



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

Federal Motor  
Carrier Safety  
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.

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

**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.

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

**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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## Theory Instruction

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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## Theory Instruction

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).

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

## 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.

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

**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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## Theory Instruction

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).

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