

How to Apply to the FMCSA Safe Driver Apprenticeship Pilot (SDAP) Program as a Motor Carrier



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

Are you looking to hire new professional drivers? The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) new three-year pilot program may be for you! The Safe Driver Apprenticeship Pilot (SDAP) program enables more drivers on the road by allowing motor carriers to hire qualified drivers ages 18-20 to operate CMVs in interstate commerce.

Follow these steps to successfully apply to the SDAP program.

1

Have your USDOT number handy and ensure you meet all safety and equipment qualifications for the program:



- 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 six 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%).
- 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).
- Transport cannot include passengers or hazardous materials or operate double- or triple-trailer combinations or cargo tank vehicles.
- Vehicles are equipped with forward-facing cameras, an automatic or automatic manual transmission, active braking collision mitigation system, and a governed speed of 65 miles per hour at the pedal and under adaptive cruise control.

**See following page for
additional steps on how to apply.**

2

Learn about the SDAP program procedures and required follow-up actions according to the [Federal Register Notice](#) and be confident in your commitment to the program.



3

Click on [Apply](#) and follow the steps.



4

Submit your application!

So, what's next?

Once your application is submitted, FMCSA is committed to reviewing all motor carrier applications and notifying them of their decision within 30 days of receipt of the application.

Contact or follow us.

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