FMCSA Mandate
Fact Sheet & Regulatory Rule Summary
Summary of the FMCSA Mandate

Mandate Overview
On March 13, 2014, the US Department of Transportation’s Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration issued a proposal that would require interstate commercial truck and bus companies to use Electronic Logging Devices (ELDs) in their vehicles.

Does the ELD rule apply to you?
Drivers that are subject to logbook requirements today are required to use ELDs.

When does the rule go into effect?
The final rule was published on December 16, 2015. Adoption and use of compliant ELDs is required within 2 years of the rule (December 2017).

Who is exempt?
Limited exceptions to the mandate include:

- Drivers who use paper logs for no more than 8 days during a 30 day period
- Drivers who conduct drive-away/tow-away operations, where the vehicle is the product being delivered
- Drivers of vehicles manufactured before the model year 2000
- Drivers who operate using the logbook time exception card

Recording Truck Location
The ELDs will be required to automatically record the vehicle location at every change of duty status and periodically (minimum of 60 minute intervals) using geo location technology, such as GPS.

- On-duty time will be reported with a precision of 1 mile
- Off-duty time (personal conveyance) will be reported with a precision of 10 miles

The precision limits are imposed only for reports to enforcement. Systems that record data for other purposes than electronic logs can continue to record with a higher precision.

Do drivers own control of their log entries?
Annotations and edits can be made to the log but data cannot be overwritten or erased. Any changes to the logs must be approved by the driver.

How do I give the inspector my log?
The driver must provide the inspector with a either a printed or digital copy of their log during a roadside inspection.

How can the driver rest in the sleeper berth with an ELD on?
ELDs are required to automatically mute or allow a driver to mute or turn down the volume when logged into sleeper berth status.
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Is there a new driving status?
Yes, authorized use of a commercial motor vehicle for personal conveyance is allowed under the rule. It will be recorded as off-duty time. A new category has also been created – Yard Moves – which records vehicles used in a closed facility with restricted access as off-duty.

What if my ELD stops working?
The ELD is required to have the ability to notify the driver in the event of a malfunction or error so that a paper log may be started. Unless the data can be pulled from the ELD, the driver must reconstruct a paper log for any lost days. The ELD must be repaired within 8 days.

What is a certified ELD?
Manufacturers are required to certify to FMCSA that their ELD devices meet the standards set by the mandate. FMCSA will maintain a public registry of devices which meet the compliance standards.

The fact that an ELD is on FMCSA's public registry does not mean that FMCSA actually tested the ELD - only that it was self-certified by the vendor. FMCSA may conduct tests of an ELD at a later point and remove it from the public registry if it does not meet the regulation requirements. Carriers should be especially cautious selecting an ELD vendor that has the ability to be compliant on the long term.

Do I need to have supporting documents?
Your driving time will be verified by the ELD, but additional on duty time will require verification through supporting documentation. Fleets are required to retain up to eight supporting documents from several categories per driver for each 24 hour period.
Key Points
A brief overview of the FMCSA Mandate’s key points

Tracking
Required to automatically record the vehicle location at every change of duty status and periodically (minimum of 60 minute intervals).

Security
ELDs must provide secure access to data stored within the system. Drivers must have access to account with only their data available.

Driver
Annotations and edits can be made to the log but data cannot be overwritten or erased. The driver is responsible for the integrity of the log data.

Certification
Manufacturers are required to certify to FMCSA that their ELD devices meet the standards set by the mandate.

Inspection
A printed or digital copy of the log must be provided to the inspector during a roadside inspection.

Timeline
ELD Compliance Timeline

2012
VDO RoadLog Launched

2015
Final rule published in Federal Register on December 17, 2015

2016
Launch of the latest version of RoadLog Online Compliance Service

Spring 2017
RoadLog ELD software update available

December 2017
Mandate takes effect for drivers subject to Report of Duty status requirements

December 2019
Mandate takes effect for AOBRDs (grandfathered for two years)

Continental has been offering electronic logging systems under the VDO brand for 40 years and has over 5 million electronic logging systems in use all over the world.
Motor Carrier Responsibility

User Rights Management:
Users are defined as:
- Motor carrier drivers who use ELDs
- Support personnel who have been authorized to access ELD records and who can make or suggest edits

A motor carrier must:
- Manage account creation, deactivation, updates and ensure proper authentication on individual accounts
- Assign a unique username to each user account
- Ensure all user identification data – included driver’s license – associated with the account is valid and corresponds to the individual driver
- Ensure account accuracy
- Require that drivers and support personnel log into the ELD system using their proper identification data
- Ensure that the ELD is maintained according to the provider’s specifications

Driver Identification Data:
All driver accounts require the following identification data:
- Driver’s first and last name as it appears on their driver’s license
- Unique username
- The driver’s valid driver’s license number
- State or jurisdiction from which the driver’s license was issued

*Please note that a driver’s license number or SSN must not be used as, or as part of, the account username*

Support Personnel Identification Data:
All support personnel accounts require the following identification data:
- Individual’s first and last name as it appears on a government issued ID
- Unique username

In-Vehicle Information:
It is the motor carrier’s responsibility to ensure that all drivers possess an ELD information packet onboard a commercial motor vehicle that contains:
- ELD user manual
- Instruction sheet that describes data transfer options
- Step-by-step instructions for providing records to an authorized safety official during roadside inspections
- Instruction sheet describing ELD malfunction reporting requirements
- Instruction sheet describing record keeping procedures in the event of an ELD malfunction
- Supply of back up paper logs to record driver’s duty status in the event of an ELD malfunction
Motor Carrier Responsibility

Record Back Up & Security:
A back up copy of the ELD records must be retained by the motor carrier for at least six months on a separate device. It is also the responsibility of the motor carrier to retain a driver’s ELD records so as to protect a driver’s privacy in a manner consistent with sound business practices.

Driver’s Responsibility:
A driver is required to provide the information the ELD requires as prompted by the ELD and as required by the motor carrier.

Driver’s Duty Status:
A driver must select their duty status by selecting from the categories available on the ELD:
- Off Duty
- Sleeper Berth
- Driving
- On duty, not driving

Miscellaneous Data:
The driver must manually enter the following into the ELD:
- Annotations, when applicable
- Location description (when prompted by the ELD)
- Output file comment (when directed by an authorized safety officer)
The driver must manually input or verify the following on the ELD:
- Commercial motor vehicle power unit number
- Trailer number(s) (when applicable)
- Shipping document number (when applicable)

Driver Use of ELD:
A driver must produce the driver’s hours-of-service records from the ELD when prompted by an authorized safety official.

Questions? Contact the VDO RoadLog Team!
Customer Service: (855) ROADLOG (855-762-3564) or (610) 366-8489, Option #8
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