

ENTRY-LEVEL DRIVER TRAINING (ELDT)

BACKGROUND:

In 2016, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) announced new training regulations that will impact any individual wishing to obtain for the first time (or to upgrade to) a Class A or Class B Commercial Driver's License and/or to obtain a Hazardous Materials (H), Passenger (P), or School Bus (S) endorsement for the first time. Compliance for this new regulation will begin February 7, 2022.

This federally mandated requirement is intended to increase safety on roadways by setting a federal standard for mandatory minimum training of entry-level drivers.

To assist with this goal, a national Training Provider Registry (TPR) has also been created. All training for a new Class A, Class B, Hazardous Materials endorsement, Passenger endorsement, and/or School Bus endorsement must be completed and attested to by a certified/registered trainer that is registered on the new TPR. Training will consist of both Theory and Behind-the-Wheel taken directly from 49 CFR Part 380.

Note: Any existing CDL drivers with these endorsements will not be subject to the requirement unless their license expires and/or they attempt to upgrade to a Class A or Class B license.

MNDOT – OFFICE OF TRANSIT AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION RESPONSE:

The Office of Transit and Active Transportation within MnDOT has established a work group through the Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) with the following goals -

- Create uniform training content for new drivers.
- Create uniform knowledge test for new drivers.
- Explore possibility of virtual Theory training
- Determine how transit systems can meet the new training requirements both when:
 - They have a certified/registered trainer on staff
 - They do not have a certified/registered trainer on staff

REGISTERED/CERTIFIED TRAINER REQUIREMENTS:

- Holds a CDL of the same or higher class with all endorsements necessary to operate the Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) for which training is to be provided and have at least 2 years' experience of driving a CMV requiring a CDL of the same or higher class and/or the endorsement and meets all applicable State qualification requirements for CMV instructors; or
- Holds a CDL of the same or higher class 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 Behind-the-Wheel (BTW) CMV instructor and meets all applicable State qualification requirements for CMV instructors.