



How Do Student Drivers Use the Clearinghouse?



After obtaining a commercial learner's permit (CLP), student drivers enrolled in commercial driver's license (CDL) training programs are subject to FMCSA's drug and alcohol program requirements in [49 CFR part 382](#).

A student driver may be enrolled in either of the following:

■ **AN INDEPENDENT CDL TRAINING PROGRAM**

that is not affiliated with or operated by an employer (i.e., the student driver pays to attend). In this scenario, the student driver is considered self-employed.

■ **AN EMPLOYER-BASED CDL TRAINING PROGRAM**

in which the student driver is paid to participate. In this scenario, the student driver is an employee of the company that arranges the CDL training program.

How are student drivers required to register in and use the Clearinghouse?

How a student driver will register in and use the Clearinghouse depends on the type of CDL training program they attend:

	Register In The Clearinghouse	Purchase A Query Plan	Conduct/Consent To Pre-Employment Query In The Clearinghouse	Take Required Drug Tests
If enrolled in an INDEPENDENT CDL training program	<p>Register as a Student Driver</p> <p>Student drivers must also designate a C/TPA in the Clearinghouse. Contact the C/TPA prior to sending this designation request.</p>	<p>Purchasing a query plan is required to conduct queries.</p> <p><i>Note: C/TPAs cannot purchase a query plan on behalf of student drivers.</i></p>	<p>Once they obtain their CLP, the student driver, or their designated C/TPA, must conduct a pre-employment query to ensure the student driver is not prohibited from operating a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) on public roads.</p>	<p>The designated C/TPA will direct the student driver to appear for a pre-employment drug test and any applicable random drug tests.</p>
If enrolled in an EMPLOYER-BASED CDL training program	<p>Register as a Driver</p>	<p>Not required (query conducted by employer)</p>	<p>Once they obtain their CLP, the student drivers must provide electronic consent for pre-employment queries or other full queries conducted by an employer, or the employer's C/TPA.</p>	<p>The student driver will be directed to appear for a pre-employment drug test and any applicable random drug tests by their employer.</p>

NOTE: Once a student driver has successfully completed the CDL training program and been issued a CDL, they must update their role in the Clearinghouse. For instructions, see the [Update Student Driver Role job aid](#).



How do CDL training providers use the Clearinghouse?

Are commercial driver's license (CDL) training programs required to register in and use the Clearinghouse?

Training providers may be employers

If a CDL training program employs CDL holders who operate commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) on public roads, they must meet the employer requirements established in 49 CFR part 382 subpart G. For a summary of the employer Clearinghouse requirements, download the [Employer Brochure](#).

Training providers may also be C/TPAs

While independent CDL training providers (i.e., training programs that are not operated by an employer) do not employ student drivers, they may provide the services of a consortium/third-party administrator (C/TPA) to student drivers. Independent CDL training providers intending to provide C/TPA services must register in the Clearinghouse as a C/TPA. To allow an independent CDL training provider to access the Clearinghouse on their behalf, the student driver must designate the CDL training provider as their C/TPA, and the CDL training provider must accept the designation request. For a summary of C/TPA Clearinghouse requirements, download the [C/TPA Brochure](#).

Training providers may be both employers and C/TPAs

Note that independent CDL training providers that operate as both employers and C/TPAs must register for each role separately in the Clearinghouse. For assistance, see the educational guides below:

■ [Register as an Employer \(Interactive Guide\)](#)

■ [Register as a C/TPA](#)



I train CDL drivers. Am I an employer?

For purposes of the Clearinghouse, a CDL training program is considered an employer in any of the following scenarios:

- Employs driving instructors who will operate a CMV on public roads;
- Employs student drivers (e.g., an employer-based CDL training program that pays the student driver to participate); or
- Leases a CMV to the student driver and it is operated on public roads.