



Do you have commercial drivers working for you or in your organization? If so, you probably know they are subject to Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) safety, registration, and licensing requirements. Critical amongst them are the drug and alcohol testing rules and regulations for employees who drive commercial trucks and buses that require a commercial driver's license (CDL). In 1991, Congress passed legislation requiring that these "safety sensitive" transportation employees be subject to testing intended to help the U.S. to have a drug- and alcohol-free transportation industry. Part 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) states how testing is to be conducted and how employees can be returned to their safety sensitive duties after violating a Department of Transportation (DOT) drug and alcohol regulation.

If your organization is complying with these DOT requirements, your management should know if any of your drivers has violated the drug and alcohol rules while they have been working there. But what about before you hired them? The current process relies on drivers to self-report prior violations to their new employer. What do you suppose the odds are of that happening?

Enter the *CDL Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse*—a new database to house information on CDL drivers' drug and alcohol program violations and on their successful completion of mandatory return-to-duty drug and/or alcohol education or treatment programs. More Clearinghouse information—including a list of FAQs—is available at:

<https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/regulations/commercial-drivers-license-drug-and-alcohol-clearinghouse>, but five important things to know now are:

1. Mandatory reporting begins January 6, 2020.
2. The database will not be pre-populated with past violations. It will start tracking only new violations beginning January 6, 2020.
3. Employers of CDL drivers will be required to register and use the Clearinghouse, including querying prospective drivers prior to hiring. You can create a user account now at <https://login.gov/>.
4. There is a nominal fee (\$1.25/query) for employers to query the database.
5. Prospective drivers and drivers who have a positive test must register after the Clearinghouse goes live.

If you have any questions, visit the [FMCSA Clearinghouse webpage](#), contact me at dennis.batts@fairfaxcounty.gov, or come to the November 7, 2019, SWANA Old Dominion Chapter Safety Summit in Glen Allen, where DOT's Craig Feister will be presenting on this new program. You can register for the Summit at <https://fs10.formsite.com/swanava/uknylycjmu/index.html>. Hope to see you there!

Remember—safety is a team sport and we are all in this together! -Dennis