Qualification of Drivers; Vision Standard

Christine Hydock
Chief, Medical Programs Division

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

Qualification of Drivers; Vision Standard Final Rule

- On January 21, 2022, FMCSA published the Qualifications of Drivers; Vision Standard final rule

- Individuals with monocular vision may be physically qualified to operate a CMV in interstate commerce under specified conditions.

- Monocular vision defined by FMCSA:
  - Does not satisfy, with the worse eye, either the existing distant visual acuity standard with corrective lenses or the field of vision standard, or both.

Qualification of Drivers; Vision Standard Final Rule
(continued)

- Provides an alternative vision standard (49 CFR 391.44)
- Eliminates the need for a Federal Vision Exemption Program
- Requires Vision Evaluation Report, Form MCSA-5871
- Requires Medical Examiner to consider information on the Vision Evaluation Report, Form MCSA-5871, when making a physical qualification determination
  - Medical Examiners do not have to mark the exemption box on the MEC
  - Maximum medical certification period of up to12 months

49 CFR 391.44 Alternative Vision Standard Process

- New collaborative certification process for individuals with monocular vision
  - Licensed Ophthalmologist or Optometrist Evaluation
    - Requires the use of the Vision Evaluation Report, Form MCSA-5871
  - Medical Examiner Physical Qualification Examination
    - Considers information provided in the Vision Evaluation Report, Form MCSA-5871
    - Applies the alternative vision standard
    - Determines qualification and only certifies up to one year using independent judgment
    - **Checks** “yes” to monocular vision” on the Medical Examiner Report Form, MCSA-5875
    - **Does not check** “accompanied by ____ waiver/exemption” for these individuals

Key Points for SDLAs

MECs submitted under the alternative vision standard:

- Are consistent with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) (49 CFR 391.44)
- Are fully applicable
- May be deemed acceptable by SDLAs
- “V” restrictions for former Federal vision exemption holders are no longer necessary after March 22, 2022

Key Points to SDLAs (continued)

SDLA s may consider:

- Requesting a copy of the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875 from the driver
  - Verifies that the driver was certified under the alternative vision standard.
  - FMCSA does not require drivers to submit the Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875, or Vision Evaluation Report, Form MCSA-5871, to the SDLA.
- Requests and maintenance for Medical Examination Report Form, MCSA-5875 by SDLAs
  - Must be in accordance with applicable Federal and State privacy laws and regulations.

Compliance with the Alternative Vision Standard

- States receiving MCSAP funds:
  - Have three years after the effective date (March 22, 2022) to comply with the final rule
  - Must ensure laws, regulations, standards, and orders on CMV safety are compatible with the FMCSRs. (49 CFR 350.303(b))

Qualification of Drivers; Vision Standard; Web Locations

- Qualification of Drivers, Vision Standard Final Rule is located on the FMCSA website at:
  https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/regulations/federal-register-documents/2022-01021

- Qualification of Drivers, Vision Standard Final Rule Correction Notice is located on the FMCSA website at:
  https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/regulations/federal-register-documents/2022-02758

- Link to vision webinar:
  https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/regulations/medical/new-vision-standard-overview-webinar

National Registry II

- February 28, 2022 – new National Registry launched
- June 22, 2022 – FMCSA completed development actions in the National Registry necessary to implement NRII transactions
- FMCSA has held several meetings held with AAMVA to coordinate build actions required by AAMVA to implement NRII transactions
- Planning for contract between FMCSA and AAMVA to be in place in early 2023, if not sooner

Contact Information

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Medical Programs Division

U.S. Department of Transportation

E-mail: christine.hydock@dot.gov
Phone: (202) 384-5741

National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners Technical Support Help Desk

E-mail: FMCTECHSUP@dot.gov
Phone: 617-494-3003

TRAINING PROVIDER REGISTRY

MINIMUM TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR
Entry-Level Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators

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

Agenda

1 **THE ELDT REGULATIONS**
What are they, and how will they improve safety?

2 **CDL APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS**
What do the ELDT regulations require of CDL applicants?

3 **TRAINING REQUIREMENTS**
What theory and behind-the-wheel training must entry-level drivers complete?

4 **TRAINING PROVIDER REQUIREMENTS**
What do the ELDT regulations require of training providers?

5 **THE TRAINING PROVIDER REGISTRY**
What is it, and how does it support the ELDT regulations?

6 **USING THE TRAINING PROVIDER REGISTRY**
How can CDL applicants, training providers, and licensing agencies use the Registry?

Entry-Level Driver Training (ELDT) Final Rule

- Published in 2016, mandated by MAP-21
- Set a Federal standard for mandatory training of entry-level drivers
  - Establishes minimum training requirements entry-level drivers and training providers must meet
  - States may have requirements that exceed Federal requirements
- Compliance Date: February 7, 2022
- Established the need for the Training Provider Registry (TPR)

Who are entry-level drivers?

The ELDT regulations establish new minimum training standards for entry-level drivers.

This includes individuals applying for:

A Class A or Class B commercial driver's license (CDL) for the first time

An upgrade of an existing Class B CDL to a Class A CDL

A hazardous materials (H), passenger (P), or school bus (S) endorsement for the first time

The rule does not cover individuals for whom States have waived the CDL skills test under 49 CFR 383.

Driver Requirements

- **Entry-level drivers must complete the applicable training from a registered training provider.**
  - Must be completed prior to taking a CDL skills test or, if applying for the H endorsement, knowledge test.
  - Individuals who obtain a commercial learner's permit (CLP) **on or after February 7, 2022** will be required to meet the ELDT requirements.
  - Individuals who obtained a CLP before February 7, 2022 are not subject to the new ELDT regulations for obtaining a CDL, so long as they obtain a CDL or endorsement before their CLP (or renewed CLP) expires.

Training Requirements

Training Requirements

Entry-level drivers must receive training and demonstrate proficiency in the following areas:

THEORY TRAINING

- Lectures, demonstrations, computer-based, online learning, etc.
- May use a simulator
- No minimum number of hours; must score at least 80% on assessment
- Training topics include:
  - Basic Operation
  - Safe Operating Procedures
  - Advanced Operation Procedures
  - Vehicle Systems and Reporting Malfunctions
  - Non-Driving Activities (e.g., Hours of Service)

BEHIND-THE-WHEEL (BTW) TRAINING

- Actual operation of a CMV
- Takes place on a range or public road
- May not use a simulator to meet requirements
- No minimum number of hours, training provider will determine driver's proficiency
- Basic vehicle control skills and mastery of basic maneuvers

Training Requirements (continued)

- Theory and BTW trainings may be delivered by different training providers.
  - Both training providers must be registered/listed on the Training Provider Registry.
  - Both training providers would separately submit driver training information.
- BTW range and BTW public road trainings must be provided by the same training provider.
- Driver-trainees must complete both the theory and BTW portions of training within one year of each other.

Training Requirements (continued)

BTW Public Road

- Instructors must cover all topics listed and “determine and document that each driver-trainee has demonstrated proficiency in all elements of the BTW curriculum unless otherwise noted.”
  - See Appendices A and B to Part 380.
- Does not allow for “test outs” of skills training on either range or public road.

Training Provider Requirements

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What is a Training Provider?

An entity that is listed on the FMCSA Training Provider Registry.

May include:

- Training schools
- Educational institutions
- Rural electronic cooperatives
- Motor carriers
- State/local governments
- School districts
- Joint labor management
- Owner-operators
- Individuals

Training Provider Requirements

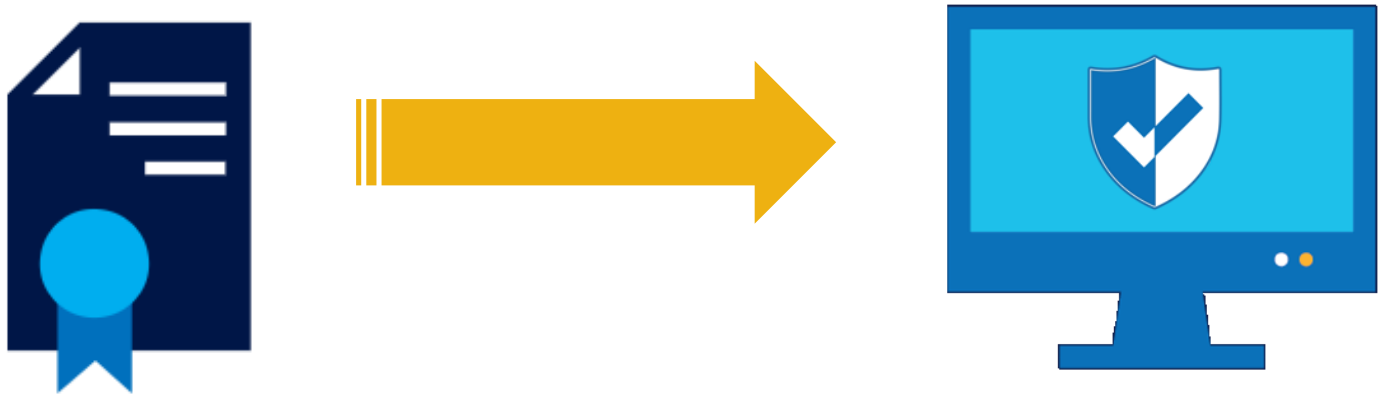
Entities wishing to provide entry-level driver training must **register** on the Training Provider Registry and **self-certify** that they meet all FMCSA requirements that apply to:

For full training provider requirements, see 49 CFR part 380 subparts F & G.

Training Provider Requirements (continued)

After a driver successfully completes the required training, the training provider must electronically submit the driver-trainee's training certification information to the Training Provider Registry.

- Must be submitted by midnight of the second business day after the driver-trainee completes the training.



The Training Provider Registry

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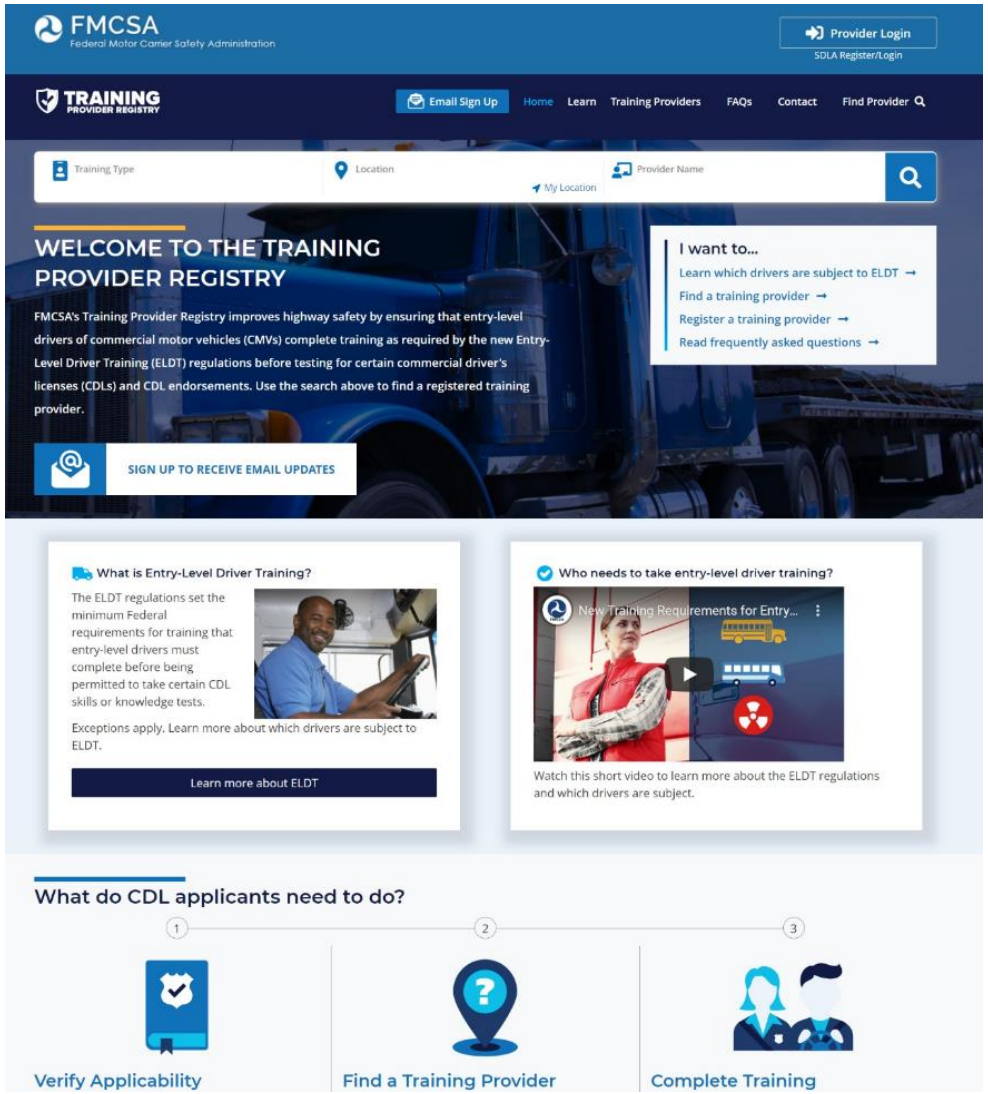
What is the Training Provider Registry?

- **An FMCSA web system that:**
  - Lists training providers eligible to provide entry-level driver training.
  - Retains a record of drivers that have successfully completed entry-level driver training.

Ensures compliance with lifesaving Entry-Level Driver Training regulations



How does the Training Provider Registry support ELDT?

Search

DRIVER selects registered training provider from list on Training Provider Registry, completes training

Submit

TRAINING PROVIDER electronically submits driver training data to Training Provider Registry

Retain

FMCSA retains driver data in Training Provider Registry

Retrieve

STATE retrieves driver data from Training Provider Registry

Using the Training Provider Registry

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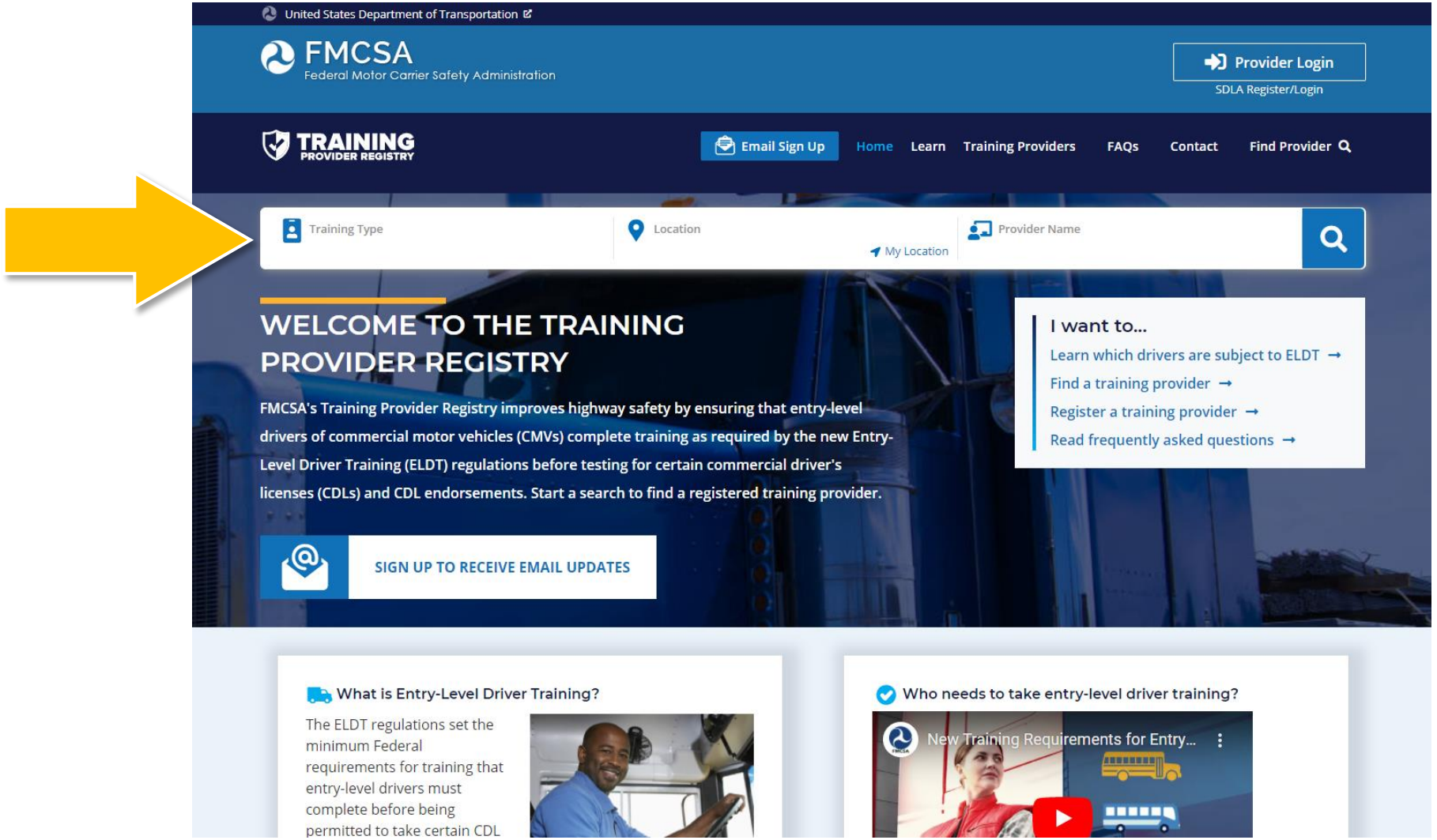
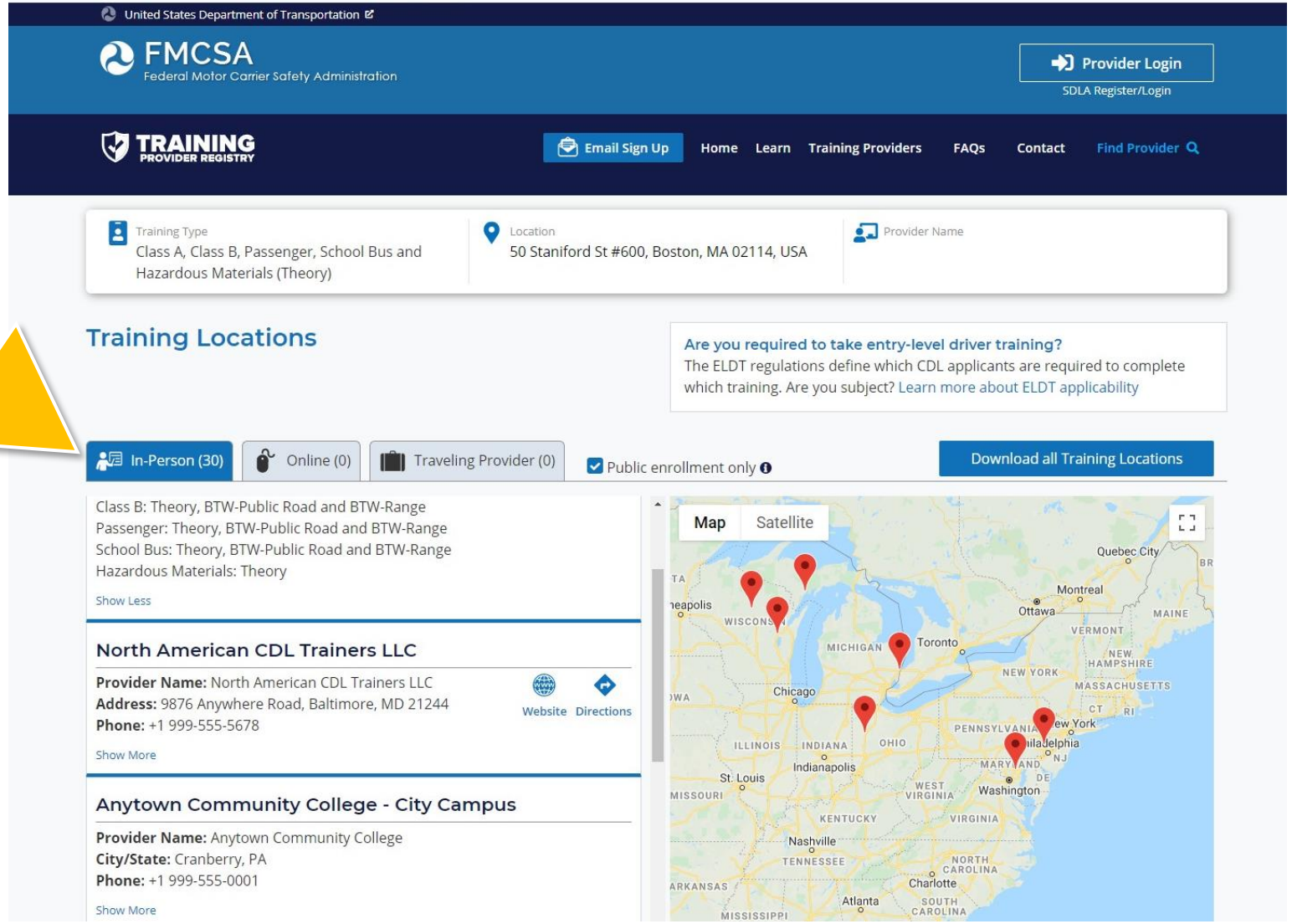
Training Provider Search



Training Provider Search (continued)

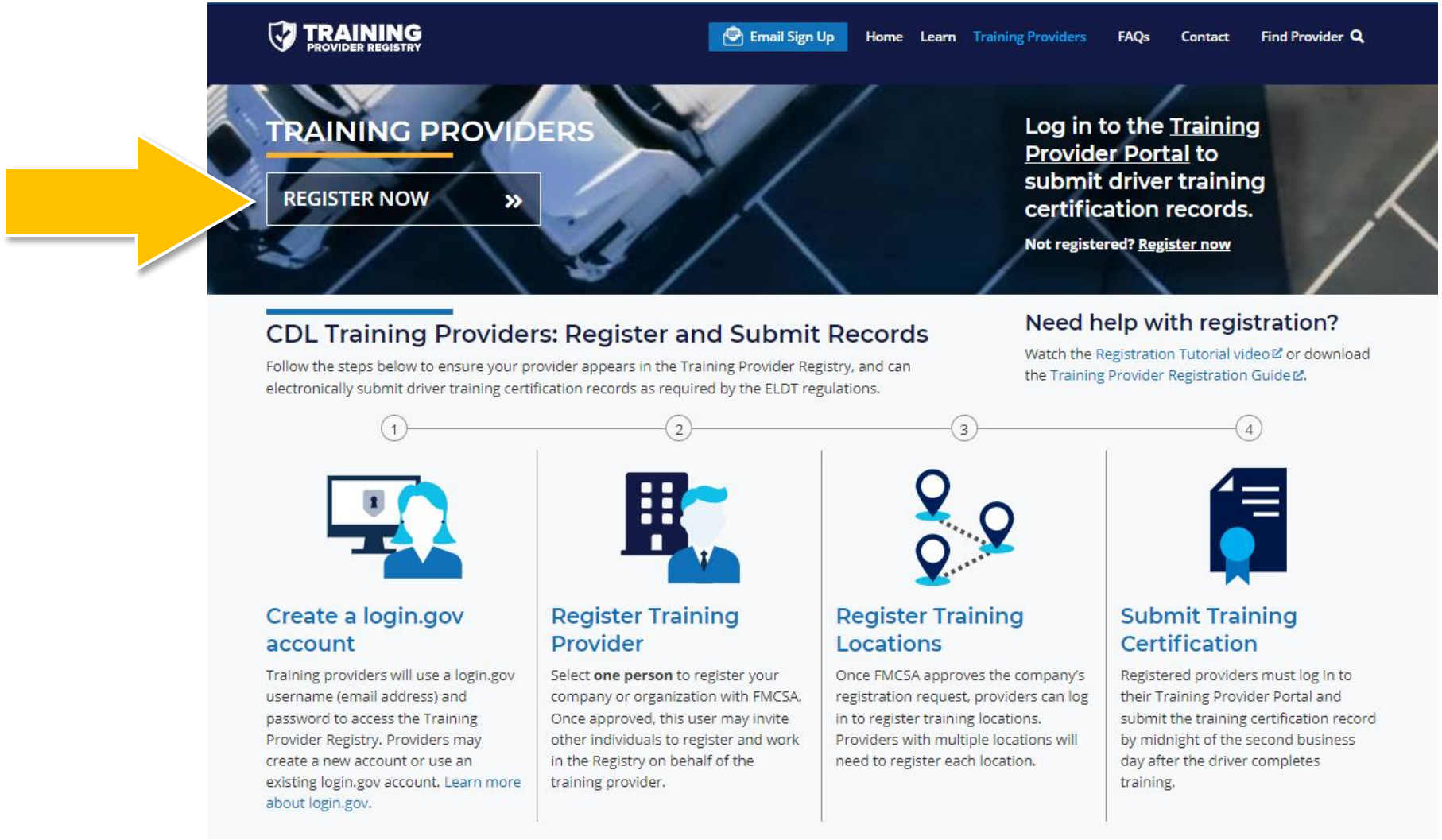


- Results list has 3 tabs:
  - In-person training locations
  - Online training
  - Traveling training providers

Drivers: Check Your Record

- Driver-trainees can use the Record Check feature to see the certification information they have in the Registry.
- Drivers will enter their name, CLP/CDL information, and answer a question about their training record to verify their identity.
- Accessed via the Training Provider Registry home page.

Training Provider Registration



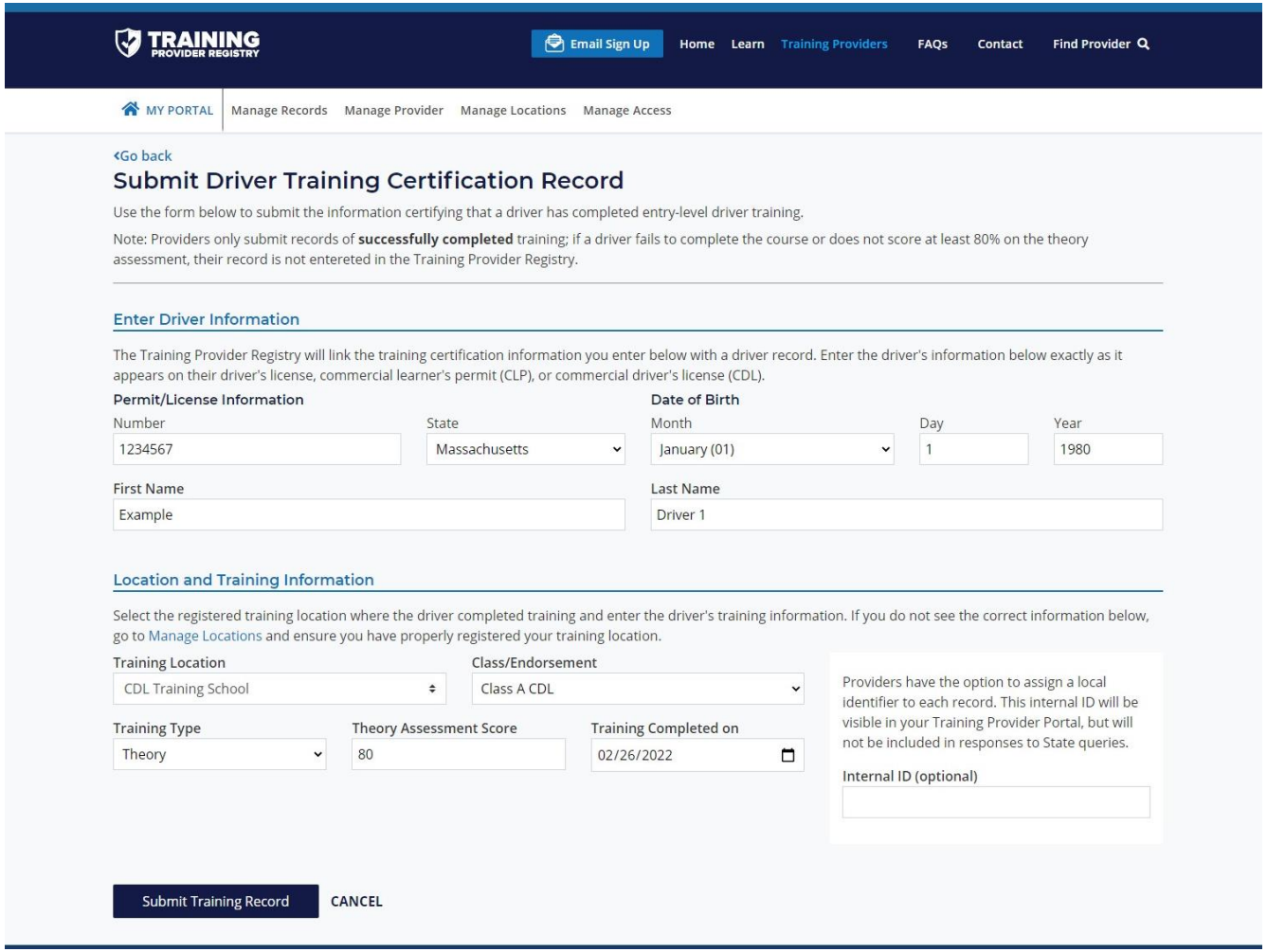
Training Location Registration

- Once FMCSA has approved the training provider (company) registration, the provider must log in to register their training location or locations.

Location information is needed to:

- Appear in the training provider search.
- Submit driver training certification information.

Training Providers: Submitting Driver Training Certification Information



- Registered training providers will log in to the Training Provider Portal.
- Select **Manage Records** > **Submit a New Record.**
- Enter the information.
- Must select from a registered training location.

Optional: TPR Web Service

The TPR Web Service submission option may be a good fit for training providers that:

- Anticipate submitting a significant number of driver training certifications on a regular basis.
- Have an existing IT system to track driver training results.
- Have an IT support team that can update your IT system to interface with TPR Web Service, per the technical specifications in the Web Services Development Handbook.

Learn more at https://tpr.fmcsa.dot.gov/DeveloperToolkit.

Questions?

To learn more about ELDT and the Training Provider Registry, visit:

https://tpr.fmcsa.dot.gov

You may also contact FMCSA's Office of Safety Programs:

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Office of Safety Programs

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE

Washington, DC 20590

Email: https://tpr.fmcsa.dot.gov/#contact