



How to Conduct a Limited Query: Employers

What is a limited query?

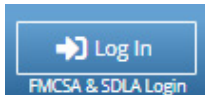
A query is an electronic check of a driver's record in the Clearinghouse, as required of employers of CDL drivers per § [382.701](#). A limited query determines if an individual driver's Clearinghouse record has any information about resolved or unresolved drug and alcohol program violations. A violation is unresolved if the driver has not completed the return-to-duty (RTD) process. To view full details of a driver's Clearinghouse record, you would need to [conduct a full query](#).

An employer may designate a consortium/third-party administrator (C/TPA) in the Clearinghouse to conduct queries on their behalf. See the [How to Conduct a Limited Query: C/TPAs Job Aid](#).

Conducting Limited Queries

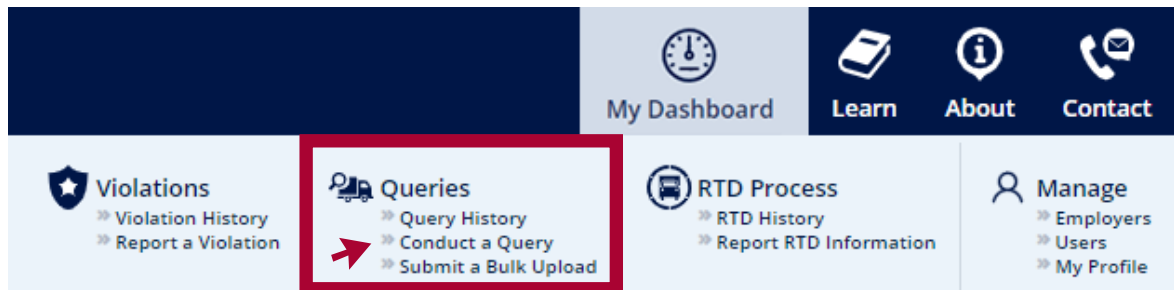
Follow the instructions below for a step-by-step guide on how to conduct a limited query.

1



Log In and Access the Dashboard

Visit <https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov>. Click **Log In** and access the Clearinghouse using your login.gov username and password. Under **My Dashboard**, go to **Queries** and click **Conduct a Query**.





2

Enter and Verify Driver Information

Enter the information of the driver you need to query and click **Verify Driver Information**.

You will need to provide the following driver information:

- Driver first and last name
- Driver date of birth
- Driver commercial driver’s license (CDL) or commercial learner’s permit (CLP) number, and the state and country of issuance

The screenshot shows the 'Driver Information' form with a progress bar at the top: Employer Information > Driver Information > Query Type > Conduct Query. The form includes fields for First Name, Last Name, Date of Birth, CDL/CLP Number, Country of Issuance, and State of Issuance. At the bottom, there are three buttons: 'Previous', 'Verify Driver Information' (highlighted with a red box), and 'Cancel'. A link 'I want to submit a bulk upload' is visible at the bottom left.

Once a driver’s CDL information is verified, you will not be able to edit it. If you entered the driver’s information in error, click **Cancel** and begin again with a new query. When the driver’s information is correct, click **Next**.

The screenshot shows the 'Driver Information' form after successful verification. A green checkmark icon is displayed next to a message: 'This driver information has been verified and cannot be changed. If you entered this in error, click "Cancel" and begin a new query.' The form fields are now disabled (grayed out). At the bottom, the 'Next' button is highlighted with a red box, while 'Previous' and 'Cancel' are also visible.

✗ VERIFYING ERRORS

If there is an issue verifying the driver CDL information, please check that you have entered all the information correctly and re-submit. You will have two attempts to enter the driver’s information correctly. If the driver CDL information cannot be verified, the query cannot be completed, as violation information is associated with a CDL number in the Clearinghouse.

If you have confirmed the driver’s information is correct and the Clearinghouse cannot verify it, the driver will need to log in to the Clearinghouse for further instructions.

📁 BULK UPLOAD

If you need to query multiple drivers at once, you can click **I want to submit a bulk upload**. You will be redirected to the Bulk Query Upload page. Follow the instructions on the screen to download, complete, and upload the [Bulk Upload Template File](#).

Note that the bulk query upload option requires some familiarity with formatting tab-delimited files. If you have never worked with this file type before, consider conducting each query individually.



3

Conduct the Limited Query

Select **Limited Query**. Check the box to certify that you have obtained general consent from the driver outside the Clearinghouse and click **Next**.

Query Type

WHICH TYPE OF QUERY DO YOU NEED TO CONDUCT?

<input checked="" type="radio"/> LIMITED QUERY	Results will determine if an individual driver's Clearinghouse record has any information about resolved or unresolved drug and alcohol program violations. General consent from the driver is required (obtained outside the Clearinghouse). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I certify that I have obtained the driver's general consent to conduct limited queries in the Clearinghouse and that this limited query falls within the timeframe specified by that general consent.
<input type="radio"/> FULL QUERY	Results will include detailed information about any drug and alcohol program violations in a driver's Clearinghouse record, including the driver's eligibility to perform safety-sensitive functions such as operating a CMV. Electronic consent is required.

[Previous](#) [Next](#) [Cancel](#)

FMCSA has provided a [sample limited consent request form](#) that employers can download and adapt as needed.

Conduct Query

This limited query will determine if this driver's Clearinghouse record has any information about resolved or unresolved drug and alcohol program violations. It will not release any specific violation information contained in the driver's Clearinghouse record.

Click "Conduct Query" below to proceed. One query will be deducted from your Query Balance.

[Previous](#) [Conduct Query](#) [Cancel](#)



Click **Conduct Query**.

The results of the limited query will be displayed immediately and one query will be deducted from your query balance.




Limited Query Results

DRIVER NOT PROHIBITED

If the limited query determines that there is no violation information in the driver's Clearinghouse record, the results will show "Driver Not Prohibited".

Query Complete



Result: Driver Not Prohibited
No violation information was found in the Clearinghouse for the driver you queried.
The driver is not prohibited from performing safety-sensitive functions based on the information available in the Clearinghouse.


[View My Queries](#)

[Conduct Another Query](#)

RECORD(S) FOUND; FULL QUERY NEEDED

If information related to a drug and alcohol program violation is present in the driver's Clearinghouse record, a notice appears stating "Record(s) Found; Full Query Needed".

Query Complete



Result: Record(s) Found; Full Query Needed
Information related to drug and alcohol program violations has been found in the Clearinghouse record of the driver you queried. To determine if this driver is prohibited from performing safety-sensitive functions, you will need to conduct a full query.
You must obtain the driver's electronic consent before you can conduct the full query and access the driver's detailed information.
If the full query is not conducted within 24 hours, the driver must be removed from safety-sensitive functions.

[Send Consent Request](#)

[Conduct Another Query](#)



A full query must be completed within 24 hours or the driver must be removed from safety-sensitive functions. Click **Send Consent Request** to generate the request and obtain the driver's electronic consent to [conduct a full query](#).

Note: A notice that a result of "Record(s) Found" is not a notification that a queried driver is prohibited from performing safety-sensitive functions. A full query is needed to determine the driver's eligibility status.



Query History

Your Query History page contains records of queries that have been conducted by you, your Clearinghouse Assistants, or your C/TPAs (if any).

Select information, including the driver's eligibility status, will be available in the violation summary.

To access additional details, including violation information or return-to-duty (RTD) status information, click **View Query Details**.

Employer Conducting Query: Joe Jones
Query Result: Driver Not Prohibited
Query Status: Completed (12/10/2019 9:23:39 AM)
Conducted By: Sample-CTPA@example.com | **Query Type:** Pre-employment | **Query Submitted:** Manually

Driver Information	Consent Information	Query History
Name: [Redacted]	Requested: 12/10/2019 9:20:14	Created: 12/10/2019 9:20:14
Date of Birth: [Redacted]	Recorded: 12/10/2019 9:23:38	Completed: 12/10/2019 9:23:38
CDL/CLP: [Redacted]	Status: Provided	

View Query Details

Color Borders

Violation summaries may have a color along the left side. These colors indicate important information about a driver's eligibility status. The violation summary may contain additional details about any next steps needed.

To access additional details, including violation information or RTD status information, click **View Query Details**.

Employer Conducting Query: Joe Jones
Query Status: Pending driver consent (12/11/2019 14:06:21)
Conducted By: JoeJones@gmail.com | **Query Type:** Pre-employment | **Query Submitted:** Via Bulk Upload

Driver Information	Consent Information	Query History
Name: [Redacted]	Requested: 12/9/2019 15:14:47	Created: 12/9/2019 15:14:47
Date of Birth: [Redacted]	Recorded: [Redacted]	
CDL/CLP ⓘ: [Redacted]	Status: Pending	

View Query Details **Cancel Query**

YELLOW
 The driver may be or may soon become prohibited from performing safety-sensitive functions.

Employer Conducting Query: Joe Jones
Query Result: Driver Prohibited
Query Status: Completed (12/11/2019 23:36:55)
Conducted By: JoeJones@gmail.com | **Query Type:** Limited → Full | **Query Submitted:** Manually

Driver Information	Consent Information	Query History
Name: [Redacted]	Requested: 12/11/2019 23:27:39	Created: 12/11/2019 23:27:37
Date of Birth: [Redacted]	Recorded: 12/11/2019 23:36:55	Limited Completed: 12/11/2019 23:27:37
CDL/CLP ⓘ: [Redacted]	Status: Provided	Full Completed: 12/11/2019 23:27:37

View Query Details

RED
 The driver is prohibited from performing safety-sensitive functions.

Note that the query results reflect the driver's status at the time the query was conducted. **If you need up-to-date information on a driver's eligibility status, you will need to conduct a new query.**



Query Details

Below are examples of full query details for two scenarios, one in which the driver has no violation information in the Clearinghouse (at left) and one in which the driver has open violations (at right).

Query Overview

Employer Conducting Query: Joe Jones
Query Result: Driver Not Prohibited
Query Status: Completed (12/16/2019 9:38:41)
Conducted By: DrugConsortiumLTD@gmail.com | **Query Type:** Limited | **Query Submitted:** Manually

Driver Information	Consent Information	Query History
Name: [REDACTED]	General consent provided outside of the Clearinghouse	Created: 12/16/2019 9:38:41
Date of Birth: [REDACTED]		
CDL/CLP #: [REDACTED]		

Query Overview

Employer Conducting Query: [REDACTED]
Query Result: Driver Prohibited
Query Status: Completed (12/11/2019 23:36:55)
Conducted By: DrugConsortiumLTD@gmail.com | **Query Type:** Limited → Full | **Query Submitted:** Manually

Driver Information	Consent Information	Query History
Name: [REDACTED]	Requested: 12/11/2019 23:27:39	Created: 12/11/2019 23:27:37
Date of Birth: [REDACTED]	Recorded: 12/11/2019 23:36:55	
CDL/CLP #: [REDACTED]	Status: Provided	

Open Violations

Employer Information

[REDACTED]

Driver Information

[REDACTED]

DOB: [REDACTED] **CDL/CLP#:** [REDACTED]
Country: [REDACTED] **State:** [REDACTED]

Violation Information

Test ID: TEST.HMU56.SFE
Type of Violation: Alcohol test refusal
Reason for Test: Post-accident
Type of Test Refusal: Failed to appear for any test

Test Results Entered By

Drug Consortium LTD (11/9/2019 7:29:30 PM)

Notice to Appear

Driver Notified: 11/9/2019 7:29:30 PM
Testing Site Location: 123 Main St, Cambridge, MA 02446, US
Date and Time to Appear: 11/10/2019 8:00:00 AM