

Safe Driver Apprenticeship Pilot Program



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

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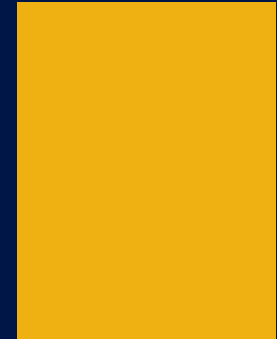
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

2023

ANALYSIS,
RESEARCH, &
TECHNOLOGY
FORUM



VIRTUAL EVENT



Safe Driver Apprenticeship Pilot Program

Study Background

- 09/2020: Published a notice for comment on a younger driver pilot program in the Federal Register (85 FR 55928)
- 11/2021: Bipartisan Infrastructure Law signed; § 23022 – Apprenticeship Pilot Program

Study Implementation

- 01/2022: Published a notice establishing the Safe Driver Apprenticeship Pilot (SDAP) Program (87 FR 2477)
- 07/2022: Began accepting applications from interested motor carriers

Data Collection

- 11/2022: Began collecting data on enrolled apprentice drivers
- 11/2025: 3-year data collection period will conclude

Analysis and Reporting

- After conclusion of the data collection period, FMCSA will analyze the data and issue a final report

Study Design

- Up to 1,000 motor carriers can enroll
 - Must meet FMCSA safety criteria and have a Registered Apprenticeship recognized by DOL
- Up to 3,000 apprentice drivers may participate at any given time
- Monthly data collection on:
 - Operational data: Vehicle miles traveled, hours driving, days away from home terminal
 - Safety data: Safety events recorded by onboard monitoring systems, inspections and violations, and crash data

Apprenticeship Overview

Apprentice Starts Probationary Periods

- Driver must have an experienced driver in the passenger seat
- Driver must carry a copy of their exemption letter with them
- Must operate vehicles equipped with safety features
- Driver prohibited from:
 - Transporting hazardous materials
 - Transporting passengers
 - Operating a vehicle > 80,000 lbs.
 - Operating a vehicle in special configuration

Apprentice Completes Second Probationary Period

- Driver may operate alone (no experienced driver required)
- Driver must carry a copy of their new exemption letter with them
- Driver must continue operating a vehicle equipped with inward and outward facing cameras
- Driver prohibitions remain

Driver Turns 21 (no longer an apprentice)

- Driver has graduated from the pilot program
- Driver may operate as any other commercial vehicle driver, operating under FMCSRs

At any point in time, drivers may operate in **intrastate** commerce following State regulations.

Resources

- FMCSA's SDAP Website: www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safedriver
- SDAP Frequently Asked Questions: www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safedriverFAQs
- DOL's Registered Apprenticeship Website: www.apprenticeship.gov

Contact Information

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