

NEW LAWS

ENTRY LEVEL DRIVER TRAINING (ELDT)

Beginning February 7, 2022, before a driver may apply for or upgrade to a Class A or B CDL or seek an endorsement for hazardous materials (H), passengers (P), or school busses (S), the driver must complete entry-level driver training. The training must be provided by an entity listed on the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA's) Training Provider Registry website. The training must include both classroom and behind-the-wheel components.

This training only applies to drivers applying for a CDL, upgrading to a new class of CDL, or seeking an additional endorsement. Those with a non-CDL driver's license are also not required to have training. This includes the non-CDL J50, and the non-CDL J51 license available to those that qualify for farmer exemptions from the CDL.

FMCSA CLARIFIES DEFINITIONS

To assist in enforcement consistency and understanding of agricultural terms when determining whether the Hours of Service (HOS) exemption applies, the FMCSA made changes to the following definitions:

Agricultural commodity: Any agricultural commodity, non-processed food, feed, fiber, or livestock as defined in this section.

As used in this definition, the term 'any agricultural commodity' means horticultural products at risk of perishing, or degrading in quality, during transport by commercial motor vehicle, including plants, sod, flowers, shrubs, ornamentals, seedlings, live trees, and Christmas trees.

Livestock: Livestock as defined in sec. 602 of the Emergency Livestock Feed Assistance Act of 1988 [7 U.S.C.1471], as amended, insects, and all other living animals cultivated, grown, or raised for commercial purposes, including aquatic animals.

Non-processed food: Food commodities in a raw or natural state and not subjected to significant post-harvest changes to enhance shelf life, such as canning, jarring, freezing, or drying. The term 'non-processed food' includes fresh fruits and vegetables, and cereal and oilseed crops which have been minimally processed by cleaning, cooling, trimming, cutting, chopping, shucking, bagging, or packaging to facilitate transport by commercial motor vehicle.

DRUG & ALCOHOL CLEARINGHOUSE

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) established the Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse (Clearinghouse). This new database contains information pertaining to violations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) controlled substances (drug) and alcohol testing program for holders of CDLs. This falls under (CFR 49 Part 382) Controlled Substance, Alcohol Use and Testing, from which drivers of a Covered Farm Vehicle are exempt.

