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## Electronic Logs



*How do they work and what do you need?*

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March 1, 2017

# What is an electronic logging device (ELD)?

- An ELD is technology that automatically records a driver's driving time and other aspects of the hours-of-service (HOS) records. This allows easier, more accurate HOS recordkeeping. An ELD monitors a vehicle's engine to capture data on whether the engine is running, whether the vehicle is moving, miles driven, and duration of engine operation (engine hours). ELD manufacturers must certify that ELDs meet technical standards in the ELD rule.



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# Who must use an ELD?

- The ELD rule applies to motor carriers and drivers who are currently required to keep records of duty service (RODS) on paper or with an Automatic Onboard Recording Device (AOBRD) under the hours-of-service (HOS) regulations.
- Drivers who use the timecard exception, and don't keep paper RODs, will not be required to use ELDs.
- The following drivers may keep paper RODS:
  - Drivers who keep RODS no more than 8 days during any 30-day period.
  - Driveaway/towaway drivers (transporting a vehicle for sale, lease, or repair), provided the vehicle driven is part of the shipment.
  - Drivers of vehicles manufactured before model year 2000.



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# What are the benefits of ELDs?

- ELDs make tracking hours-of-service (HOS) easier and more accurate. This helps prevent both deliberate and unintentional HOS violations and helps drivers avoid fines due to mistakes in paper logs. Improved compliance with HOS rules helps ensure drivers have time for adequate rest and to operate commercial vehicles safely. More accurate and consistent HOS records also facilitate enforcement and support carrier business operations, such as effective dispatching.



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# What does engine synchronization mean for the purposes of ELD compliance?

- In order to be compliant, an ELD must be able to directly monitor the vehicle's engine operation to automatically capture engine power status (on or off), vehicle motion, miles driven, and engine hours.



# How can ELD's benefit your company?

- Better trip planning with route optimization
- Dispatch drivers and vehicles
- Reduce fuel costs: idling, speeding, mileage
- Minimize CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- Track fuel consumption with side-by-side vehicle comparisons
- Detect engine issue through fault codes
- Prioritize vehicle maintenance
- Prevent vehicle wear and tear



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# What to consider when buying ELD's

- Wireless units – cell phones, tablets, vs. hardwired installed units.
- Dispatch capabilities
- Transferring documents, such as bills of lading
- Vehicle inspection capabilities
- Reporting capabilities
- Installation time and costs
- Critical event recording
- Weigh station bypass
- Fuel tax reporting
- Monitoring vehicle performance
- GPS capability
- Driver training



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# Wireless vs. Hardwired

## Wireless Pros

- You can add software for other uses.
- Drivers can use it as a signature tablet.
- Take pictures at accidents and other situations.

## Wireless Cons

- Drivers forget devices at home.
- Units get damaged easily from bouncing around truck.



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# Dispatch Capabilities

- Dispatchers will be able to track drivers to give customers a better ETA of their deliveries
- Dispatchers can plan ahead knowing the accurate amount of hours a driver has for the rest of the week
- The system allows routers to make better decisions and trip planning



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# Transferring of Documents

- Organizations will equip trucks with scanners to transfer documents such as bills of lading to make the collections process quicker.
- It also enables an organization to improve driver payroll efficiencies by transferring documents needed to finalize driver payroll.



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# Vehicle Inspections

- Some systems will allow a driver to walk around the truck and trailer and scan the components to complete a daily inspection. It is immediately forwarded to maintenance for review.
- Many ELD's will have a driver complete an inspection before a driver moves the truck at the beginning of the day also complete an inspection at the end of the day.



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# Routing and Trip Planning

- ELD's have an option to consider when routing or trip planning.
  - Efficiency with fuel consumption
  - Safety
  - Time traveled



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# Installation Time and Cost

- Some ELD's can be almost a plug and play, others can take half a day to install.
- Many can be installed with your own maintenance facility, however some may need training or trained technicians to come in and install the units.



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# Critical Event Recorders

- Many ELD's will include critical event recorders to notify the company of hard braking, quick acceleration, and other unsafe maneuvers.
- Messages will be sent to the company of notification that the event has taken place.



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# Weigh Scale Bypass

- Some systems have the capability of integrating with the EZ Pass System to allow trucks to bypass roadside scales.



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# Fuel Tax Reporting

- ELD's as part of their make up track time and miles.
- Gathering miles for fuel tax reporting is easy because the ELD already has it in the system.
- Some services will go to the point of filing your fuel tax reports to the state, by downloading fuel purchases from fuel card services and taking the miles from the ELD.



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# Vehicle Performance

- Tracking how your trucks are performing is often an after the fact task.
- ELD's have an option to track the performance on demand.
  - MPG and idle time monitoring are some of the most common features used by many organizations.



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# GPS Capability

- In an effort to reduce the amount of electronics in the cab of a truck and to provide drivers with the latest legal routes, organizations will opt for the GPS function. This is typically an extra that you would need to pay for.



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# Driver Training

- Many companies will utilize the ELD's to hold mini driver training sessions.
  - Some ELD's will allow a driver to link up via blue tooth to the internet at truck stops to view short company training tapes.



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# Reports

- There are various types of reporting capabilities with each unit. It's a good thing to find out what those capabilities are before buying.
- Some systems will report most form and manner violations; others will require you to audit that manually.



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# Some of the more common ELD providers

- People Net
- OmniTracs
- Fleetmatics
- Rand McNally
- JJ Keller
- Teletracs



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Questions?





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Thank you For Attending!