**
  - The right of an employee to question the safety practices of an employer without the employee’s risk of losing a job or being subject to reprisals simply for stating a safety concern (29 CFR part 1978).

**What is included in the ELDT Curriculum?**

CDL Applicants must complete ELDT for the class of vehicle they wish to operate. Curricula for each class of vehicle may be found in the appendix to Part 380.

- Appendix A to Part 380  
  Class A - CDL Training Curriculum
- Appendix B to Part 380  
  Class B - CDL Training Curriculum
- Appendix C to Part 380  
  Passenger Endorsement Training Curriculum
- Appendix D to Part 380  
  School Bus Endorsement Training Curriculum
- Appendix E to Part 380  
  Hazardous Materials Endorsement Training Curriculum
- Appendix F to Part 380  
  LCV Driver Training Programs, Required Knowledge and Skills

**Other General Requirements**

- CDL Applicants must complete and pass with a minimum score of 80 a written assessment that test their proficiency of the knowledge objectives in the theory portion ELDT.
- Theory and behind-the-wheel instructors must be certified as defined in §380.605.
- Training providers will retain ELDT records for a minimum of three (3) years.
- For a complete detail of ELDT requirements review 49 CFR Part 380 Subpart E.