



Electronic Logging Devices (ELDs)

In December 2015, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) released its final rule requiring commercial trucking and busing companies to use Electronic Logging Devices (ELDs). As of December 16, 2019, all drivers and carriers (with limited exceptions) must only use ELDs as all other ways of logging hours are in violation of the FMCSA's final ELD rule.

An ELD synchronizes with a vehicle engine to automatically record driving time for easier, more accurate hours-of-service (HOS) recording. The goal of the regulation is to create a safer work environment for drivers and make it easier and faster to accurately track, manage, and share records of duty status (RODS) data.

- The rule includes provisions to respect driver privacy, safeguard drivers from harassment, and increase the efficiency of law enforcement and inspectors reviewing driver logs.
- ELD records will be kept by motor carriers and drivers and will only be made available to authorities during roadside inspections, compliance reviews, and post-crash investigations.
- The rule explicitly prohibits carrier owners from using ELD data to harass drivers or coerce drivers into violating HOS regulations by driving fatigued.
- ELDs make it extremely difficult to falsify records, so personnel who review this data are no longer tasked with fact checking, increasing the competence and productive time use of inspectors.
- According to FMCSA, the agency has already seen a decrease in HOS violations since enforcement of the ELD mandate began.

TCA fully supports the ELD mandate and we believe that all drivers – regardless of cargo hauled, distance of travel, or vehicle driven – must use these devices to accurately log their HOS.

- Prior to the ELD mandate, drivers were using paper logbooks to record their HOS.
 - These paper logbooks could easily be falsified, leading to drivers abusing the HOS rules.
 - TCA cannot advocate noncompliance with HOS.
- ELDs will ensure that the industry is compliant with HOS rules and provide the necessary data to justify to FMCSA that additional flexibility is needed in those rules.
 - With this new ELD data, our industry can combat longstanding issues such as detention time, lack of adequate truck parking, and driver fatigue.

TCA opposes requests for certain drivers or carriers to be exempt from the ELD mandate, either through petitions to FMCSA or through federal legislation.

- [H.R. 1697](#) – Small Carrier Electronic Logging Device Exemption Act
 - Creates an exemption from ELD requirements for motor carriers that own or operate 10 or fewer commercial vehicles.
- [H.R. 1698](#) – Agricultural Business Electronic Logging Device Exemption Act
 - Creates an exception to the ELD requirements for certain motor carriers engaged in agricultural business.