

CDL ENTRY-LEVEL DRIVER TRAINER BEST PRACTICES

On February 7, 2022, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) issued new training requirements for Entry-Level Commercial Drivers. Entry-Level Commercial Drivers must 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). Use the below chart to determine if entry-level drivers will require the new Entry Level Driver Training.

If...	Then...
A driver holds a Commercial Learners Permit (CLP) that was issued before February 7, 2022...	The driver is not required to complete ELDT, as long as the driver obtains a CDL before the CLP expires.
A driver was issued a CDL or an S, P, or H endorsement before February 7, 2022...	The driver is not required to complete ELDT for the previously issued license of endorsement, even if it has since lapsed.
A driver holds a CLP that was issued before February 7, 2022, but the CLP expires before the driver applies for their CDL.	The driver must complete the required ELDT before being permitted to take the CDL skills test.
A driver obtains a CLP on or after February 7, 2022...	The driver must complete the required ELDT before being permitted to take the CDL skills test, S or P skills test, or H knowledge test.
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...	The driver must complete the required ELDT for the class of CDL to which the driver is upgrading or the endorsement (s) for which the driver is applying before being permitted to take the applicable CDL skills or knowledge test.

The FMCSA allows employers to become registered trainers so they can provide Entry-Level Driver Training to their employees. Employers can register as trainers by visiting [FMCSA Training Provider](#).

When selecting instructors to provide entry-level driver training you must ensure that they meet the requirements for Theory and/or Behind-the-Wheel Instructors.

Theory Instructors must hold a CDL of the same (or higher) class, and with all endorsements necessary, to operate the commercial motor vehicle (CMV) for which training is to be provided and meet all applicable State qualification requirements for CMV instructors. (Exception: This is not required if providing theory instruction exclusively.)

Theory Instructors Must Also Meet One of These:

- Have a minimum of two years' experience operating a CMV requiring a CDL of the same (or higher) class, or the same endorsement; or
- Have previously held a CDL of the same (or higher) class; or
- Have a minimum of two years' experience as a BTW CMV instructor.

Behind-the-Wheel (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 and meet all applicable State qualification requirements for CMV instructors.

Behind-the-Wheel (BTW) Instructors Must Also Meet One of These:

- Have a minimum of two years' experience operating a CMV requiring a CDL of the same (or higher) class, or the same endorsement; or
- Have a minimum of two years' experience as a BTW CMV instructor.

Once your agency has registered as a Training Provider and selected your agency's instructors, the NJCE JIF offers CDL Entry-Level Driver Train the Trainer, for upcoming classes please click on the following link: [CDL ELDT Train-the-Trainer Classes](#) . If you have any other questions about the please contact your Risk Control Consultant.