

Electronic Logging Device

ISSUE:

An Electronic Logging Device (ELD) is “technology that automatically records a driver’s driving time and other hours-of-service data.” The ELD Rule applies to most motor carriers and drivers who are required to keep driving records. This rule includes the haulers of agricultural commodities and products. The rule went into effect December 18, 2017. All agricultural related transportation received an initial 180-day rule waiver. However, only livestock and insect haulers are currently exempt from the rule.

IMPACT:

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) clarified on their website that “transporters of livestock and insects are not required to have an ELD. The statutory exemption will remain in place until further notice. Drivers do not need to carry any documentation regarding this exemption.” Livestock haulers had an exemption from ELDs through December 21, 2018, due to previous Continuing Resolutions. This latest action clarifies that the exemption will remain in place during the government shutdown or until further notice.

The exemption is not permanent. However, FMCSA did provide clarity for carrier enforcement in stating that drivers do not need to carry documentation to utilize the exemption. Other than livestock and insects, no other commodities are exempt from the ELD rule. In the 2018 Farm Bill, live fish and crawfish were included under the definition of livestock, which is applicable for DOT regulatory purposes.

ACTION:

For those who transport non-livestock/insect commodities, you are required to comply with the ELD rule. You are encouraged to pass along the information to others within your commodity groups, and contact FFBF staff or the US Department of Transportation with any questions. FFBF staff is currently working with AFBF and other industry groups to achieve long-term solutions to the ELD requirement and hours-of-service regulations.



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FFBF POLICY:

We support expanding exemptions for agriculture regarding commercial transportation requirements. We encourage the Florida Farm Bureau Federation (FFBF) to work with the agencies responsible for enforcing transportation laws to understand agriculture’s exemptions.

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Florida Farm Bureau (FFB) is the state’s largest general agriculture membership organization, with 147,000 member-families. Florida Farm Bureau’s Agricultural Policy Department facilitates the policy development process initiated by its active membership and ratified annually by the organization’s voting delegates. FFBF National Affairs works to advance policies through Florida’s congressional delegation and federal regulatory agencies.

