

## Q&A

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE ELD MANDATE & HOURS OF SERVICE REGULATIONS

### Q1: WHAT IS THE ELD RULE?

The Electronic Logging Devices (ELD) rule was published by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) on December 16, 2015. It aims to improve compliance with existing (Hours of Service) HOS rules by automating the recording of HOS and (Driver Vehicle Inspection Reports) DVIR through the use of ELDs.

### Q2: WHAT IS HOURS OF SERVICE (HOS)?

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) mandates that every driver who operates a commercial motor vehicle for interstate business record his/her hours of service (HOS), and log the road worthiness of the vehicle upon usage.

### Q3: WHY SHOULD MY ORGANIZATION WORRY ABOUT HOS?

DOT statistics show that 40.6% of HOS violations result from inaccurate reporting of duty status. Drivers spend long hours on the road and often rely on memory when inputting information manually, leading to errors associated with paperwork. Inaccurate reporting and failure to comply with DOT regulations can result in hefty fines and penalties.

### Q5: HOW DO I KNOW WHICH OF MY DRIVERS NEED TO LOG THEIR HOURS?

The DOT has defined driver "types" as a way of identifying which HOS rules apply to which driver based on these criteria:

- The area in which the driver operates
- The type of freight carried or vehicle driven
- The cycle within which the driver operates.

The cycle refers to the number of consecutive days in which a driver's on-duty time is documented. In the United States, for instance, a cycle may be 7 or 8 days, depending on whether the motor carrier operates a vehicle every day of the week. Companies that operate 5 days a week use the 7-day rule, while companies that operate 7 days a week use the 8-day rule.

### Q6: WHAT ABOUT DRIVER VEHICLE INSPECTION REPORTS (DVIR)?

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) mandates that every motor carrier prepare a report in writing at the completion of each day's work on each vehicle operated, except for intermodal equipment tendered by an intermodal equipment provider. This report documents the driver's inspection of vehicle components such as parking brake, lights, horn and windshield wipers.

### Q7: HOW CAN I PROTECT MY ORGANIZATION FROM VIOLATING THESE REGULATIONS?

The best way to protect your fleet is to ensure accurate compliance and increase vehicle and driver safety, and the best way to accomplish that is to implement electronic logging technology. Trimble FieldMaster Logs enables organizations to comply with DOT regulations with ease and confidence. Besides improving the accuracy of driver logs, FieldMaster Logs provides drivers with an easy way to fill out their DVIR.

### Q8: WHEN MUST I COMPLY WITH THE ELD RULE?

It depends on your current logging methods.

- If your drivers currently use paper for logging, you have until November 30, 2017 to switch to an Automatic On Board Recording Device (AOBRD) or an ELD.
- If your drivers currently use an AOBRD such as Trimble FieldMaster Logs, you have until November 30, 2019 to switch to an ELD. Contact us before this date for more information.

### Q9: HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

For more information on HOS regulations, visit:

<http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/regulations/hours-service/summary-hours-service-regulations>

[www.trimble.com/fsm](http://www.trimble.com/fsm)

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