

Entry-Level Driver Training Questions

- 1. What is ELDT?** Entry Level Driver Training (ELDT) is a federally regulated training requirement set by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) as of February 7, 2022. It affects any individual looking to obtain a new Commercial Drivers' License (CDL) and/or the HAZMAT endorsement. The ELDT includes both behind-the-wheel (BTW) and classroom training. This must be successfully completed and provided by a Registered Training Provider (RTP) before an individual can apply for a CDL/HAZMAT endorsement.
- 2. What does a driver-applicant have to do?** To comply with the ELDT requirements, the driver-applicant must first obtain a Commercial Learner's Permit. Then the driver-applicant must complete Theory and Behind-the-Wheel instructions per the curriculum outlined in the regulations. The driver-applicant must also complete a written exam with a passing score of 80% or higher. A RTP must submit completion of these steps to FMCSA. Then the driver-applicant can take the CDL tests at the state driving license office. To add a HAZMAT endorsement, the driver must complete Theory instructions per the curriculum outlined in the regulations and pass a written exam with a score of 80% or higher. A RTP must submit completion of these steps to FMCSA. Then the driver-applicant can take the HAZMAT endorsement test at the state driving license office and apply for a background check with TSA.
- 3. Is there a minimum for the Behind-the-Wheel training hours?** No, there is no minimum required by FMCSA. This can be determined in-house or on a case-to-case basis.
- 4. When I renew my CDL or HAZMAT do I need to complete ELDT?** No. As long as your license and endorsement have not expired you are not required to complete ELDT.

ACE Services Questions

- 1. What is the NPGA ACE Program? Why is it Useful?** The NPGA Administrative Compliance Experts (ACE) services assist individuals in completing the regulatory requirements set by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). Through ACE and with NPGA serving as your Registered Training Provider (RTP), the 30+ steps mandated by ELDT can become 5 simple steps. As the RTP, NPGA will handle:
 - All paperwork reviews and filings
 - Submissions to FMCSA
 - Management of compliance records for any potential audits
 - Navigating regulatory pathways such as ensuring all training, equipment, and instructors meet the requirements and minimums.
- 2. Who is the ACE service for?** The services provided by NPGA's ACE are open to all of the Over-the-Road community. This means that any individual that is seeking to obtain their Commercial Driver's License (CDL) and/or HME (hazardous material endorsement) is eligible. It is not limited to the Propane Industry.

- 3. Do I have to be a member of NPGA to purchase the ACE services?** No, you do not. However, NPGA members do qualify for member pricing for ACE Services. For more information on pricing and ACE packages, please visit: <https://www.npga.org/impact/workforce/entry-level-driver-training/>
- 4. Does ACE Services provide the classroom portion of ELDT?** Yes, ACE Services in partnership with PERC provides online modules that were put together to meet the ELDT regulations. Driver-applicants are given access to the online theory modules needed, as well as, the required forms and checklists. An online assessment will need to be completed and passed as well (80% or higher).
- 5. Does ACE provide the Behind-the-Wheel Instructors?** ACE Services does not provide the instructors. Any individual on staff who holds a CDL at- or above- that which they are instructing for at least the last two years and meets the CMV instructor requirements in your state, can serve as the BTW instructor. With NPGA ACE, we'll have the BTW instructor complete forms for our recordkeeping and provide the requirements that need to be covered during training.
- 6. Is HAZMAT endorsement (HME) a part of the program?** Yes. It is an optional portion of the program. The HME can be purchased with new CDL ELDT purchases; or as an "HME-Only" option for those who already hold their CDL and want to add the endorsement.
- 7. How long do I have to complete the ELDT?** ACE Services allows for the ELDT training to be completed over a period of 12 months. There is no required order when completing the ELDT, meaning you can complete the theory modules and BTW training simultaneously to save time and money. After 12 months, the driver-applicant will need to re-apply.
- 8. What happens when I sign up?** Each driver-applicant receives an online account to access the ELDT materials, according to the ACE package selected. A message through the Learning Center Portal will be sent to the driver-applicant once they are enrolled and can begin as soon as the message is received.
- 9. What happens once I have completed the online courses and uploaded forms?** Once all the modules, BTW training, and the assessment have been successfully completed, ACE will review all uploaded documents. If all is correct, ACE will submit the driver-applicant information into FMCSA and then inform the driver-applicant. The state exam will then need to be completed at the state driving agency. If any additional information or revisions are needed, driver-applicant will be notified.
- 10. Are fees refundable if the driver-applicant doesn't complete the program?** Yes, if a program is purchased but the driver-applicant does not begin training, fees can be credited or refunded to the company. Unfortunately, if the driver-applicant has started and doesn't complete the program, we've already provided services and guidance making the fee un-refundable.