

The ELD Connection: Stay Compliant, Save Money & Time



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Electronic logging devices (ELDs) are now fixtures in the trucking industry. There are stacks of information out there about ELDs – covering the benefits of an ELD, the prices, the services, and more. But who has time to sift through all that wordiness to target the meaty stuff? We did it for you. We even have a discounted ELD solution for Apex clients through our great partnership with KeepTruckin. Here's what you need to know about ELDs.



ELDs: The History

ELDs automatically know when you're driving or not so there is no longer a need to keep manual paper logs. ELDs allow you to monitor and print this data.

Paper logs were first used in 1938 to record hours of service (HOS). Then came AOBRDs (automatic onboard recording devices) in 1988, which was the precursor to the ELD. AOBRDs are bulkier and not as technologically intuitive. ELDs became mandated by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) in December 2017.

Those that already had an AOBRD when the ELD mandate was passed got a two-year grace period. Those two years end December 16, 2019 when all AOBRDs must be upgraded to ELDs. On the heels of that deadline comes the new Texas and California state mandates: In Texas, **all intrastate** drivers must be using an ELD by December 19, 2019; while in California the deadline date is December 31, 2020. Other states are likely to follow suit with similar mandates, including Oregon which already requires ELDs for intrastate hauling.



Why do I need an ELD?

Stay Compliant

Two very important words in the trucking industry. Staying compliant helps you avoid violations. Avoiding violations keeps you in business. Period. So, stay compliant! For those that had an AOBRD before the ELD mandate deadline in 2017, your deadline to switch to an ELD is December 16, 2019. But don't wait until the last minute to switch as you could risk missing the deadline.

Avoid Violations

The other pair of super important words in the trucking industry. With an ELD you can avoid CSA violations, especially the common 'form and manner' violation. Logbook infractions account for 40% of driver violations – missing logs, false logs, and dropped trips. ELDs keep you current and compliant.

ELDs vs. AOBRDs

As the predecessor to the ELD, the AOBRD is like the bulkier desktop computer before we had slim laptops. While the AOBRD can record engine use, road speed, miles driven, date and time of day – you know, the basic information – it lacks the portability and mobility of the more technologically advanced ELD. You can sync the ELD on your smart phone, whereas you can't do that with an AOBRD. ELDs are the present and future of the trucking industry. So AOBRD users need to upgrade to an ELD by December 16, 2019.

Better CSA Scores

Using an ELD helps your CSA scores by reporting accurate, up-to-date compliance records. Lower scores can lead to lower insurance costs and many other benefits.

Save Time

Automating the logbook process eliminates the need to have someone in-house or outsourced spend hours reading hand-written logbooks and chasing after incomplete and incorrect entries. Then you have hours spent processing IFTA (International Fuel Tax Agreement) and DVIR (Driver Vehicle Inspection Report) paperwork. ELDs computerize all that reporting for huge time and money savings. An ELD virtually eliminates manual paperwork, giving you more time to haul loads.



Who is required to use ELDs?

The ELD rule applies to motor carriers and drivers who are required to keep Record of Duty Status (RODs) under HOS regulations. Drivers who use the timecard exception, and don't keep paper RODs, will not be required to use ELDs. However, a carrier can choose to use an ELD, even if it's not required by the FMCSA.

The following drivers are ELD exempt:

- Drivers who keep RODS no more than 8 days during any 30-day period
- Driveaway-towaway drivers (transporting a vehicle for sale, lease, or repair)
- Drivers of vehicles with engines manufactured before model year 2000

If you're currently using an AOB RD instead of the required ELD, your deadline to switch to an ELD is December 16, 2019. But remember that switching from an AOB RD to an ELD is not immediate, especially given that too many last-minute switchers can cause industry-wide logjams on customer support lines, which in turn causes delays in receiving some devices.



What is the best complete ELD solution?

Getting an ELD doesn't have to be complicated. Think of it as three pieces to a puzzle:

1. You have the physical electronic logging device (ELD) that connects into the diagnostic port in your vehicle.
2. You have an electronic logbook app that records logs on iPhone, iPad, or Android device. You can sync from app to ELD via Bluetooth.
3. You have a web dashboard that could provide automatic audits and flag any errors, offer a GPS tracking system, allow you to send messages to drivers, and some even help you file IFTA reports.

Usually you are paying for the physical ELD itself and a monthly service fee. When shopping for ELDs, always look for technology that is easy to use, intuitive. You want something that gives you fast, plug-and-play implementation. You want great, 24/7 customer service just in case you have questions or need troubleshooting. And of course, you want competitive pricing. There are a lot of ELD manufacturers out there. Shop carefully for the one that suits you and your company best.



What are the added benefits of using an ELD?

Safety

ELDs are here to mainly promote safety and accountability in the trucking industry. The FMCSA estimates that ELDs will account for:

- 1,844 crashes avoided annually
- 562 fewer injuries per year
- 26 lives saved each year

Savings

Additionally, the FMCSA points to ELDs as the reason for these savings:

- \$570 million saved annually in crash reductions
- \$2.4 billion saved annually in paperwork

More Features

Also, some insurance companies offer ELD discounts. Then you have the benefits of IFTA reporting features, GPS tracking, add-on dashcams, and more. ELDs can certainly go beyond just recording your hours of service.



That's a total of

\$2.4 *Billion Saved*
per year in just paperwork alone!

Put ELDs To Work

We have even more information for you about ELDs. Check out our blog post, [‘How to Get ELD Technology in Your Truck without Hurting Your Business.’](#) for tips you can use to make the transition to ELDs easy!

If you need cash flow help, check out Apex Capital’s freight factoring and fuel card programs. We can help your trucking company save money, work smarter, and grow. **Call 1-855-211-0927 to learn more.**

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- **FREE** online [Account Management Portal \(AMP\)](#) 24/7
- **Discounted** ELD solution through our partnership with [KeepTruckin](#)

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