



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

DRUG & ALCOHOL CLEARINGHOUSE

Coming
January 6, 2020

FOR OWNER-OPERATORS

- ✔ Record
- ✔ Consent
- ✔ Query
- ✔ Safety



What is the FMCSA Commercial Driver's License Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse?

A secure, online database that will give employers and other authorized users real-time information about commercial driver's license (CDL) and commercial learner's permit (CLP) holders' drug and alcohol program violations.

The Clearinghouse will improve safety on our Nation's roadways by ensuring that commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers who violate FMCSA's drug and alcohol rules and regulations do not perform safety-sensitive functions, such as operate CMVs, until they complete the required return-to-duty (RTD) process.

What is an owner-operator?

An owner-operator is any employer who employs himself or herself as a CDL driver. Owner-operators are subject to the requirements pertaining to employers as well as those pertaining to drivers.



FALL 2019

Registration Opens

- Create your user account
- Visit the Clearinghouse Learning Center
- Designate your C/TPA



JANUARY 6, 2020

Implementation Date

- Mandatory reporting begins
- Both electronic queries and manual inquiries required



JANUARY 6, 2023

3 Years of Clearinghouse Data

- Only electronic queries required



Why register this fall?

Registering before January 6, 2020 is the first step in ensuring you and your company will be ready when the Clearinghouse is operational.

Once you are registered, you can take the following actions in the Clearinghouse prior to implementation:

- **Verify your information.** If you currently have a USDOT Number, the Clearinghouse will pull your contact and company information from other FMCSA systems. Register early to verify this information is up-to-date.
- **Designate your C/TPA.** As an owner-operator, you are required to work with at least one consortium/third-party administrator (C/TPA). You must designate your C/TPA(s) in the Clearinghouse before they can access the Clearinghouse on your behalf.
- **Invite Assistants.** Send invitations to other employees who will access the Clearinghouse on your behalf, allowing them to register as part of your company.
- **Select and purchase a query plan.** You will need to have purchased a query plan before queries can be conducted in the Clearinghouse by you or your C/TPA(s). Learn about the pricing options and select the one that works best for your business needs.

Questions?

Email clearinghouse@dot.gov

How will owner-operators use the Clearinghouse?

Beginning January 6, 2020, you will need to coordinate with your C/TPA(s) make sure the following requirements are met:

- **Report drug and alcohol violations.** This will include alcohol test results with a concentration of .04 or greater, refusals to take an alcohol or drug test, as well as actual knowledge of a violation.
- Negative RTD results and the successful completion of a driver's follow-up testing plan.
- Owner-operators or C/TPAs may report violation information about other drivers employed by the owner-operator. If an owner-operator commits a drug and alcohol program violation, this information must be reported by the C/TPA.
- The information above must be reported by the close of the third business day after the employer or C/TPA is informed.
- **Conduct queries** to check if prospective employees are prohibited from performing safety-sensitive functions, such as operating CMVs, due to an unresolved drug and alcohol program violation.
- All current employees—including yourself—must be queried at least annually. All queries require driver consent. Queries may be conducted by owner-operators or C/TPAs.
- Until January 6, 2023, you or your C/TPA(s) must conduct both electronic queries in the Clearinghouse and manual, offline inquiries to previous employers for pre-employment driver investigations.

How will others use the Clearinghouse?

ACTION	TIMEFRAME
<p>Providing Consent Drivers will be required to log into the Clearinghouse and provide electronic consent before a current or prospective employer can conduct a full query of a driver's Clearinghouse record.</p>	<p>No specific timeframe for consenting to pre-employment or ad hoc full queries.</p> <p>If a limited query returns that records were found, a full query must be conducted on the driver within 24 hours, or the driver must be removed from safety-sensitive functions.</p>
<p>Reporting Violations Medical review officers (MROs) will be required to report verified positive, adulterated, or substituted controlled substances test results, as well as refusals to take a drug test.</p>	<p>Within two business days of the verification or determination.</p> <p>Within one business day of making any change to the results report, MRO must report that changed result.</p>
<p>Reporting on RTD Progress Substance abuse professionals (SAPs) will be required to report to the Clearinghouse when the initial assessment is completed and when the driver is determined to be eligible for RTD testing.</p>	<p>By the close of the business day following the date of the initial assessment.</p> <p>By the close of the business day following the determination the driver is eligible for RTD testing.</p>

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<https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov>