



Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance

Improving commercial motor vehicle safety and enforcement

ELD Certification

CVSA supports requiring the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to establish and administer an electronic logging device (ELD) certification process.

Electronic logging devices (ELD) assist in the effective enforcement of hours-of-service (HOS) regulations, which exist to help prevent and manage driver fatigue. ELDs are a valuable tool to enforce the HOS regulations, making it easier for inspectors to identify violations and take unsafe, noncompliant carriers and drivers off the roadways, all while saving time for both enforcement and industry.

Currently, manufacturers must self-certify that their devices meet the ELD specifications set by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). FMCSA has the ability to remove a device from the list of self-certified ELDs if, after self-certification, the device is found to be noncompliant by the agency.

This lack of federal oversight before a device is deemed compliant results in carriers purchasing ELDs that are later deemed non-compliant and then having to replace those devices. The volatility of removing ELDs from the list of self-certified, pre-registered devices places additional burdens on motor carriers who may not have realized their selected ELD was non-compliant. ***CVSA supports requiring FMCSA to establish and administer an ELD certification process.***

According to FMCSA data, over 80 devices¹ have been revoked from the list of registered devices since 2022. Additionally, five of those devices were placed back on the list and then revoked again shortly after being reinstated.² The number of devices that FMCSA has removed since 2022 illustrates the operational inefficiencies and inherent design flaws with the current self-certification process.

If the self-certification process worked properly, motor carriers should not see that large of a number of revoked ELDs and should not be the ones to face the financial and regulatory consequences of a flawed system. If FMCSA were responsible for verifying the qualifications for an ELD listing, this number of revoked ELDs would be much lower and motor carriers would have a trusted list of devices to choose from.

Additionally, relying on compliant ELDs is key to effective enforcement of the HOS regulations, which exist to help prevent driver fatigue-related crashes. ELDs make it easier for inspectors to identify violations and take unsafe motor carriers and drivers off the roadways, all while saving time for both enforcement and industry. If roadside inspectors find a device to be noncompliant, it is more difficult for the inspector to verify instances where drivers are at a higher risk of becoming fatigued by not following the HOS rules.

¹ As of Jan. 23, 2026.

² News and Events. Electronic Logging Devices. FMCSA. <https://eld.fmcsa.dot.gov/Support/NewsAndEvents>.

Establishing a certification process administered by FMCSA would address the issues with self-certification while providing motor carriers with a more reliable list of eligible devices. By taking ownership over pre-certifying compliant ELDs, FMCSA can improve transportation safety by ensuring that motor carriers have this tool to mitigate driver fatigue and that roadside inspectors may use this tool to effectively identify unsafe drivers.