

CDL Entry Level Driver Training (ELDT) Program Overview



What does the program consist of?

The ELDT program has three parts:

1. Theory (classroom)
 - a. General
 - b. Passenger Endorsement Theory
 - c. School Endorsement Theory
2. Range (closed obstacle course)
3. Road (public highway)

How Does the New ELDT Program Work?

The FMCSA regulations, effective as of 2/7/2022, mandate training in all three of these parts. The training is based on proficiency and not hours. Each new driver candidate must receive the training from a registered training provider (TPR) and demonstrate proficiency defined as 80% retention. The TPR will then report to FMCSA that the driver candidate has become proficient with Part One and it is entered into the federal portal/database.

This process is repeated with both the Range and Road training, with proficiency reported to FMCSA and recorded into the federal portal/database. Once all three parts have been completed and reported to FMCSA, the driver candidate may apply to their local Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for a CDL road test appointment. The local DMV then checks the portal/database to see if the driver candidate has completed all parts of the training, and if so issues them a road test appointment.

What Do I need to Do to Get My New Drivers Trained?

All three parts of the required training must be done by a registered training provider (TPR) and done using a curriculum that meets all aspects of the regulation.

To become a TPR, you simply go to the FMCSA website and apply to become registered.

<https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/registration/commercial-drivers-license/entry-level-driver-training-eldt>

Part One – Theory Curriculum (classroom)

Once you are a TPR you must identify your Theory training materials which will be used. The regulation requirements of the Theory training are complicated and detailed. However, as a TPR you will have the following options:

- Purchase your Theory training from PTSI who is providing an online Theory Course which includes the passenger and school endorsement theory content.
- Purchase a curriculum from a vendor to use, but you will have to attest to the FMCSA under federal penalty, that someone else’s curriculum meets the regulation requirements.
- Create your own curriculum for the Theory and attest to the FMCSA under federal penalty that your curriculum meets all aspects of their regulation.

Part Two – Range Curriculum (closed course)

The Range training consists of obstacle course maneuvers related to the following:

1. Pre-trip
2. Start, warm the engine and shut down the vehicle
3. Accelerate smoothly forward and backward
4. Straight line backing
5. Left turns
6. Right turns
7. Curved backing
8. Shift as required for highway conditions (optional on automatic transmission vehicles)

In addition to these “obstacles”, the driver candidate must be trained in:

- Danger Zones and Use of Mirrors
- Loading and Unloading
- Emergency Exit and Evacuation
- Special Safety Considerations

- Post-Trip Inspections
- Railroad-Highway Grade Crossings

The TPR sets up a course which includes these items and trains the new driver candidate until they have reached proficiency.

You have the following options to get your new driver candidate trained in Part Two:

- Send them to a TPR who is selling the training service.
- As a TPR yourself, provide the training described above.

Part Three – Road Training (public highway)

Part Three of the ELDT training consists of observing the proper maneuvering of the vehicle as addressed in the Part Two - Range training, but now on a public highway with the pressures of the traffic environment. In addition, the ELDT Trainer will be observing the new driver candidate's ability to:

- Use proper visual search methods.
- Signal appropriately when changing lanes in traffic.
- Adjust speed to the configuration and conditions of the roadway, weather, visibility, traffic, motor vehicle, passengers, and driver.
- Choose a safe gap to changing lanes, passing other vehicles, as well for crossing or entering traffic.
- Position the vehicle correctly before and during a turn to prevent other vehicles from passing on the wrong side, as well as problems caused by off-tracking.
- Maintain a safe following distance depending on the condition of the road, visibility and vehicle weight.
- Adjust operation of the vehicle to prevailing weather conditions including speed selection, braking, direction changes, and following distance to maintain control.
- Observe the road and behavior of other motor vehicles, particularly before changing speed and direction.

You have the following options to get your new driver candidate trained in Part Three:

- Send them to a TPR who is selling the training service.
- As a TPR yourself, provide the training described above.

FMCSA Resources

The FMCSA has several effective resources for you as a registered training provider (TPR). Visit the FMCSA website below for an abundance of useful TPR information and resources.

<https://tpr.fmcsa.dot.gov/Provider/Portal>

PTSI Range & Road Guide Coming Soon!

PTSI is currently creating an ELDT Trainers Range & Road Guide which will provide:

- Range course content, and obstacle set up
- Define proficiency for each obstacle and element of observation
- Tips for coaching the new driver

This guide is expected to be available by late summer or sooner! Watch the PTSI website for availability!

www.ptsi.org

Questions?

Contact:

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