

SAFETY DIRECTOR BULLETIN

NEW CDL ENTRY-LEVEL DRIVER TRAINING REGULATIONS

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) new Entry-Level Driver Training (ELDT) regulations establish the baseline training requirements for entry-level commercial drivers. The FMCSA amended its December 8, 2016, final rule, *Minimum Training Requirements for Entry-Level Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators*, extending the compliance date for the rule from February 7, 2020, to February 7, 2022.

Effective February 7, 2022:

- Drivers seeking an initial Class A or Class B Commercial Driver's License (CDL), or upgrading an existing Class B CDL to a Class A CDL, must successfully complete applicable theory and behind-the-wheel instruction from a training provider listed on FMCSA's training provider registry (TPR) before taking the State-administered test(s).
- Drivers seeking an initial P or S endorsement, must successfully complete applicable theory and behind-the-wheel instruction from a training provider listed on FMCSA's training provider registry (TPR) before taking the State-administered test(s).
- Drivers seeking the H endorsement must successfully complete theory only training prior to taking the State-administered knowledge test.

The ELDT regulations are not retroactive. Individuals who were issued a CDL or an S, P, or H endorsement prior to February 7, 2022 are not required to complete training for the respective CDL or endorsement. Likewise, if an applicant who obtains a commercial learner permit (CLP) prior to February 7, 2022, obtains a CDL before the CLP or renewed CLP expires, the applicant is not subject to the ELDT requirements. A [factsheet](#) is available from the FMCSA.

On or after February 7, 2022, New Jersey may not administer the CDL test(s) until verifying that the applicant has completed the required ELDT.

The regulations also impose minimum qualification standards for training providers and instructors conducting ELDT. Governmental agencies may use a vendor from the FMCSA Training Provider Registry to train their CDL candidates, or they may elect to become a registered trainer themselves. Curricula requirements to meet the ELDT comprehensive theory and behind-the-wheel training program can be found [here](#).

Please contact your Risk Control Consultant if you have any questions.