



What the United States ELD Mandate could mean for Canada.



The importance of the ELD Mandate.

Publication of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) final Electronic Logging Device (ELD) mandate has been approved in the United States. With discussions around similar regulations coming to Canada through Transport Canada, it's important that those in the trucking industry know how it will impact them. It's also important for those Canadian fleets that operate across the border as the ELD Mandate will impact them now. In its simplest form, an ELD is a device used to electronically and automatically collect Record of Duty Status (RODS) information needed for Hours of Service requirement compliance, replacing paper log books. The ELD Mandate in the US includes technical and performance specifications that define exactly what an ELD must do, including:¹

- Connect to a truck's engine to record if a truck is in motion
- Allow the driver to login and select On-duty, Off-duty, or On-Duty Not Driving
- Automatically select drive segments based on vehicle movement
- Graphically display Record of Duty Status (RODS) so a driver can quickly see their hours in a day
- Provide data in a standardized format
- Be capable of transmitting data to law enforcement in specifically defined ways
- Be certified by a vendor stating the device meets technical specifications

Reduced crash risks and increased productivity.

Canadian fleets want to know when, and if, they will be required to implement an ELD solution, and how the new ruling in the US might transfer to Canada to protect them from coercion along the supply chain. They also want to know how the the legislation will affect their day-to-day productivity and their bottom-line profits. These questions are valid and important, but it's important to remember the central concern that has always been at the heart of these discussions: safety — that of the drivers, as well as that of the citizens with whom they share the road. According to Tom Cuthbertson, VP of Regulatory and Compliance at Omnitrac, “Although there are additional benefits of ELD adoption, safety is the main driver of this regulation. Bottom line is ELDs will improve recording of Hours of Service, and will reduce violations, directly related to improving safety.”²

The ultimate intention of the ELD Mandate is to reduce the incidence of driver fatigue-related crashes by facilitating compliance with driver Hours of Service (HOS) rules. Research in the United States shows that truck drivers using ELDs had significantly lower total and preventable crash rates than drivers in trucks not equipped with an electronic hours of service recorder. Analysis quoted by the FMCSA shows that the new ELD Mandate, which will apply to an estimated 3 million vehicles and 3.4 million drivers, will help prevent approximately 20 fatalities and 430 injuries each year, for an annual safety benefit of \$394.8 million.³

Will the ELD Mandate apply to me?

Compliance with the ELD Mandate is unrelated to fleet size. Big fleets, small fleets and individual owners and operators will all be required to adhere to the new regulations with very few exceptions.

Are there any exemptions that may apply to me?

Within the US ELD Mandate there are a few exemptions. It is speculated that Transport Canada will attempt to copy the US Mandate exemptions as close as possible. If the US ELD Mandate is mimicked by Transport Canada, below are potential situations where Canadian fleets will be exempt from the mandate:

- Fleets that installed and are actively using a AOBRD prior to December 2017.
- A driver whose total driving time does not exceed 50% of total daily duty hours.
- Your CDL Drivers operate using the 100 mile exemption.
- Companies or drivers that operate a power unit older than the 2000 model year.

Even with exemptions, drivers will still need to keep time sheets that show start and end times. Many safety conscience carriers already utilize full RODS, with an Automatic On-Board Recording Device (AOBRD), for these cases to provide uniform safety rules across the fleet while gaining insight into detailed operations – leading to more control and protection where it's needed.

ELD safety and cost benefits

There are key benefits that any fleet can realize through ELD implementation:

Create a culture of safety

There's value in moving beyond standard compliance. E-Logs give safety managers the tools they need to understand all areas of compliance. Safety managers and dispatchers can work together on loads that are within HOS requirements, and drivers can be alerted when low drive or on-duty time is near.

Gain visibility and efficiency

Accurately account for all aspects of the business, including on-duty and drive time. Fleet managers can see where time efficiency can be gained from current processes.

Manage technology implementation

By being proactive, fleets can roll out the technology at a pace suitable for their organization, not according to a time frame established by the government. A well-paced implementation can also help alleviate resistance to change within the organization.

Start building ROI immediately

ELDs will reduce paperwork, minimize crash risk, improve productivity, increase driver communication, reduce fuel costs, and provide justification for detention time charges.

Estimated savings and efficiency improvements¹

Reduce paperwork burden on drivers and fleet managers



Up to 15 minutes/day/driver

Save on paperwork costs



\$705/driver/year

Minimize exposure to HOS violations



Fines can range from \$250 to \$11,000

Annual safety benefit



\$125 per short-haul ELD



\$185 per long-haul ELD

The future of the ELD mandate

The future of the ELD mandate in Canada is uncertain and regulations are unpredictable and can change quickly. With this in mind it's important to do your research and be prepared for the future. It's important to look for an ELD provider that has the flexibility and knowledge to prepare for the future.

What to look for in an ELD Provider

The new ELD mandate applies to approximately 3 million trucks in the United States. Once a Canadian ELD Mandate is developed it will effect countless more. With so much uncertainty, it is important to select a vendor that is prepared to address upcoming regulatory changes. Ask yourself if the vendor has:

- Availability of 395.15, AOBRD, solutions that can be used until 2019.
- Technical staff that can understand the regulation specifics.
- Familiarity the ELD regulatory process.
- Financial resources able to make continual updates to the product to meet HOS updates that will impact ELD recording of hours.

Select the right company, as well as the right fit

The key to making smart purchases is and always will be to undergo the necessary due diligence. This may be a easy decision when comparing products and pricing, but do not forget to also assess the company you are working with.

Ask yourself – Is this potential vendor stable? Will it be around in the future? Does it have a reputation for reliability? Will it continue to provide positive service after the sale?

Put your mind at ease by doing some basic research with this simple checklist:

Product Options

- ELD – meets certifications
- Has HOS hour sets and exceptions for the business
- Has performance reporting, alerts, and dashboards
- Includes robust mapping
- Includes driver communication
- Integrates with your back office system

Vendor Considerations

- Proven vendor with over 100,000 active subscriptions
- Testimonials from top customers
- History of success
- Financial support and stability
- Part of the regulatory process
- Has expertise in North American markets

ELD Mandate Readiness

- Scalable infrastructure tensure system uptime
- Will be able tprove certification requirements
- Has documentation including cab-cards and manuals
- Includes driver and manger help file
- Has worked with the CVSA on training enforcement officials

Proven Customer Service

- Support hours that meet your hours of business
- Tiered support that can provide resolutions on issues quickly

To learn more about ELDs and how they can benefit your fleet, contact our knowledgeable Shaw Tracking team at 1-800-478-9511.

Why choose Shaw Tracking



Shaw Tracking has been established in the Transportation and Logistics Industry for 25 years and is the sole provider of the Omnitrac's MCP product line in Canada.



Omnitracs is the global pioneer of innovative and comprehensive fleet management solutions transforming the transportation industry through technology and insight.



24/7 national support teams that understand your business and can help analyze the best plan that serves your customer needs and increases efficiency and productivity.



Omnitracs has helped shape the ELD Mandate legislation across the border and continues to share important resources at eldfacts.com

Sources

1 "Electronic logging devices and hours of service", Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, 2016.

fmcsa.dot.gov/hours-service/elds/electronic-logging-devices-and-hours-service-supporting-documents

2 Tom Cuthbertson, VP of Regulatory and Compliance. Omnitrac's. www.omnitrac.com

3 "Electronic Logging to prevent truck crashes, protect drivers", Todd Solomon, U.S. Department of Transportation, 2016.

transportation.gov/fastlane/electronic-logging-devices-prevent-truck-crashes-protect-drivers



omnitrac's

Shaw) Tracking



shawtracking.ca



Follow us