

ELDT Mandate: New CDL Requirements

If you are interested in getting a CDL, you may wonder what the ELDT mandate is and how it will affect me? This blog post will answer this and explain the new federal CDL requirements.

What is ELDT?

The FMCSA Entry-Level Driver Training rule requires all new commercial drivers to complete an entry-level driver training program before getting their CDL. An FMCSA certified training provider must furnish training. The ELDT provides a minimum set of standards for new commercial drivers regardless of the state in which they receive training. The goal is to ensure all drivers learn the same basic safety skills. The entry-level driver training final rule went into effect on February 7th, 2022.

Since the ELDT mandate sets a minimum standard for commercial truck driver education that CDL training providers must meet, training providers must certify their program with the FMCSA. Entry-Level Driver Training includes theory (classroom) and skills training (behind the wheel).

To show proficiency, students must score a minimum of 80 percent on the theory assessment. To qualify for the CDL test, students must complete the specified behind-the-wheel training and receive an endorsement from their instructor.

Who is affected by the ELDT?

Anyone who wants to get their CDL after February 7th and doesn't already have their Commercial Learner's Permit will need to complete entry-level driver training. The ELDT regulations are not retroactive, meaning if you already have a CDL or CLP, you do not need to complete an ELDT program.

You will need to complete an Entry-Level Driver Training Program if

- This is your first Class A or Class B CDL
- You are upgrading a Class B to a Class A CDL
- This is your first endorsement, in categories including passenger (P), hazardous materials (H), or school bus (S)

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