



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Federal Motor
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Administration

ELDT

Entry-Level Driver
Training Minimum Federal
Curricula Requirements



This document summarizes the minimum Federal curricula requirements as set forth in the Entry-Level Driver Training (ELDT) regulations. Training providers must comply with these regulations beginning February 7, 2022. Use the table of contents on the next page to navigate to the respective section to learn more about the theory and behind-the-wheel (BTW) training requirements for each type of entry-level driver training.



TRAINING
PROVIDER REGISTRY



ELDT

Minimum Federal Curricula Requirements

**Theory and
behind-the-wheel
(BTW) training
requirements for:**

Class A
Class B to Class A Upgrade
Class B
Passenger Endorsement
School Bus Endorsement
Hazardous Materials Endorsement



Class A CDL Training Curriculum

This is a summary of the minimum Federal curriculum requirements for entry-level driver applicants seeking a Class A commercial driver's license (CDL). Training providers must also comply with any applicable State requirements. The curriculum for Class A applicants pertains to combination vehicles (Group A) as defined in § [383.91\(a\)\(1\)](#).

To learn more about each unit in the curriculum, see the Code of Federal Regulations ([49 CFR 380, Appendix A](#)).



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Theory Instruction Standard Curriculum

There are no required minimum instruction hours for theory training, but the instructor must cover all the topics in the curriculum.

Training providers must use assessments (in written or electronic format) to determine if trainees are proficient in all units of the theory curriculum. Students must earn a minimum overall score of 80 percent on the theory assessment(s).

A1.1 Basic Operation

- 1.1.1 Orientation
- 1.1.2 Control Systems/Dashboard
- 1.1.3 Pre- and Post-Trip Inspections
- 1.1.4 Basic Control
- 1.1.5 Shifting/Operating Transmissions
- 1.1.6 Backing and Docking
- 1.1.7 Coupling and Uncoupling

A1.2 Safe Operating Procedures

- 1.2.1 Visual Search
- 1.2.2 Communication
- 1.2.3 Distracted Driving
- 1.2.4 Speed Management
- 1.2.5 Space Management

- 1.2.6 Night Operation
- 1.2.7 Extreme Driving Conditions

A1.3 Advanced Operating Practices

- 1.3.1 Hazard Perception
- 1.3.2 Skid Control/Recovery, Jackknifing, and Other Emergencies
- 1.3.3 Railroad-Highway Grade Crossings

A1.4 Vehicle Systems and Reporting Malfunctions

- 1.4.1 Identification and Diagnosis of Malfunctions

- 1.4.2 Roadside Inspections

- 1.4.3 Maintenance

A1.5 Non-Driving Activities

- 1.5.1 Handling and Documenting Cargo
- 1.5.2 Environmental Compliance Issues
- 1.5.3 Hours of Service Requirements
- 1.5.4 Fatigue and Wellness Awareness
- 1.5.5 Post-Crash Procedures
- 1.5.6 External Communications
- 1.5.7 Whistleblower/Coercion
- 1.5.8 Trip Planning
- 1.5.9 Drugs/Alcohol
- 1.5.10 Medical Requirements

Behind-the-Wheel (BTW) Range

There are no required minimum instruction hours for BTW range training, but the instructor must cover all topics set forth in the BTW curriculum. The instructor must document the total number of clock hours (one clock hour for each 60 minutes of instruction) each trainee takes to complete the BTW range curriculum.

The instructor must document that each trainee is proficient in all elements of the BTW range curriculum for the trainee to successfully complete this module.

BTW range training must teach driving exercises related to basic vehicle control skills and mastery of basic maneuvers, as covered in 49 CFR §§ [383.111](#) and [383.113](#). The training providers must teach this unit on a driving range as defined in § [380.605](#). The training provider must teach “Get Out and Look” (GOAL) to the trainee as it applies to units A2.2-2.6.

A2.1 Vehicle Inspection Pre-Trip/ Enroute/Post-Trip

A2.2 Straight Line Backing

A2.3 Alley Dock Backing (45/90 Degree)

A2.4 Off-Set Backing

A2.5 Parallel Parking Blind Side

A2.6 Parallel Parking Sight Side

A2.7 Coupling and Uncoupling

Notes BTW training must be conducted in a CMV for which a Class A CDL is required.

Consistent with the definitions of BTW range training and BTW public road training in § [380.605](#), a simulation device may not be used to conduct training or to demonstrate proficiency.



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Behind-the-Wheel (BTW) Public Road

There are no required minimum instruction hours required for BTW public road training, but the instructor must cover all topics set forth in the BTW curriculum, and must document the total number of clock hours (one clock hour for each 60 minutes of instruction) each trainee takes to complete the BTW public road curriculum.

The instructor must document that each trainee is proficient in all elements of the BTW public road curriculum for the trainee to successfully complete this module.

The instructor must engage in active two-way communication with the trainees during all active BTW public road training sessions. Skills described in units A3.8 through 3.12 of this section must be discussed during public road training, but not necessarily performed. Trainees are not required to demonstrate proficiency in the skills described in units A3.8 through 3.12; however, trainees are required to demonstrate their ability to recognize potential dangers, be familiar with how to operate a CMV safely at night and in extreme conditions, and know the causes of skidding and jackknifing and the techniques for avoiding and recovering from them.

A3.1	Vehicle Controls Including: Left Turns, Right Turns, Lane Changes, Curves at Highway Speeds, and Entry and Exit on the Interstate or Controlled Access Highway
A3.2	Shifting/Transmission
A3.3	Communications/Signaling
A3.4	Visual Search
A3.5	Speed and Space Management
A3.6	Safe Driver Behavior
A3.7	Hours of Service (HOS) Requirements
A3.8	Hazard Perception
A3.9	Railroad (RR)-Highway Grade Crossing
A3.10	Night Operation
A3.11	Extreme Driving Conditions
A3.12	Skid Control/Recovery, Jackknifing, and Other Emergencies

Notes *BTW training must be conducted in a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) for which a Class A CDL is required.*

Consistent with the definitions of BTW range training and BTW public road training in § 380.605, a simulation device may not be used to conduct training or to demonstrate proficiency.



Class B CDL to Class A CDL Theory Instruction Upgrade Curriculum

This is a summary of the minimum Federal curriculum requirements for Class B CDL drivers seeking to upgrade to a Class A CDL. In addition to the upgrade theory curriculum outlined below, trainees must also complete the BTW range and BTW public road requirements for trainees seeking a Class A CDL for the first time. Training providers must also comply with any applicable State requirements.

To learn more about each unit in the curriculum, see the Code of Federal Regulations ([49 CFR 380, Appendix A](#)).



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Theory Instruction Upgrade Curriculum

BA1.1 Basic Operation

- 1.1.1 Orientation
- 1.1.2 Control Systems/Dashboard
- 1.1.3 Pre- and Post-Trip Inspections
- 1.1.4 Basic Control
- 1.1.5 Shifting/Operating Transmissions
- 1.1.6 Backing and Docking
- 1.1.7 Coupling and Uncoupling

BA1.2 Safe Operating Procedures

- 1.2.1 Visual Search
- 1.2.2 Communication
- 1.2.3 Distracted Driving
- 1.2.4 Speed Management
- 1.2.5 Space Management
- 1.2.6 Night Operation
- 1.2.7 Extreme Driving Conditions

BA1.3 Advanced Operating Practices

- 1.3.1 Hazard Perception
- 1.3.2 Skid Control/Recovery, Jackknifing, and Other Emergencies
- 1.3.3 Railroad-Highway Grade Crossings

BA1.4 Vehicle Systems and Reporting Malfunctions

- 1.4.1 Identification and Diagnosis of Malfunctions
- 1.4.2 Roadside Inspections
- 1.4.3 Maintenance

BA1.5 Non-Driving Activities

- 1.5.1 Hours of Service Requirements
- 1.5.2 Fatigue and Wellness Awareness



Class B CDL Training Curriculum

This is a summary of the minimum Federal curriculum requirements for entry-level driver trainees seeking a Class B CDL. Training providers must also comply with any applicable State requirements. The curriculum for Class B applicants pertains to heavy straight vehicles (Group B) as defined in § [383.91\(a\)\(2\)](#).

To learn more about each unit in the curriculum, see the Code of Federal Regulations ([49 CFR 380, Appendix B](#)).



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Theory Instruction

There are no required minimum instruction hours for theory training, but the instructor must cover all the topics in curriculum.

Training providers must use assessments (in written or electronic format) to determine if trainees are proficient in all units of the theory curriculum. Students must earn a minimum overall score of 80 percent on the theory assessment(s).

B1.1	Basic Operation
1.1.1	Orientation
1.1.2	Control Systems/Dashboard
1.1.3	Pre- and Post-Trip Inspections
1.1.4	Basic Control
1.1.5	Shifting/Operating Transmissions
1.1.6	Backing and Docking
B1.2	Safe Operating Procedures
1.2.1	Visual Search
1.2.2	Communication
1.2.3	Distracted Driving
1.2.4	Speed Management
1.2.5	Space Management
1.2.6	Night Operation

1.2.7	Extreme Driving Conditions
B1.3	Advanced Operating Practices
1.3.1	Hazard Perception
1.3.2	Skid Control/Recovery, Jackknifing, and Other Emergencies
1.3.3	Railroad-Highway Grade Crossings
B1.4	Vehicle Systems and Reporting Malfunctions
1.4.1	Identification and Diagnosis of Malfunctions
1.4.2	Roadside Inspections
1.4.3	Maintenance
B1.5	Non-Driving Activities
1.5.1	Handling and Documenting Cargo
1.5.2	Environmental Compliance Issues
1.5.3	Hours of Service Requirements
1.5.4	Fatigue and Wellness Awareness
1.5.5	Post-Crash Procedures
1.5.6	External Communications
1.5.7	Whistleblower/Coercion
1.5.8	Trip Planning
1.5.9	Drugs/Alcohol
1.5.10	Medical Requirements

Behind-the-Wheel (BTW) Range

There are no required minimum instruction hours for BTW range training, but the instructor must cover all topics set forth in the BTW range curriculum. The instructor must document the total number of clock hours (one clock hour for each 60 minutes of instruction) each trainee takes to complete the BTW range curriculum.

The instructor must document that each trainee is proficient in all elements of the BTW range curriculum for the trainee to successfully complete this module.

This unit must teach driving exercises related to basic vehicle control skills and mastery of basic maneuvers, as covered in

49 CFR §§ [383.111](#) and [383.113](#). The training providers must teach this unit on a driving range as defined in § [380.605](#). The training provider must teach “Get Out and Look” (GOAL) to the trainee as it applies to units B2.2-2.6.

B2.1	Vehicle Inspection Pre-Trip/Enroute/Post-Trip
B2.2	Straight Line Backing
B2.3	Alley Dock Backing (45/90 Degree)
B2.4	Off-Set Backing
B2.5	Parallel Parking Blind Side
B2.6	Parallel Parking Sight Side

Notes *BTW training must be conducted in a CMV for which a Class B CDL is required.*

Consistent with the definitions of BTW range training and BTW public road training in § [380.605](#), a simulation device may not be used to conduct such training or to demonstrate proficiency.



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Behind-the-Wheel (BTW) Public Road

There are no required minimum instruction hours required for BTW public road training, but the instructor must cover all topics set forth in the BTW public road curriculum, and must document the total number of clock hours (one clock hour for each 60 minutes of instruction) each trainee takes to complete the BTW public road curriculum.

The instructor must determine and document that each trainee is proficient in all elements of the BTW public road curriculum for the trainee to successfully complete this module.

The instructor must engage in active two-way communication with the trainees during all active BTW public road training sessions. Skills described in units B3.8 through 3.12 of this section must be discussed during public road training, but not necessarily performed. Trainees are not required to demonstrate proficiency in the skills described in units B3.8 through 3.12.

B3.1	Vehicle Controls Including: Left Turns, Right Turns, Lane Changes, Curves at Highway Speeds, and Entry and Exit on the Interstate or Controlled Access Highway
B3.2	Shifting/Transmission
B3.3	Communications/Signaling
B3.4	Visual Search
B3.5	Speed and Space Management
B3.6	Safe Driver Behavior
B3.7	Hours of Service (HOS) Requirements
B3.8	Hazard Perception
B3.9	Railroad (RR)-Highway Grade Crossing
B3.10	Night Operation
B3.11	Extreme Driving Conditions
B3.12	Skid Control/Recovery, Jackknifing, and Other Emergencies

Notes *BTW training must be conducted in a CMV for which a Class B CDL is required.*

Consistent with the definitions of BTW range training and BTW public road training in § 380.605, a simulation device may not be used to conduct such training or to demonstrate proficiency.



Adding a Passenger Endorsement to a CDL Training Curriculum

This is a summary of the minimum Federal curriculum requirements for trainees seeking a Passenger (P) endorsement. Training providers must also comply with any applicable State requirements. Passenger endorsement applicants must complete the curriculum outlined in this section, which applies to trainees who expect to operate CMVs in any of the vehicle groups defined in § [383.91\(a\)\(1\)-\(3\)](#) for which a P endorsement is required.

To learn more about each unit in the curriculum, see the Code of Federal Regulations ([49 CFR 380, Appendix C](#)).



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There are no required minimum instruction hours for theory training, but the provider must cover all the topics set forth in the curriculum.

Training providers must use assessments (in written or electronic format) to determine if trainees are proficient in all units of the theory curriculum. Students must earn a minimum overall score of 80 percent on the theory assessment(s).

C1.1	Post-Crash Procedures
C1.2	Other Emergency Procedures
C1.3	Vehicle Orientation
C1.4	Pre-Trip, Enroute, and Post-Trip Inspection
C1.5	Fueling

C1.6	Idling
C1.7	Baggage and/or Cargo Management
C1.8	Passenger Safety Awareness Briefing
C1.9	Passenger Management
C1.10	Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance
C1.11	Hours of Service (HOS) Requirements
C1.12	Safety Belt Safety
C1.13	Distracted Driving
C1.14	Railroad (RR)-Highway Grade Crossings and Drawbridges
C1.15	Weigh Stations
C1.16	Security and Crime
C1.17	Roadside Inspections
C1.18	Penalties and Fines

Behind-the-Wheel (BTW) Range and Public Road

There are no required minimum instruction hours for BTW training, but training providers must determine whether trainees are proficient in all elements of the BTW curriculum.

Instructors must document the total number of clock hours (one clock hour for each 60 minutes of instruction) each trainee takes to complete the BTW curriculum.

This BTW training consists of exercises related to basic vehicle control skills and mastery of basic maneuvers necessary to operate the vehicle safely.

The instructor must engage in active communication with the trainees during all BTW training sessions.

C2.1	Vehicle Orientation
C2.2	Pre-Trip, Enroute, and Post-Trip Inspection
C2.3	Baggage and/or Cargo Management
C2.4	Passenger Safety Awareness Briefing
C2.5	Passenger Management
C2.6	Railroad-Highway Grade Crossings

Notes *The training must be conducted in a passenger vehicle of the same vehicle group as the applicant intends to drive.*

Activities in this unit will take place on a driving range or a public road as defined in § [380.605](#).



Adding a School Bus Endorsement to a CDL Training Curriculum

This is a summary of the minimum Federal curriculum requirements for trainees seeking a School Bus (S) endorsement. Training providers must also comply with any applicable State requirements. School bus endorsement applicants must complete the curriculum outlined in this section, which applies to trainees who expect to operate a “school bus” as defined in § [383.5](#).

To learn more about each unit in the curriculum, see the Code of Federal Regulations ([49 CFR 380, Appendix D](#)).



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There are no required minimum instruction hours for theory training, but the training provider must cover all the topics set forth in the curriculum.

Training providers must use assessments (in written or electronic format) to determine if trainees are proficient in all units of the theory curriculum. Students must earn a minimum overall score of 80 percent on the theory assessment(s).

D1.1	Danger Zones and Use of Mirrors
D1.2	Loading and Unloading
D1.3	Vehicle Orientation
D1.4	Post-Crash Procedures
D1.5	Emergency Exit and Evacuation
D1.6	Railroad-Highway Grade Crossings
D1.7	Student Management
D1.8	Special Safety Considerations
D1.9	Pre- and Post-Trip Inspections
D1.10	School Bus Security
D1.11	Route and Stop Reviews

Behind-the-Wheel (BTW) Range and Public Road

There are no required minimum instruction hours for BTW training, but the training provider must determine whether trainees are proficient in all elements of the BTW curriculum.

Instructors must document the total number of clock hours (one clock hour for each 60 minutes of instruction) each trainee takes to complete the BTW curriculum.

This unit must consist of exercises related to basic vehicle control skills and mastery of basic maneuvers.

The instructor must engage in active communication with the trainees during all active training sessions.

D2.1	Danger Zones and Use of Mirrors
D2.2	Loading and Unloading
D2.3	Emergency Exit and Evacuation
D2.4	Special Safety Considerations
D2.5	Pre- and Post-Trip Inspections
D2.6	Railroad-Highway Grade Crossings

Notes *The training must be conducted in a school bus of the same vehicle group as the applicant intends to drive.*

Activities in this unit will take place on a driving range or a public road as defined in § [380.605](#).



Adding a Hazardous Materials Endorsement to a CDL

Training Curriculum

This is a summary of the minimum Federal curriculum requirements for trainees seeking a Hazardous Materials (H) endorsement to operate CMVs used in the transportation of hazardous materials as defined in § [383.5](#). Training providers must also comply with any applicable State requirements. Trainees seeking an H endorsement, as described in § [383.93\(c\)\(4\)](#), must complete this curriculum in order to take the State-administered knowledge test for the H endorsement.

To learn more about each unit in the curriculum, see the Code of Federal Regulations ([49 CFR 380, Appendix E](#)).



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There are no required minimum instruction hours for theory training, but the training provider must cover all the topics in the curriculum.

Training providers must use assessments (in written or electronic format) to determine if trainees are proficient in all units of the theory curriculum. Students must earn a minimum overall score of 80 percent on the theory assessment(s).

E1.1	Basic Introductory HM Requirements
E1.2	Operational HM Requirements
E1.3	Reporting HM Crashes and Releases
E1.4	Tunnels and Railroad (RR)-Highway Grade Crossing Requirements
E1.5	Loading and Unloading HM
E1.6	HM on Passenger Vehicles
E1.7	Bulk Packages
E1.8	Operating Emergency Equipment
E1.9	Emergency Response Procedures
E1.10	Engine (Fueling)
E1.11	Tire Check
E1.12	Routes and Route Planning
E1.13	Hazardous Materials Safety Permits (HMSP)