## **Outreach Materials for SDLAs**

SDLAs are encouraged to use these sample newsletter article and e-newsletter blurbs on their websites and in SDLA publications to educate drivers who hold a commercial driver’s license (CDL) or commercial learner’s permit (CLP) on the Clearinghouse-II requirements and impact on commercial driving privileges for drivers who are in a “prohibited” status in the Clearinghouse. These messages can be posted until the November 18, 2024 Clearinghouse-II compliance date. Web graphics to accompany the sample newsletter and blurbs are also available on the SDLA resources page—visit <https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov/resource/page/sdla-resources>.

## **Sample Article for Newsletters**

**Clearinghouse-II and CDL Downgrades**  
*CDL drivers with drug and alcohol program violations will lose State-issued commercial driving privileges.*

Beginning November 18, 2024, having a “prohibited” status in FMCSA’s [Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse](https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov) due to a drug and alcohol program violation will result in losing or being denied a commercial driver’s license (CDL) or commercial learner’s permit (CLP).

As part of new Federal regulations, FMCSA is partnering with State Driver’s Licensing Agencies (SDLAs) so that drivers with a “prohibited” Clearinghouse status will lose or be denied their State-issued commercial driving privileges. This adds a layer of safety, making it more difficult for drivers to conceal their drug and alcohol program violations from current or prospective employers and evade the commercial motor vehicle (CMV) driving prohibition. It also supports FMCSA’s goal of ensuring that only qualified drivers are eligible to receive and retain a commercial license, thereby making roadways safer for motor carriers and the traveling public.

**Safer People, Safer Roads**

Drivers who operate a CMV on public roads fill a vital role in moving commerce. They also play a critical role in roadway safety. To help keep our Nation’s roads safe for everyone, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) established rules which CMV operators must follow regarding the use of alcohol and controlled substances (drugs). Drivers who violate these drug and alcohol program regulations — either through a positive test result, actual knowledge of use, or by refusing to test — are prohibited from operating CMVs until they complete the [return-to-duty process](https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov/Resource/Index/RTD-Infographic). These drug and alcohol program violations, and certain steps in the return-to-duty process, are recorded in the Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse.

**November 18, 2024 — Or Sooner**

The new regulations require SDLAs to begin downgrading CDLs on November 18, 2024. However, some CDL downgrades may begin sooner.

States with legislative authority currently have the option to voluntarily query the Clearinghouse and downgrade CDLs for prohibited drivers, and may do so before the November 18, 2024 compliance date.

**Reinstating CDLs**

The U.S. DOT has established a process for being able to return to commercial driving duties, after incurring a drug and alcohol program violation. This process requires these prohibited drivers to work with a professional to receive and complete the required evaluation, treatment, and testing before they can resume operating CMVs on public roads.

FMCSA has created a resource that outlines the steps drivers must take to complete their return-to-duty process: download the [Return-to-Duty Quick Reference Guide](https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov/content/resources/RTD-Driver-Insert-508.pdf). For more information, visit the [Clearinghouse Learning Center](https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov/Learn).

**Learn More**

FMCSA has published a set of frequently asked questions to help CDL drivers understand the new requirements and what actions they can take to retain or reinstate their commercial driving privileges, if needed. These FAQs — and more — are available on the Clearinghouse website. Visit <https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov/FAQ/Topics/CDL-Downgrades> to learn more about how a driver’s status in the Clearinghouse impacts CDL downgrades.

## **Sample e-Newsletter Blurbs**

**Clearinghouse-II and CDL Downgrades***.*

Beginning November 18, 2024, having a “prohibited” status in FMCSA’s Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse due to a drug and alcohol program violation will result in losing or being denied a commercial driver’s license (CDL) or commercial learner’s permit (CLP). For more information, visit <https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov/about>.

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**CDL Drivers with Drug and Alcohol Program Violations Will Lose Commercial Driving Privileges**

As part of new Federal regulations, FMCSA is partnering with State Driver’s Licensing Agencies (SDLAs) so that drivers with a “prohibited” status in the Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse will lose or be denied their State-issued commercial driving privileges. The new regulations require SDLAs to begin downgrading CDLs on November 18, 2024, but some States may begin CDL downgrades earlier. To learn more, visit <https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov/about>.

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**November 18, 2024 — Or Sooner**

New Federal regulations mean that beginning November 18, 2024, having a “prohibited” status in FMCSA’s Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse due to a drug and alcohol program violation will result in losing or being denied a commercial driver’s license (CDL) or commercial learner’s permit (CLP). However, some CDL downgrades may begin sooner — States with legislative authority currently have the option to voluntarily query the Clearinghouse and downgrade CDLs for prohibited drivers, and may do so before the November 18, 2024 compliance date. Visit <https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov/about> to learn more.

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**CDL Downgrades: November 18, 2024**  
Beginning November 18, 2024, having a “prohibited” status in FMCSA’s [Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse](https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov/) due to a drug and alcohol program violation will result in losing or being denied a commercial driver’s license (CDL) or commercial learner’s permit (CLP). The U.S. DOT has established a process for being able to [return to commercial driving duties](https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov/Resource/Index/RTD-Infographic) after incurring a drug and alcohol program violation. FMCSA has created a resource that outlines the steps drivers must take to complete their return-to-duty process: download the [Return-to-Duty Quick Reference Guide](https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov/content/resources/RTD-Driver-Insert-508.pdf). For more information, visit the [Clearinghouse Learning Center](https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov/Learn).