

Understanding CDL Training & Testing

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About CVTA

- Started in 1996 to distinguish quality programs from CDL mills
- Largest Association of Commercial Driver Training Schools in the United States (mostly private schools)
- Over 220 locations in 42 states (including Oklahoma)
- Members graduate over 50,000 Class A & B students annually
- Our mission to improve highway safety through commercial driver training
- CVTA reviews its members to ensure compliance with our training standards and consumer protections

Understanding CDL Training

Theory (Classroom)

- Typically 30-50 hours

Behind the Wheel (“BTW”)

- Typically 120 hours of total time
- “Range” Training
- Road Training
- Observation
- Pre-trip/post trip
- Coupling/Uncoupling

Other

- Simulation
- Human Trafficking



ELDT (Short Version)

- This regulation applies to anyone seeking a Class A or B CDL, or School Bus (S), Passenger (P) or Hazardous Materials (H) endorsements
- Applies to both Interstate and Intrastate CDLs
- Training Providers must be registered on the Training Provider Registry maintain by FMCSA and self-certify that you (the Training Provider) meets all applicable federal, state, and local laws
- Teach the required Classroom & Behind the Wheel (BTW) Curriculum subjects as outlined in the regulation, meet instructor requirements, facilities, etc.
- Certify the Student is “Proficient”
- Disclose BTW hours to the FMCSA for each student
- If someone received training from an unapproved Training Provider, then s/he will not be able to sit for the CDL Skills Exam
- **Certain Exemptions:**
 - Alaska
 - Farm related service industries, which include Agri-chemical businesses, Custom harvesters, Farm retail outlets and suppliers, and Livestock feeders.
 - Pyrotechnics
 - Military Personnel with previous driving experience

CDL Testing & Delays

To get a CDL, you must successfully pass:

- **Knowledge exam (CLP); and**
- **3 Part Skills Exam (Pre-trip, Backing, Road)**
 - Based of AAMVA Exam (Motor Vehicle Administrators Exam)
 - Each State adopts what it wants but only real difference are points/automatic failures

Skills Testing Delays

- 2015 GAO Report confirms delays are a problem
- 2015 FAST Act Legislation requires annual FMCSA report
- 2018 FMCSA Report Released
- 2019 [NDP Report](#) skills testing delay cause:
 - **258,744 jobs on hold**
 - **\$1.5 billion in lost wages**
 - **\$1.4 billion in lost sales**
 - **\$342 million in forgone taxes**