

## FMCSA proposes entry level driver mandatory training requirements

Written by Administrator

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Individuals seeking new commercial driver's licenses (CDL) would be required to complete both classroom and behind-the-wheel training from an accredited educational program or institution under a proposed rule announced today (Dec 2010) by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).

"This proposed rule will give truck drivers additional skills needed to keep our roads safe," FMCSA Administrator John H. Hill said.

Beginning three years after the effective date of a final rule, all applicants for a CDL or upgraded CDL would be required to provide a valid certificate from a truck driving program or institution accredited by the U.S. Department of Education or the Council on Higher Education Accreditation. The rule would not affect current CDL holders.

For a "Class A" CDL (tractor-trailers), the proposed rule would require a minimum of 76 hours of classroom instruction and 44 hours of behind-the-wheel training for a total of 120 hours. For "Class B" (large "box" or van trucks) and "Class C" CDLs (hazardous materials or certain passenger-carrying vehicles), the proposed rule would require a minimum of 58 hours of classroom instruction and 32 hours of behind-the-wheel training for a total of 90 hours. The training curriculum includes CDL safety regulations, vehicle operation and safe operating practices.