

# FMCSA Safe Driver Apprenticeship Pilot Program (SDAP)



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

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is conducting a three-year commercial driver apprenticeship program, in accordance with Section 23022 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This program will allow qualified drivers ages 18-20, who hold intrastate commercial driver's licenses (CDLs), to explore interstate trucking careers. It will also help trucking companies hire and train new drivers.

FMCSA will grant apprentice drivers approval to operate commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) in interstate commerce while they are under 21 years of age. During the pilot program's probationary periods, apprentice drivers can operate in interstate commerce only when accompanied by a qualified, experienced driver in the passenger seat.



## Information for Drivers

Apprentice and experienced drivers must meet all safety criteria listed on the following page, then apply directly to a participating motor carrier (trucking company or business engaged in trucking operations) listed on FMCSA's website at [www.fmcsa.dot.gov/SDAPProgramJobs](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/SDAPProgramJobs). Once hired, the carrier will submit the driver's information to FMCSA for review and approval to participate.



## Information for Motor Carriers

Motor Carriers must meet all safety criteria listed on the following page and use the application posted on FMCSA's website to participate in SDAP.

Apprentice and experienced drivers must meet all criteria specified in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Apprentice drivers must operate vehicles equipped with onboard monitoring systems (OBMS) that include forward-facing and in-cab driver-facing cameras, an automatic or automatic manual transmission, active braking collision mitigation system, and a governed speed of 65 miles per hours at the pedal and under adaptive cruise control.

Apprentice drivers cannot transport passengers or hazardous materials or operate double- or triple-trailer combinations or cargo tank vehicles while participating in this program, regardless of any license endorsements they hold.

## Contact FMCSA

 [safedriver@dot.gov](mailto:safedriver@dot.gov)

 Follow us on LinkedIn at [linkedin.com/company/fmcsa](https://www.linkedin.com/company/fmcsa)

 Follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/FMCSA](https://www.facebook.com/FMCSA)

 Follow us on Twitter at [@FMCSA](https://twitter.com/FMCSA)

 1-800-832-5660

See following page for required driver  
and motor carrier qualifications





## Required Driver Qualifications

### Apprentice Driver Qualifications

#### For the 2-year period preceding the date of hire, an apprentice driver may not have:

- Had more than one license (except for a military license);
- Had their license suspended, revoked, canceled, or disqualified for a violation in any State;
- Had any conviction for a violation of military, State, or local motor vehicle traffic law (other than a parking violation) in connection with any traffic crash; or had any record of a crash in which they were at fault.
- Been convicted of any violation below in any type of motor vehicle:
  - Operating under the influence of alcohol;
  - Operating under the influence of a controlled substance;
  - Refusing to take an alcohol test as required by a State;
  - Leaving the scene of a crash; or
  - Using a vehicle to commit a felony.
- Been convicted of any violation below while operating a commercial motor vehicle (CMV):
  - Operating with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.04 or greater;
  - Driving while their CDL is revoked, suspended, or canceled; or while disqualified from operating a CMV; or
  - Causing a fatality through negligent operation (motor vehicle manslaughter, homicide by motor vehicle, or negligent homicide).
- Been convicted more than once for any violations below:
  - Driving any motor vehicle recklessly, as defined by State or local law (including driving in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property);
  - Driving a CMV without the required CDL;
  - Violating a State or local law or ordinance prohibiting texting while driving;
  - Violating a State or local law or ordinance restricting or prohibiting the use of a hand-held mobile telephone while driving.

### Experienced Driver Qualifications

- Must be at least 26 years of age;
- Must have held a CDL for 2 years prior to serving as an experienced driver;
- Must have at least 5 years of experience driving a CMV in interstate commerce.
- In the prior two years has not had:
  - Any preventable accidents reportable to DOT; or
  - Any moving violations resulting in points.



## Required Motor Carrier Qualifications

#### Participating motor carriers must:

- Have proper operating authority, if required, and registration;
- Have at least the minimum levels of financial responsibility required by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs);
- Not be a high- or moderate-risk carrier;
- Not have a conditional or unsatisfactory safety rating;
- Not have any open enforcement actions in the previous 6 years;
- Not have a crash rate above the 2021 national average (0.96 crashes per million vehicle miles traveled);
- Not have a driver out-of-service (OOS) rate above the 2021 national average (5.30%);
- Not have a vehicle OOS rate above the 2021 national average (19.40%);
- Have a registered apprenticeship (RA) program through the Department of Labor; and
- Provide proof of insurance for under 21 drivers prior to being issued an exemption from FMCSA for the age requirements found in 49 CFR 391.11(b)(1).



To learn more and apply to participate, visit [www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safedriver](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safedriver)



To register for an apprenticeship program, visit [www.apprenticeship.gov](http://www.apprenticeship.gov)