ENTRY-LEVEL
DRIVER TRAINING

UNDERSTANDING THE

PASSENGER ENDORSEMENT

The new Entry-Level Driver Training (ELDT) rule that went into effect on February 7, 2022, was designed to ensure that all entry-level drivers receive uniform, standard instruction from a recognized training provider.
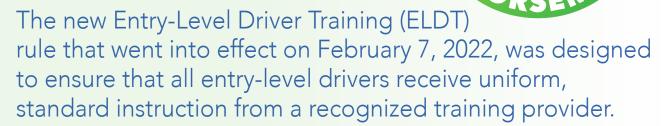
The rule requires that individuals complete several steps prior to obtaining an initial Class A or Class B commercial driver's license (CDL) or initial school bus, hazardous materials or passenger endorsement. And the passenger endorsement is what we'll focus on here.

How to Obtain a Passenger Endorsement

To add a passenger endorsement to a driver's CDL, the driver must successfully complete a prescribed program of theory and behind-the-wheel instruction provided by a school or other entity listed on the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) Training Provider Registry (TPR).

Theory Instruction

The ELDT rule prescribes instruction on 18 passenger-specific topics:

- Post-Crash Procedures
- Other Emergency Procedures
- Vehicle Orientation
- Pre-Trip, Enroute, and Post-Trip Inspection
- Fueling
- Idling
- Baggage and/or Cargo Management
- Passenger Safety Awareness Briefing
- Passenger Management

- Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance
- Hours of Service (HOS) Requirements
- Safety Belt Safety
- Distracted Driving
- Railroad (RR)-Highway Grade Crossings and Drawbridges
- Weigh Stations
- Security and Crime
- Roadside Inspections
- Penalties and Fines

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Theory Instruction (cont.)

Theory instruction can be completed through various means, including lectures, demonstrations, audio-visual presentations, computer-based instruction, driving simulation devices, and online training.

Driver-trainee proficiency is determined by the successful completion of a theory assessment with an average overall score of at least 80 percent.

Behind-the-Wheel Instruction

The rule prescribes both range and public road instruction covering six topics:

- Vehicle Orientation
- Pre-Trip, Enroute, and Post-Trip Inspection
- Baggage and/or Cargo Management
- Passenger Safety Awareness Briefing
- Passenger Management
- Railroad-Highway Grade Crossings

Instruction must be completed in a vehicle of the same group or type that the driver-trainee intends to use for the CDL skills test. During all public road training sessions, the instructor must engage in active two-way communication with driver-trainees.

While the ELDT rule does not specify a minimum amount of time that must be spent on behind-the-wheel instruction, instructors must document the total number of clock hours each driver-trainee spends to complete the behind-the-wheel curriculum.

Driver-trainee proficiency is based solely on the instructor's professional assessment of each driver-trainee's performance of the required elements of behind-the-wheel training on the range and public roads. The FMCSA does not consider proficiency to be the completion of each required maneuver correctly just one time. FMCSA expects each maneuver to be correctly completed multiple times.

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Certification

After the driver-trainee completes the training administered by a provider listed on the TPR, that provider must, by midnight of the second business day after the driver-trainee completes the training, electronically transmit the training certification information through the TPR website. At this point, the driver-trainee may schedule the CDL skills test with the state driver licensing agency.

WE CAN TRAIN YOUR TRAINERS!

J. J. Keller® Safe & Smart® ELDT Trainer Certification Program —Passenger Endorsement

We'll certify your trainers to train entry-level drivers who want to earn both their CDL-B and P endorsement. An expert J. J. Keller instructor will teach your trainers to effectively deliver the endorsement-specific theory and behind-the-wheel entry-level driver training on a commercial motor vehicle designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver (excludes school buses).

The program includes:

- **Online Courses**
- **Classroom Instruction**
- **Range and Road Training**
- **Evaluation and Certification**

Contact us for more information.

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