



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

FACT SHEET

ELECTRONIC LOGGING DEVICE RULE

NOTE: THESE COMMENTS ARE INTENDED TO PROVIDE VERY GENERAL INFORMATION ONLY. YOU MUST REFER TO PERTINENT FEDERAL AND STATE STATUTES AND RULES FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION.

TO: Texas Residents

FROM: Sid Miller, Commissioner
Texas Department of Agriculture

DATE: Feb. 1, 2018

RE: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Rules Affecting Texas Farmers, Ranchers, Related Ag Industries, and Ag Sport (Rodeo and Special Event) Recreational Transportation

BACKGROUND

Years ago, the U. S. Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) created federal transportation rules designed to enhance transportation safety that required some drivers of larger vehicles and trailers to have a commercial drivers' license, and under certain conditions, to report driving hours.

More recently, FMCSA instituted the electronic logging device (ELD) rules that require some drivers to convert from paper to electronic travel logging. The deadline to convert was Dec. 17, 2017, with a grace period until April 1, 2018. Although FMCSA rules have been in place for quite some time and are final in nature, the more recent electronic logging requirements have caught the attention of agricultural drivers in Texas and across the nation. FMCSA rule changes did not require anyone to obtain new or additional commercial drivers' licenses, and did not require anyone that was not already required to do the paper travel logs to report electronically under the newer rules. If you were not required to have a commercial drivers' license in the past and you did not have to log your travel, you do not have to do so today.

CURRENT SITUATION

For those agriculture drivers in the past who had to possess a commercial drivers' license and log travel hours on paper, you are now required to log your travel hours through the use of the electronic logging device (enforcement begins April 2, 2018, unless a further grace period is extended by FMCSA).

Your commercial drivers' license requirements, hours of driving, miles you can drive, the size of the truck you can drive, as well as the limits on the capacity and actual weights of loaded trailers, has not changed due to the ELD requirements.

WHAT CAN TDA DO TO HELP?

Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller and the Texas Department of Agriculture will continue supporting farmers, ranchers, supporting industries and agriculture sports recreational transportation needs in Texas. The Texas Department of Agriculture does not regulate such transportation in Texas. All Texans can spread the word to federal officeholders that a change is needed to FMCSA transportation rules. More specifically, Texans need agricultural-related waivers/exemptions to the motor carrier rules that will allow the flexibility to transport livestock and agricultural products in a manner that is predictable and workable in a state the size of Texas.

Impacted Texans are encouraged to engage the U.S. Department of Transportation, appropriate coalitions and impacted stakeholders to find an adequate and long-term solution for the agriculture industry on the new rule on transportation of agricultural commodities released by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

More information on federal transportation requirements, licenses and electronic logging devices is available at the links below:

- DPS has put together a Texas Guide to Farm Vehicle Compliance at the below site. It is not updated for the new electronic logging device information but is good information. Click [here](#).
- The Texas Trucking Association has ELD information on its website, although such may not be specific for agricultural applications. Click [here](#).
- The electronic Code of Federal Regulations has very specific and complete information, however, it is technical in nature. Click [here](#).

COMMITMENT TO AGRICULTURE

The Texas Department of Agriculture is committed to representing Texas agricultural needs in this endeavor to make changes to federal motor carrier statutes and rules to keep Texas drivers safe in Texas, as well as to make federal regulations work for Texas drivers, farmers, ranchers and the agriculture industry, as well as at our wonderfully talented recreational ag sporting events in Texas.

Remember, Texas Agriculture Matters!