

Federal Electronic Logging Devices (ELD) Mandate

Frequently Asked Questions

Overview

On June 12, 2021, updates to the federal Commercial Vehicle Drivers Hours of Service Regulations (CVDHOSR) came into force. These changes made it mandatory for commercial motor vehicle drivers who cross provincial/territorial borders to use ELDs to record their hours of service.

Considerable progress has been made towards putting in place the regulations and infrastructure to enforce the federal ELD mandate, including a notable acceleration in the number of certified ELD devices available in the marketplace. It is important to recognize that the transportation sector has seen significant pressure over the last two years. Jurisdictions and industry have worked diligently to support the transportation sector through these challenges.

In February 2022, the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators (CCMTA) reflected on the ELD landscape and collectively agreed to support the mandate through a period of education and awareness through to January 1, 2023.

This decision will allow sufficient time for industry to purchase and install certified ELDs, and conduct training to be compliant.

What is an electronic logging device (ELD)?

The federal CVDHOSR defines an ELD to mean "...a device or technology that automatically records a driver's driving time and facilitates the recording of the driver's record of duty status, and that is certified by an accredited certification body under section 79.1."

More generally, an ELD connects to the electronic control module of a vehicle. They make it easier and faster to track, manage, share and improve the accuracy of a driver's hours of service. This helps drivers stay within legally allowed driving hours, and reduce fatigue. Transport Canada is responsible for publishing the list of certified ELDs and providing information on the certification process, as well as accrediting third-party certification bodies.

What does this mean for Federal Carriers operating in Alberta?

Jurisdictions have been monitoring progress and determined that an extension of the transition period is required.

Federally regulated carriers can operate **without penalty** in Alberta until January 1, 2023, as long as they are following conventional hours of service requirements, when needed.

As devices become available, federally regulated carriers will be required to have a certified ELD installed in all of their commercial vehicles registered over 4,500 kilograms or have a manufactured seating capacity of 11 passengers (including the driver) as the devices become available. Carriers will need to check the Transport Canada certified ELD list frequently in order to evaluate their choices.

Is anyone exempted from the Federal ELD Mandate?

The following are exempted from the federal ELD mandate requirements:

- All provincially regulated carriers
- Federally registered vehicles with a restricted weight of more than 4,500 kilograms operating within 160 km radius of the drivers home terminal
- Buses with 11 passengers, including the driver, operating within 160 km radius of driver's home terminal
- Vehicles operating under an Oilwell Service Vehicle Cycle Exemption permit
- Farm vehicles with 3 or less axles
- Emergency vehicles

What does this mean for Alberta regulated carriers?

Provincially regulated carriers are governed by the Drivers Hours of Service Regulation AR 317/2002. There is no requirement for provincially regulated carriers and their drivers to have an ELD. The regulation allows for the use of an electronic daily log or a paper daily log; and will continue to be acceptable.

Is it currently possible to use ELDs in Alberta?

Yes, provided the device is capable of recording the drivers' hours in accordance with the applicable regulation (e.g. Federal vs. Provincial driving limits). For provincial carriers, the device must be compliant with the requirements of an "automatic on-board recording device" specified in section 10 of the Driver's Hours of Service Regulation AR 317/2002.

When ELDs are announced, will there be a change to the period of time that hours of service records must be kept?

No, the record retention requirements have not changed. The carrier must maintain a driver's daily logs for at least 6 months.

How will ELDs be enforced?

Alberta Transportation is an active participant in the CCMTA – ELD Enforcement Working Group (WG) tasked to design an enforcement and implementation response.

In May 2021, the WG released guidelines for partnering provinces to implement the federal ELD mandate grounded on the principles of Safety and Reasonableness.

In February 2022, the CCMTA reflected on the ELD landscape and collectively agreed to support the mandate through a period of education and awareness through to January 1, 2023.

- This decision will allow sufficient time for industry to purchase and install certified ELD devices, and conduct training to be compliant.

What are the obligations when transition from a paper daily log to an ELD?

It is understood there will be training requirements for both drivers and carriers on their new ELD system. Section 86(1) of the Commercial Drivers Hours of Service Regulations SOR/2005-313 prohibits a driver to be in possession of more than one “daily log” for any day, which includes an ELD and a paper log dated for the same day. Alberta permits the driver and carrier to be in possession of two daily logs for testing purposes, provided the driver clearly declares on the ELD it is being tested within a specified date range (not exceeding 14 days) and the driver is able to produce all relevant records to an Inspector or Peace Officer for examination if requested.

If I already have an ELD for operating in the US, can I use it in AB?

Any ELD that is certified for use in the US will be required to also be certified in accordance with Transport Canada’s Technical Standards for ELDs in order to be acceptable for use in Canada after June 12, 2021.

Where can I find information about Canada’s technical specifications for ELDs?

Visit the [CCMTA website](#).

How can I stay informed about the latest developments regarding ELDs in Alberta?

Visit the [Alberta Transportation website](#).

Who can I call for more information about the use of ELDs in Alberta?

Email Compliance.info@gov.ab.ca or call 403-755-6111.