



Commercial Drivers' License Clearinghouse Open for Registration

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse is now open for the registration of authorized users.

Employers and drivers must register in the Clearinghouse.

The Clearinghouse is a secure online database that will give employers, the FMCSA, and State licensing agencies and law enforcement personnel real-time information about commercial driver's license (CDL) and commercial learner's permit (CLP) holders' drug and alcohol program violations. The Clearinghouse will contain records of violations of drug and alcohol prohibitions including positive drug or alcohol test results and test refusals. When a driver completes the return-to-duty process and follow-up testing plan, this information will also be recorded in the Clearinghouse.

To access the Clearinghouse once it is operational on January 6, 2020, authorized users will be required to request access from FMCSA by registering for the Clearinghouse. Registering this fall is the first step.

For employers, starting on January 6, the Clearinghouse will offer a centralized location to query driver information and report drug and alcohol program violations incurred by their current and prospective employees holding CDLs and CLPs. The employer must use the Clearinghouse to:

- Conduct a full query of the Clearinghouse as part of each pre-employment driver investigation process.
- Conduct limited queries at least annually for every driver they employ.
- Request electronic consent from the driver for a full query, including pre-employment queries.
- Report drug and alcohol program violations.
- Record the negative return-to-duty (RTD) test results and the date of successful completion of a follow-up testing plan for any driver they employ with unresolved drug and alcohol program violations.

Employers will identify an individual for their organization to serve as a Clearinghouse Administrator. These Clearinghouse Administrators have the option to invite users to serve in an Assistant role, enabling them to use the Clearinghouse on their company's behalf.

Employers may need to assist drivers with registering online with the Clearinghouse. The Safety Director heard of one Public Works Department who designated a computer, and time for each driver to register with the guidance of an administrative assistant.

Visit the FMCSA Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse website <https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov/> to begin the registration process. There are links to instructional aids for employers and CDL / CLP drivers. Registering soon will be especially important if the agency anticipates hiring CDL drivers in early 2020.