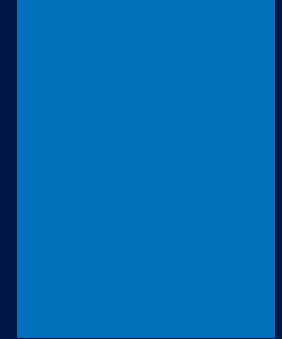# Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse

How to Connect State IT Systems to the Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse

SDLA IT "Direct Connect" Webinar – July 2023

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Agenda

1 **RECAP: CLEARINGHOUSE-II STATE REQUIREMENTS**

2 **CONNECTING TO THE CLEARINGHOUSE**
- REST service
- Web interface
- Machine-to-machine
- Machine-read email
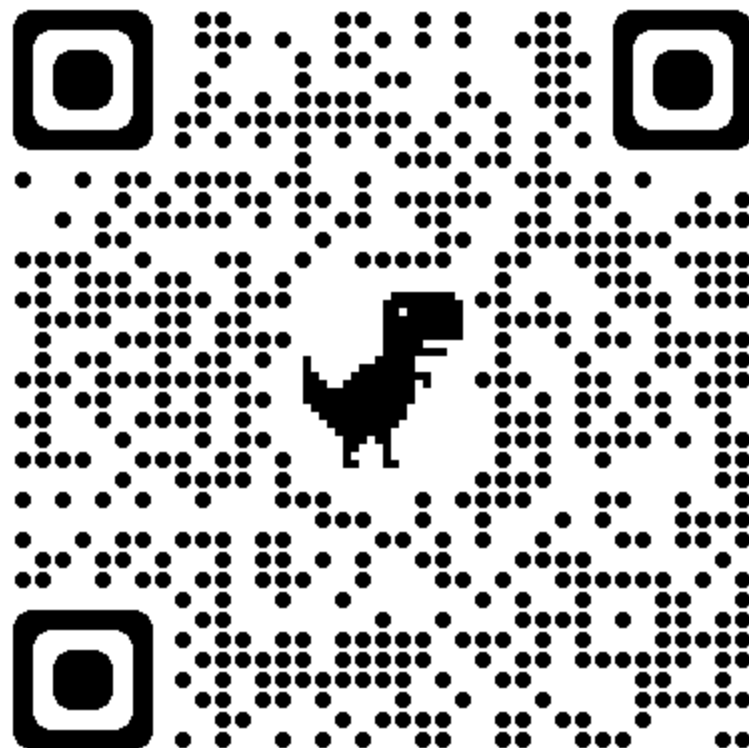- Person-read email

4 **RESOURCES**

5 **Q&A**

PRESENTERS

- **Devin Eakes**, Clearinghouse Program Manager, FMCSA

- **Andrew Nagel**, Clearinghouse Technical Team

# SDLA Resources

Clearinghouse-II Final Rule: State Requirements

Mandatory CDL Downgrade

- Initiate process to **remove CLP or CDL privilege** **when notified by FMCSA** of a driver's prohibited status in the Clearinghouse
- If **notified by FMCSA** that a driver's status changed to "not prohibited"
  - **Terminate CLP/CDL privilege removal process**; or
  - If CLP/CDL privilege removal was completed, **reinstate CLP/CLP privilege**
- If **notified by FMCSA** that a driver's prohibited status was due to erroneous entry**, reinstate as soon as possible and expunge driving record**

Non-Issuance

- **Query Clearinghouse** prior to commercial licensing transaction
- **Deny commercial licensing transaction** if Clearinghouse query shows driver in a prohibited status
- Commercial licensing transaction = issuing, renewing, transferring, or upgrading a CDL or issuing, renewing, or upgrading a CLP

Beginning

NOVEMBER
18
2024

4
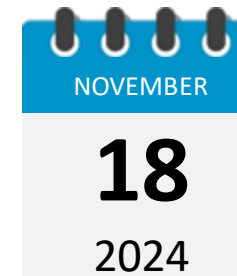
"Direct Connect" to the Clearinghouse

*SDLA must **query** the Clearinghouse prior to issuing, renewing, transferring, or upgrading a CDL or CLP*

*SDLA will **receive notification** of a driver's prohibited status (or change to not prohibited)*

Query Methods

1. REST service (pull)
2. Web interface (pull)
   (log in to Clearinghouse website)

Notification Methods

1. Machine-to-machine (push)
2. Machine-read email* (push)
3. Person-read email* (push)
4. REST service (pull, at least daily)
5. Web interface (pull, at least daily)

Pull/query also needed to obtain full driver data

States may also choose to connect via CDLIS (work with AAMVA)

REST Service (Queries/Notifications)

Development Requirements	▪ Client to access data via the service ▪ Integration into the local IT system
Authentication	▪ JWT Bearer Token ▪ System generated with Portal username/password or locally generated using client certificate issued by Clearinghouse
Data Available	▪ Driver current status (Is driver currently prohibited from operating? Y/N) ▪ Driver status history (history of driver prohibitions over time) ▪ State Prohibited Driver Report (list of drivers in the State that are currently prohibited) ▪ State Status Change Report (list of status changes for drivers in the State)
Regulatory Use-Case	✓ Query Clearinghouse? Yes – use current status query ✓ Receive notifications? Yes – call the status change report on a regular basis (at least daily)

Web Interface (Queries/Notifications)

Development Requirements	▪ None
Authentication	▪ Individual users access the system with their own Portal username and password ➜ *Note: Sharing Portal accounts is a violation of FMCSA's Terms and Conditions*
Data Available	▪ Driver current status (Is driver currently prohibited from operating? Y/N) ▪ Driver status history (history of driver prohibitions over time) ▪ State Prohibited Driver Report (list of drivers in the State that are currently prohibited) ▪ State Status Change Report (running list of status changes for drivers with CDLs issued by the State)
Regulatory Use-Case	✓ Query Clearinghouse? Yes – use current status query ✓ Receive notifications? Yes – log in and manually download the status change report on a regular basis (at least daily) ➜ *FMCSA does not encourage this solution as a long-term approach to meeting this requirement*

Machine-to-Machine (Notifications only)

|	
Development Requirements	▪ A public REST service to receive push notifications
Authentication	▪ Message authenticity can be confirmed by verifying the generated message signature, as well as the subscribed topic
Data Available	▪ Live feed of changes to driver status in your State
Regulatory Use-Case	✕ Query Clearinghouse? No ✓ Receive notifications? Yes – receive a process notifications from this service

Machine-read Email (Notifications only)

Development Requirements	▪ An email address to which emails can be sent
Authentication	▪ Message authenticity can be confirmed by verifying the generated message signature, as well as the subscribed topic
Data Available	▪ Live feed of changes to driver status in your State
Regulatory Use-Case	✘ Query Clearinghouse? No ✓ Receive notifications? Yes – receive and process notifications from this service

Person-read Email (Notifications only)

Development Requirements	▪ An email address to which emails notification can be sent ▪ Users to receive and process the emails ➜ *Note: Email will not include driver details (PII), State will need to use pull method (REST service or Web interface) to complete the requirement*
Authentication	▪ Authenticity is verified by selected pull method (see above)
Data Available	▪ Live feed of changes to driver status in your State
Regulatory Use-Case	✘ Query Clearinghouse? No ✓ Receive notifications? Yes – receive and process received emails

Testing
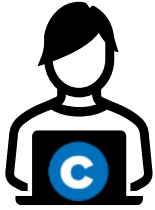
Web Interface

- FMCSA does not provide access to a test version of the Clearinghouse web interface

- No changes to State IT system needed (will include updates to policies and procedures)
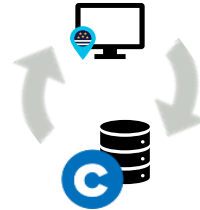
REST Service

- A test version of the REST service is publicly available.

- Users will use the same credentials used for PROD to access the service

- FMCSA will pre-populate service with a universal set of basic test cases

- Upon State request, FMCSA will load custom test cases for individual integration efforts
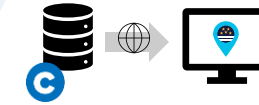
Push Options (https, email, json)

- States should establish push simulations for standard initial testing

- Upon State request, FMCSA will support scheduled integration testing with real push messages

Connection Methods: Considerations

	State IT system needed?	Automated or manual method?
REST service	Yes (no FMCSA access)	Automated/Manual
Web interface	No	Manual
Machine-to-machine	Yes (grant FMCSA access)	Automated
Machine-read email	Yes (no FMCSA access)	Automated (if REST service used for pull)
Person-read email	Yes (no FMCSA access)	Manual

Don't forget to consider staffing impacts. Automated solutions may take effort and resources to set up initially, but can save time and funding in the long run when you consider daily operations, training, etc.

Resources

Resources for SDLAs

- Visit the SDLA Resources Page
  - Technical materials on "direct connect" methods, including the Clearinghouse Web Development Handbook
  - Instructions on requesting FMCSA Portal accounts
  - "How to Use the Clearinghouse for SDLAs" job aid (including instructions on how to request Full Access)
  - Slides from SDLA check-in webinars
  - More materials to be added as they are developed

https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov/Resource/Page/SDLA-Resources

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Q&A

Questions? Contact Us

- **Visit**
  - SDLA Resources: https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov/Resource/Page/SDLA-Resources
  - Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse: https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov/

- **Contact**
  - Clearinghouse Team: https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov/Contact