



## 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
<b>If enrolled in an INDEPENDENT CDL training program</b>	<p><a href="#">Register as a Student Driver</a></p> <p>Student drivers must also <a href="#">designate a C/TPA</a> in the Clearinghouse. Contact the C/TPA prior to sending this designation request.</p>	<p><a href="#">Purchasing a query plan</a> 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 <a href="#">conduct a pre-employment query</a> 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>
<b>If enrolled in an EMPLOYER-BASED CDL training program</b>	<p><a href="#">Register as a Driver</a></p>	<p>Not required (query conducted by employer)</p>	<p>Once they obtain their CLP, the student drivers must <a href="#">provide electronic consent</a> 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.