Electronic Logging Device (ELD)  
For Interstate Commercial Drivers

Electronic Logging Device Mandate

What you need to know
The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) issued its final rule in December, 2015, requiring the use of Electronic Logging Devices (ELD) to record hours of service (HOS) for commercial drivers operating in interstate commerce. With the ruling came a 3 phase transition period.

Phase 1 (Awareness & Transition)  
February 16, 2016 to December 18, 2017. Currently a driver can use paper logs, Automatic On Board Recording Devices (AOBRD), Electronic Logging Devices (ELD), or other manual logging devices such as laptops and cell phone apps until December 18, 2017.

Phase 2 (Phased-In Compliance)  
Begins December 18, 2017. The only authorized electronic devices will be ELDs or AOBRDs installed prior to December 18, 2017.

Phase 3 (Full Compliance)  
December 16, 2019. As of this date, only ELDs will be authorized.

How do ELD’s and AOBRD’s differ from other logging devices?
Both ELDs and AOBRDs are integrally synchronized with the vehicle’s engine via a hard wire or Bluetooth. These devices are required to accurately and automatically record a driver’s duty status.

ELDs make up the newest generation of electronic log books. FMCSA regulations are very specific regarding what is required to be displayed on screens, how the devices transmit information to enforcement officials, and what information needs to be recorded.

Manual input devices will no longer be permitted after December 18, 2017, unless one of the exceptions listed on the following page are met.

AOBRDs installed before December 18, 2017, can but used until Dec 16, 2019.

ELDs are required to keep track of:

- Date
- Time
- Geographic location information
- Vehicle Engine Hours
- Vehicle Miles
- Driver Identification
- Vehicle ID
- Motor Carrier ID
How much time do you have to comply?

December 18, 2017:
Use of ELDs or AOBRDs is mandatory.

December 16, 2019:
Cut-off date for AOBRDs (installed on or before December 18, 2017) to be upgraded or replaced to meet ELD standards.

Does the ELD rule apply to you?

Operations requiring log books today will be subject to the ELD mandate. With limited exceptions, every driver using paper logs or AOBRDs will need to convert or upgrade to the ELD standard in accordance with the two dates listed above.

Paper logs will continue to be required as a backup when ELDs or AOBRDs fail. However, use of paper logs during an ELD failure is only permissible for eight consecutive days unless a waiver is obtained from the FMCSA.

AN ELD IS REQUIRED FOR:

Interstate CMV drivers currently required to keep record of duty status (RODS).

Vehicles that have a GVWR, actual weight, or combination weight of 10,001 pounds or more.

Vehicles requiring placards for hazardous materials.

Vehicles carrying more than 8 or 15 passengers (depending on vehicle class).

To Meet These Deadlines:

ELDs must be operational on or before the deadline. This mandate is vehicle based and not fleet based. It applies to every commercial motor vehicle unless an exception applies (see, exceptions list to the right).

Failure to ensure compliance may result in inspection violations and/or being placed out of service.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE ELD EXEMPTIONS

100 air miles

Drivers who operate within a 100 air miles radius, and use timecards.

Non-CDL drivers who operate within a 150 air miles radius and use timecards.

As long as the driver does not fail the exemption more than 8 times in any 30 day period

Vehicles or engines manufactured before model year 2000 as indicated on the VIN.

Drivers involved in driveaway-towaway operations where the vehicle being driven is part of the shipment being delivered may use paper logs.

Drivers involved in drive-away-tow-away operations when the vehicle being transported is a motor home or recreation vehicle trailer with at least one set of wheels on the road.

Drivers of property-carrying commercial motor vehicles rented for eight days or less are exempt from ELDs until October 11, 2022, provided a rental agreement is carried in the vehicle.

For more information on ELDs, go to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) website at:
https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/hours-service/elds/electronic-logging-devices

To get a list of registered ELDs, go to the FMCSA website:
https://eld.fmcsa.dot.gov/List