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## What is Entry Level Driver Training?

*Entry-level driver training* means training an entry-level driver receives from an entity listed on FMCSA's Training Provider Registry prior to:

- (1) Taking the CDL skills test required to receive the Class A or Class B CDL for the first time;
- (2) Taking the CDL skills test required to upgrade to a Class A or Class B CDL; or
- (3) Taking the CDL skills test required to obtain a passenger and/or school bus endorsement for the first time
- (4) Taking the CDL knowledge test required to obtain a hazardous materials endorsement for the first time.

**Note:** Drivers Lifting the “O” restriction are required to complete ELDT Class A (Appendix A) curriculum requirements.

### [Reference 49 CFR 380.609](#)

## Are there exemptions to Entry Level Driver Training Requirements?

- (1) Drivers excepted from the CDL requirements under §383.3(c), (d), and (h) of this chapter;
  - a. 383(c)- *Exception for certain military drivers.* Each State must exempt from the requirements of this part individuals who operate CMVs for military purposes.
  - b. 383(d)- *Exception for farmers, firefighters, emergency response vehicle drivers, and drivers removing snow and ice.*
  - c. 383(h)- *Exception for drivers of “covered farm vehicles.”*
- (2) Drivers applying for a restricted CDL under §383.3(e) through (g) of this chapter;
  - a. 383 (e)- *Restricted commercial drivers license (CDL) for certain drivers in the State of Alaska.*
  - b. 383(f)- *Restricted CDL for certain drivers in farm-related service industries.*
  - c. 383(g)- *Restricted CDL for certain drivers in the pyrotechnic industry.*
- (3) Drivers applying for a removal of a restriction in accordance with §383.135(b)(7).
  - a. Removing Air Brake Restriction
  - b. Removing Automatic Transmission Restriction
- (4) Drivers issued a Class A CDL, Class B CDL, or a passenger (P), school bus (S), or hazardous materials (H) endorsement before February 7, 2022, are not required to comply with this subpart pertaining to that CDL or endorsement.

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- (5) Individuals who obtain a CLP before February 7, 2022, are not required to comply with this subpart if they obtain a CDL before the CLP or renewed CLP expires.
- (6) **Note:** Individuals seeking the H endorsement, individuals must complete the theory and BTW (range and public road) portions of entry-level driver training within one year of completing the first portion.

### **Reference 49 CFR 380.603**

## What is an Entry Level Driver Training Provider?

*Training provider* means an entity that is listed on the [FMCSA Training Provider Registry](#), as required by subpart G of this part. Training providers include, but are not limited to, training schools, educational institutions, rural electric cooperatives, motor carriers, State/local governments, school districts, joint labor management programs, owner-operators, and individuals.

Subpart G- Requirements for the registry of Entry Level Training Providers

### **Reference 49 CFR 380.605**

## How does a company become eligible to become an Entry Level Driver Training provider?

To become an eligible Entry Level Driver Training (ELDT) Provider and apply to be added to the listing on the [FMCSA Training Provider Registry](#), an entity must:

- (1) Follow a curriculum that meets the applicable criteria set forth in appendices A through E of part 380,
- (2) Utilize facilities that meet the criteria set forth in §380.709;
  - a. The training provider's classroom and range facilities must comply with all applicable Federal, State, and/or local statutes and regulations.
- (3) The training provider's classroom and range facilities must comply with all applicable Federal, State, and/or local statutes and regulations.
- (4) Utilize vehicles that meet the criteria set forth in §380.711;
  - a. All vehicles used in the behind-the-wheel training must comply with applicable Federal and State safety requirements.
  - b. Training vehicles must be in the same group and type that driver-trainees intend to operate for their CDL skills test.
- (5) All vehicles used in the behind-the-wheel training must comply with applicable Federal and State safety requirements.

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- (6) Training vehicles must be in the same group and type that driver-trainees intend to operate for their CDL skills test.
- (7) Utilize driver training instructors that meet the criteria set forth in §380.713;
  - a. Theory training providers must utilize instructors who are theory instructors as defined in §380.605.
  - b. BTW training providers must utilize instructors who are BTW instructors as defined in §380.605.

### **Reference 49 CFR 380.703**

## How do I register with FMCSA to be an Entry Level Driver Training Provider with FMCSA or the State?

- (1) Companies and individuals wishing to training new commercial drivers for subsequent skills testing will be required to become an Entry Level Driver Training Provider and will be required to Electronically transmit an Entry-Level Driver Training Provider Registration form through the [FMCSA Training Provider Registry](#) Web site maintained by FMCSA, which attests that the training provider meets all the applicable requirements of this section, to obtain a unique TPR number.
- (2) If a training provider has more than one campus or training location, the training provider must electronically transmit an Entry-Level Driver Training Provider Registration Form for each campus or training location in order to obtain a unique TPR number for each location.

Note: When a provider meets the requirements of §§380.703 and 380.707, FMCSA will issue the provider a unique TPR number and, as applicable, add the provider's name and/or contact information to the TPR Web site.

### **Reference 49 CFR 380.703**

## Where do I get the Entry Level Driver Training Provider registration form to submit to FMCSA to be listed on the Training Provider Registry?

- (1) The [FMCSA Training Provider Registry](#) is anticipated to be completed late summer 2021. FMCSA will send correspondence to jurisdictions, stakeholders, and commercial industry partners regarding enrollment steps and procedures.

**Note:** Enrollment to be an Entry Level Driver Training Provider on the TPR is not completed through the State of Wisconsin.

### Are there any State of Wisconsin licensing requirements for companies to offer ELDT in Wisconsin?

- (1) If the training provider is not charging or accepting fees for training purposes, they do not fall under Wisconsin Driver Training School licensing and criteria oversight and are only required to register as an Entry Level Driver Training Provider on the [FMCSA Training Provider Registry](#).

### Are there any auditing requirements for Entry Level Driver Training Providers/Companies?

#### **(1) ELDT Only- NOT Licensed through Wisconsin Department of Transportation**

Entry Level Driver Training Providers must allow FMCSA or its authorized representative to audit or investigate the training provider's operations to ensure that the provider meets the criteria set forth in this section.

#### **(2) ELDT AND Licensed through Wisconsin Department of Transportation**

If you are also licensed through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the company is subject to an annual auditing requirements.

### What documents and Record retention requirements for Entry Level Driver Training Providers?

*Applicability.* The documentation and retention of records required by this subpart apply to entities that meet the requirements of subpart F of this part and are eligible for listing on the Training Provider Registry (TPR).

*Document retention.* All training providers on the TPR must retain the following:

- (1) Self-certifications by all accepted applicants for behind-the-wheel (BTW) training attesting that they will comply with U.S. Department of Transportation regulations in parts 40, 382, 383 and 391, as well as State and/or local laws, related to alcohol and controlled substances testing, age, medical certification, licensing, and driver records, as required in 380.707(a).
- (2) A copy of the driver-trainee's commercial learner's permit(s) or commercial driver's license, as applicable, as required in 380.707(a).
- (3) Instructor qualification documentation indicating driving and/or training experience, as applicable, for each instructor and copies of commercial driver's licenses and applicable endorsements held by BTW instructors or theory instructors, as applicable.

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- (4) The Training Provider Registration Form submitted to the TPR.
- (5) The lesson plans for theory and BTW (range and public road) training curricula, as applicable.
- (6) Records of individual entry-level driver training assessments as described in §380.715.

(c) *Retention of records.* Training providers listed on the TPR must retain the records identified in paragraph (b) of this section for a minimum of three years from the date each required record is generated or received, unless a record, such as a BTW instructor's CDL, has expired or been canceled, in which case the most recent, valid CDL should be retained, if applicable.

The provisions of this part do not affect a training provider's obligation to comply with any other local, State, or Federal requirements prescribing longer retention periods for any category of records described herein.

### **Reference 49 CFR 380.725**

## Are there requirements to be remain an eligible ELDT provider?

To be eligible for continued listing on the TPR, a provider must:

- (1) Meet the requirements of this subpart and the applicable requirements of §380.703.
- (2) Biennially update the Entry-Level Driver Training Provider Registration Form.
- (3) Report to FMCSA changes to key information, as identified in paragraph (a)(3)(i) of this section, within 30 days of the change.
  - a. Key information is defined as training provider name, address, phone number, type(s) of training offered, training provider status, and, if applicable, any change in State licensure, certification, or accreditation status.
  - b. Changes must be reported by electronically transmitting an updated Entry-Level Driver Training Provider Registration Form.
- (4) Maintain documentation of State licensure, registration, or certification verifying that the provider is authorized to provide training in that State, if applicable.
- (5) Allow an audit or investigation of the training provider to be completed by FMCSA or its authorized representative, if requested.
- (6) Ensure that all required documentation, as set forth in §380.725, is available to FMCSA or its authorized representative, upon request. The provider must submit this documentation within 48 hours of the request.

### **Reference 49 CFR 380.719**

### Are there any items Training Providers verify with students before enrolling them for ELDT?

- (1) Training providers must require all accepted applicants for behind-the-wheel (BTW) training to certify that they will comply U.S. Department of Transportation regulations in parts 40, 382, 383, and 391, as well as State and/or local laws, related to controlled substances testing, age, medical certification, licensing, and driving record.
- (2) Training providers must verify that all accepted BTW applicants or Class A theory instruction upgrade curriculum applicants hold a valid commercial learner's permit or commercial driver's license, as applicable.

#### **Reference 49 CFR 380.707**

### What do I have to do to register the student for training?

- (1) Registration of applicants for ELDT will be in compliance with applicable company enrollment practices.

### What does a ELDT Training Provider required to do while the students are actively training?

- (1) Training providers must use written assessments to determine driver-trainees' proficiency in the knowledge objectives in the theory portion of each unit of instruction in appendices A through E of part 380, as applicable. The driver-trainee must receive an overall minimum score of 80 percent on the theory assessment.
- (2) Training instructors must evaluate and document a driver-trainee's proficiency in BTW skills in accordance with the curricula in appendices A through D of part 380, as applicable.

Note: Entry Level Driver Training companies create their own assessments to ensure the applicant is proficient and knowledgeable on the ELDT units of instruction.

#### **Reference 49 CFR 380.715**

### What is an ELDT Training Provider required to do when the students complete training?

- (1) After an individual completes training administered by a provider listed on the TPR, that provider must, by midnight of the second business day after the driver-trainee completes the training, electronically transmit training certification information through the TPR Web site including the following:

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- (a) Driver-trainee name, number of driver's license/commercial learner's permit/commercial driver's license, as applicable, and State of licensure;
- (b) Commercial driver's license class and/or endorsement and type of training (theory and/or BTW) the driver-trainee completed;
- (c) Total number of clock hours the driver-trainee spent to complete BTW training, as applicable;
- (d) Name of the training provider and its unique TPR identification number; and
- (e) Date(s) of successful training completion.

Note: Training completion must be uploaded to the TPR before the applicant can be scheduled for a CDL Skills Examination.

### **Reference 49 CFR 380.717**

What needs to be completed before the applicant can be scheduled for a CDL examination?

- (1) Training certification must be uploaded to the TPR before the applicant can be scheduled for a CDL Skills Examination.

What are the Training Provider Requirements regarding Instructors?

- (1) Training providers offering online training must ensure that the content is prepared and/or delivered by a theory instructor, as defined in §380.605.
- (2) Separate training providers may deliver the theory and BTW portions of the training, but both portions (range and public road) of the BTW training must be delivered by the same training provider.

### **Reference 49 CFR 380.707**

What is a ELDT Behind the Wheel Instructor and what qualifications do they need to have?

*Behind-the-wheel (BTW) instructor* means an individual who provides BTW training involving the actual operation of a CMV by an entry-level driver on a range or a public road and meets one of these qualifications:

- (1) Holds 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 has at least 2 years of experience driving a CMV requiring a CDL of the same or higher class and/or the same endorsement and meets all applicable State qualification requirements for CMV instructors; or



- (2) Holds 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 has at least 2 years of experience as a BTW CMV instructor and meets all applicable State qualification requirements for CMV instructors.

***Exception applicable to paragraphs (1) and (2) of this definition:***

- a) A BTW instructor who provides training solely on a range which is not a public road is not required to 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, as long as the instructor previously held 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 complies with the other requirements set forth in paragraphs (1) or (2) of this definition.

**Reference 49 CFR 380.605**

### What disqualifies a BTW Instructor?

- (1) If an instructor's CDL has been cancelled, suspended, or revoked due to any of the disqualifying offenses identified in §383.51 of this subchapter, the instructor is prohibited from engaging in BTW instruction for 2 years following the date his or her CDL is reinstated.
- Refer to FMCSA Regulation 383.51 for a full listing of disqualifications

**Reference 49 CFR 380.605**

### What is a Theory Instructor and what qualifications do they have to meet?

*Theory instructor* means an individual who provides knowledge instruction on the operation of a CMV and meets one of these qualifications:

- (1) Holds 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 has at least 2 years of experience driving a CMV requiring a CDL of the same (or higher) class and/or the same endorsement and meets all applicable State qualification requirements for CMV instructors; or
- (2) Holds 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 has at least 2 years of experience as a BTW CMV instructor and meets all applicable State qualification requirements for CMV instructors.

***Exceptions applicable to paragraphs (1) and (2) of this definition:***

- a. An instructor is not required to 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, if the instructor previously held a CDL of the same (or higher) class and complies with the other requirements set forth in paragraphs (1) or (2) of this definition.

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- b. Training providers offering online content exclusively are not required to meet State qualification requirements for theory instructors.

### **Reference 49 CFR 380.605**

### What disqualifies a Theory Instructor?

- (1) If an instructor's CDL has been cancelled, suspended, or revoked due to any of the disqualifying offenses identified in §383.51 of this subchapter, the instructor is prohibited from engaging in theory instruction for 2 years following the date his or her CDL is reinstated.

### **Reference 49 CFR 380.605**

### How will the CDL examiner know if someone completed Entry Level Driver Training prior to testing them?

CSTIMS will be integrated with the FMCSA TPR website and will not permit an examiner to schedule an exam in CSTIMS unless there is a training completion entered into the TPR. The CDL examiner will not be responsible for manually checking if an applicant has completed ELDT. CSTIMS will stop the examiner from scheduling the skills exam if training has not been completed first.

### Entry Level Driver Training Resources:

#### **Wisconsin DOT Webpages**

[Wisconsin DMV Regulatory Updates](#)

[Wisconsin DMV- CDL 3rd Party Home Page](#)

#### **FMCSA Webpages**

[FMCSA Training Provider Registry](#)

[FMCSA ELDT Informational Page](#)

[FMCSA ELDT CFR 380](#)

<https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/regulations/title49/b/5/3>