



Entry-Level Driver Training Required for New Commercial Driver's License Applicants

Because local government entities employ drivers who operate motor vehicles requiring a Commercial Driver's License (CDL), Local Government Insurance Trust is sharing information on a new requirement for entry-level driver training from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). The FMCSA, along with the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) and the Federal Transit Authority (FTA), is responsible for the rules and regulations surrounding issuance of a CDL.

Beginning on February 7, 2022, all applicants for a CDL must complete new Entry-Level Driver Training (ELDT) by a registered training provider. This requirement is not retroactive, so an employee who is a current CDL holder and maintains his or her license will not be required to complete ELDT. This training is required for new CDL applicants or anyone who has allowed their license to lapse.

The training is also required for current CDL drivers who apply to upgrade to a higher class of CDL, or an S (school bus), P (passenger bus) or H (hazardous material) endorsement for the first time on or after February 7, 2022. The U.S. DOT has provided a [scenario chart](#) to help you determine if additional training will be required prior to CDL application.

CDL applicants will receive a combination of theory and behind-the-wheel training. Theory training topics include basic operation, safe operating procedures, advanced operation procedures, vehicle systems and reporting malfunctions and non-driving activities. Theory training can include the use of a simulator, along with lectures, demonstrations or online training. While a minimum number of hours are not required for theory training, applicants must score at least 80% on assessments. For the required behind-the-wheel training, applicants must operate an actual CMV (commercial motor vehicle) and simulators may not be used.

This training requirement was originally announced in 2016, with enforcement scheduled to begin on Feb. 7, 2020, but the requirement was delayed for two years to allow time to create a training provider registry. Section 383.3 provides guidance on Applicability of CDL requirements, and Frequently Asked Questions can be found on the [FMCSA's website](#). Please also review the [FMCSA Minimum Federal Curricula Requirements](#), as well as the [Training Provider Registry fact sheet](#).