



Transportation Law Alert

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FMCSA proposes new entry-level driver training regulations

On Monday, March 7, 2016, the FMCSA will publish a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (“NPRM”) aimed at implementing new training requirements for inter- or intrastate drivers applying for CDLs. The proposed rule, which will take effect 3 years from the date of the final rule, requires entry-level drivers (defined to include not only individuals applying for an initial CDL, but also those reapplying following disqualification and those seeking to upgrade their existing CDL) to complete a course of instruction provided by an entity that meets the minimum qualifications for training providers, covers the required curriculum, is listed on the FMCSA’s proposed Training Provider Registry, and submits electronic training certificates to the FMCSA for each individual who completes the training.

According to the NPRM, CDL applicants must complete a core curriculum that is divided into theory and behind-the-wheel segments. Those applying for a Class A CDL (i.e., large, articulated vehicles) must receive a minimum of 30 hours of behind-the-wheel training, while those applying for a Class B CDL (i.e., large straight trucks and buses) must receive a minimum of 15 hours. Additionally, those seeking hazardous materials, passenger bus, or school bus endorsements must complete separate training curricula. Only those individuals that complete and pass the required training would be eligible for a CDL.

The FMCSA has requested comments on a number of issues, including the scope and content of the proposed curricula. Comments will be due 30 days from the date the NPRM is published in the Federal Register. The proposed rule is available to view [at this link](#). For additional information please contact Tim Wiseman twiseman@scopelitis.com or Brandon Wiseman at bwiseman@scopelitis.com or (317) 637-1777.