

Final Rule: Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse

The FMCSA and DOT published the Commercial Driver's License Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse rule on December 5, 2016.

The final rule seeks to improve safety by identifying CMV drivers who have committed drug and alcohol violations that render them ineligible to operate a CMV.

The Clearinghouse will also require employers to query the system to determine whether current and prospective employees have incurred a drug or alcohol violation that would prohibit them from performing safety-sensitive functions covered by the FMCSA and DOT drug and alcohol testing regulations.

[Learn More.](#)



Final Rule: CMV Entry-Level Driver Training Requirements

The FMCSA and DOT published the Minimum Training Requirements for Entry-Level Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators final rule on December 8, 2016.

According to the rule, the purpose of the ELDT requirement is to establish new minimum standards for certain individuals applying for their commercial driver's license (CDL).

These certain individuals include:

- Those applying for their CMV for the first time.
- Those upgrading their CDL (e.g., a Class B CDL holder seek a Class A CDL).
- Those seeking a hazardous materials (H), passenger (P), or school bus (S) endorsement for the first time.

[Read More.](#)



How to Protect Your Truck from a Winter Freeze

High winds, icy roads and below zero temperatures driving a truck during a Midwestern winter isn't easy. There is enough to worry about on the road, so why start your day scraping frost from your windshield?

Prevention:

- Cover your windshield wipers with tall socks. Socks help prevent ice from forming on the blades. They also help stop the blades from freezing to the actual windshield.
- Put plastic bags over your mirrors. Place plastic bags over your mirrors (when possible) and secure them with a rubber band and clothespins. In the morning, remove the bags to ice-free mirrors.
- Put a blanket over your windshield. If it's a really wet snow and temperatures are projected to drop below zero, skip this tip—it may result in a frozen blanket to your windshield. However, if the temperatures are freezing, but with no snow, then throw a blanket over your windshield to keep it from frosting over during the night.
- Park your rig facing east. The sun rises in the east, so it will naturally defrost your windshield after an overnight winter freeze.

[Complete List of Tips.](#)

Best Truck Stops in the Midwest

There's nothing worse than a long day on the road, and then ending up at a dingy truck stop with crappy food. We've taken to Yelp.com to research what the public believes to be the best truck stops/restaurants in the Midwest.

[See the List.](#)

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