

**Department of Transportation
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration**

**SUPPORTING STATEMENT
“COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE
DRUG AND ALCOHOL CLEARINGHOUSE” ICR
OMB Control No. 2126-0057**

SUMMARY

This supporting statement estimates the burden hours and costs associated with Commercial Driver's License Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse (Clearinghouse).

- The total annual burden hours for this information collection is 1,653,032 hours, a decrease of 108,117 hours from the previously approved 1,761,149 hours, due to the availability of actual estimates of respondents.
- There are nine ICs where the information collected is entered into the Clearinghouse by the user having to log into a secure web site.

INTRODUCTION

This is to request the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) renewal for 3 years of the information collection titled, "Commercial Driver's License Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse" (OMB Control No. 2126-0057), which is currently due to expire on August 30, 2026.

Part A. Justification

1. CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MAKE THE COLLECTION OF INFORMATION NECESSARY

Section 32402 of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) requires the Secretary of Transportation (Secretary) to establish, operate, and maintain a national clearinghouse for records relating to alcohol and controlled substances testing of commercial motor vehicle (CMV) operators to improve compliance with the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) alcohol and controlled substances testing program and to enhance the safety of our roadways by reducing crashes and injuries involving the misuse of alcohol or use of controlled substances by operators of CMVs.

The final rule establishing the Clearinghouse was published on December 5, 2016, (81 FR 87686) (Attachment A). The effective date of the final rule was January 4, 2017, and the compliance date was January 6, 2020. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) began collecting data in September 2019.

2. HOW, BY WHOM, AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE IS THE INFORMATION USED

The information in the Clearinghouse is used by employers and State Driver Licensing Agencies (SDLA) to identify drivers who have violated the Agency's drug and alcohol rules and are prohibited from operating CMVs. The information is also used by FMCSA and State Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program partners for research and enforcement purposes. The National

Transportation Safety Board uses information about drivers involved in specific crash investigations.

The purpose of the Clearinghouse is to mandate querying and reporting requirements to diminish the problem of Commercial Driver's License (CDL) or Commercial Learner's Permit (CLP) holders testing positive for drugs or alcohol and then continuing to operate CMVs without completing the required return-to-duty (RTD) process.

3. EXTENT OF AUTOMATED INFORMATION COLLECTION

All information is entered into the Clearinghouse by logging into a secure web site. FMCSA notifies each driver via U.S. Mail that information about them has been reported to, revised or removed from the database unless the driver provides an alternative method of notification, such as email. Thus, of the six stated requirements of the rule, all must be electronic except for number six below:

1. Medical review officers (MROs) submit verified positive controlled substances test results and medical refusals to the Agency.
2. Substance abuse professionals (SAPs) report driver information upon completing an initial assessment and the completion date of the RTD process.
3. Employers or designated service agents (C/TPAs) report verified alcohol test results at or above 0.04 alcohol-concentration for drivers to the Agency.
4. Employers or C/TPAs acting on the employer's behalf submit information on refusals to test.
5. Employers report any violation of Part 382 Subpart B, including violations based on actual knowledge of drug or alcohol use, as defined in § 382.107.
6. The Clearinghouse provides notice to the driver each time his or her information is released or when new information is recorded on the driver in the Clearinghouse. In addition, a driver is given the option to receive electronic notification each time someone conducts a limited or full query on that driver. The driver is given the opportunity to opt in and provide electronic contact information when he or she registers with the Clearinghouse; otherwise, the default method of notification will be U.S. Mail.

4. EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY DUPLICATION

FMCSA is not aware of any other efforts that conflict with or duplicate this action.

5. EFFORTS TO MINIMIZE THE BURDEN ON SMALL BUSINESSES

The FMCSA drug and alcohol testing regulations apply to more than an estimated 520,000 carriers consisting of about 4 million drivers. An estimated 515,000 of these motor carriers are considered small entities. In addition, as of January 4, 2023, 2,125 MROs, 15,582 C/TPAs, and 4,396 SAPs have registered in the Clearinghouse. These authorized users verify and report positive drug and alcohol test results, test refusals, or information about the return to duty processes. MROs, C/TPAs, and SAPs are generally small entities.

The requirement to submit drug and alcohol test information pertaining to CDL and CLP holders applies to all motor carriers conducting operations regardless of size. The FMCSA is requesting no more information than is absolutely necessary to ensure compliance with the MAP-21 requirements and applicable safety regulations.

Under current FMCSA regulations, as part of the pre-employment screening, prospective employers are required to contact potential hire's previous employers dating back three years. Effective January 6, 2023, when there has been three years of entities reporting violations to the Clearinghouse, prospective employers, for a fee, will be able to make pre-employment queries to the Clearinghouse in lieu of contacting a driver's previous employers. This will reduce the time required by prospective employers to complete the pre-employment screening.

6. IMPACT OF LESS FREQUENT COLLECTION OF INFORMATION

Frequency is based on the number of positive drug and alcohol tests and refusals. With fewer positive tests and refusals, there will be less frequent collection of information. All information (except driver-notifications by FMCSA) will be transmitted electronically.

7. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Information collected occurs more frequently than on a quarterly basis as the database is updated with each additional positive test (or other violation) that occurs. Employers also report the RTD negative test results and the date the driver's follow-up testing plan has been completed. SAPs report the date of initial assessment and the date that the driver is eligible for the RTD test. This is to provide employers with the most current information possible to keep unqualified drivers from being re-employed by other motor carriers.

8. COMPLIANCE WITH 5 CFR 1320.8

FMCSA published a *Federal Register* notice announcing its intent to submit the request for renewal of this information collection to OMB on April 1, 2026 (FMCSA-2026-0727-0001) (Attachment B). That notice included a 60-day comment period. A total of 88 comments were received with 71 by the June 1, 2026, deadline, however none of the comments were in reference to the actual information collection itself, but were comments on suggested changes to the current regulation. Comments provided recommended changes to the underlying drug and alcohol regulations but did not directly address the published costs or burdens hours associated with the information collection. For example, it was widely suggested that SAPs have access to complete driver information and violation history. Associated comments included that SAPs should also be required to upload a copy of a driver's follow-up testing plan to the Clearinghouse. Additionally, concerns about SAP fraud were expressed, in which recommendations for Clearinghouse SAP credentialing verification were received. In this renewal of the approval of information collection, FMCSA sought comments on burden and costs associated with the current rule. Suggested changes to the current rule would be facilitated through a notice of proposed rulemaking per 49 CFR 389.31.

On August 4, 2026, FMCSA published a 30-day *Federal Register* notice (91 FR 49483) announcing its submission of the information collection to OMB for review and approval. Public comments on the 30-day notice will be sent directly to OMB. (Attachment C)

9. PAYMENTS OR GIFTS TO RESPONDENTS

There are no payments or gifts provided to respondents for this information collection.

10. ASSURANCE OF CONFIDENTIALITY

There is assurance of confidentiality for items included in this information collection. They are addressed in detail in the Privacy Impact Analysis (<https://www.transportation.gov/individuals/privacy/drug-and-alcohol-clearinghouse>) prepared for implementation of the Clearinghouse, Attachment D.

11. JUSTIFICATION FOR COLLECTION OF SENSITIVE INFORMATION

This information collection includes Personally Identifiable Information, which is considered sensitive information. This is addressed in detail in the Privacy Impact Analysis (<https://www.transportation.gov/individuals/privacy/drug-and-alcohol-clearinghouse>) prepared for implementation of the Clearinghouse, Attachment D.

12. ESTIMATE OF BURDEN HOURS FOR INFORMATION REQUESTED

The annual burden hours total 1,653,032 and can be separated into 9 parts. The estimated cost associated with these burden hours is \$53.5 million. The hours of the burden for specific tasks performed by entities that report to or make queries of the Clearinghouse are described below.

IC-1: Annual Queries

Based on data from the Clearinghouse, FMCSA anticipates that employers will make, on average, approximately 3.5 million limited queries annually. A limited query informs the employer that test information exists in a driver's record. Drivers are required to provide consent for a limited query, but do not have to provide that consent in the Clearinghouse. Instead, employers will obtain general consent from drivers when they are applying for employment to conduct a limited query (or queries). The Agency estimates that an office clerk will spend ten minutes (1/6th of an hour) to conduct a limited query on a single driver. Given 3,523,245 limited queries for 2025, the total number of hours spent completing them is estimated at 587,208 (3,523,245 queries x 1/6 hours per query).

FMCSA assumes that this task will be performed by an Office Clerk, Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Code 43-9061. The median associated hourly wage \$20.23.¹ To arrive at a loaded wage, the agency first estimated a load factor of 1.42 by dividing the total

¹ U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). "Occupational Employment Statistics (OES). National. May 2024. National Industry-Specific Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates. NAICS 484000 (Truck Transportation)." Available at: [Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics](https://www.bls.gov/occupational-employment-statistics) (accessed December 20, 2025).

compensation costs (\$35.22 per hour) by the wages and salaries (\$24.75 per hour) for private industry workers of the Transportation and Warehousing industry.² Multiplying the median hourly base wage of \$20.23 by this fully loaded wage rate factor results in a fully loaded hourly wage of \$28.79. Therefore, the total cost of this task is \$16,904,473 (587,208 hours × \$28.79).

IC-2: Pre-Employment Queries

Employers will make full queries to the Clearinghouse as part of the pre-employment screening process of potential hires and for other reasons, such as when a limited query result is “information found,” requiring the employer to then make a full query to determine the nature of the Clearinghouse record. The FMCSA estimates employers will perform approximately 2.7 million pre-employment full queries per year. The Agency estimates that an office clerk will spend ten minutes (1/6th of an hour) to conduct a full query on a single driver. Given 2,748,799 million queries, the total number of hours spent completing them is 458,133 (2,748,799 queries × 1/6 hours per query). Based on the BLS \$28.79 per hour loaded wage for an office clerk, the estimated cost of performing this task is \$13,188,693 (458,133 hours × \$28.79).

IC-3: Designate C/TPAs

Employers may designate C/TPAs to query and/or report to the Clearinghouse on their behalf. The FMCSA estimates that an office clerk will spend ten minutes (1/6th of an hour) to designate a C/TPA. Based on the number of C/TPA’s that have been designated in the Clearinghouse in 2025, FMCSA anticipates that 3,290 new C/TPAs will be designated annually. Given the 3,290 new C/TPA designations annually, the total number of hours spent to fulfill this requirement is 548 (3,290 designations × 1/6 hours per designation). Based on the BLS \$28.79 per hour loaded wage for an office clerk, the cost of performing this task is \$15,785 (548 hours × \$28.79).

IC4: SAPs Report Driver Information

SAPs will be required to input information to the Clearinghouse about drivers who initiate and complete the RTD process. FMCSA estimates that 202,345 drivers will be required to have their information input by an SAP. The Agency estimates that SAPs will spend a total of ten minutes (1/6th of an hour) entering driver information. Therefore, the total number of hours spent to fulfill this requirement is estimated at 33,724 (202,345 designations x 1/6 hours per designation). FMCSA assumes that this task will be performed by an Occupational Health and Safety Specialist (SOC 19-5011). The BLS estimated hourly wage with fringe benefits and overhead for this occupation is \$44.47 per hour. The estimated cost for SAPs to complete this task is \$1,499,703 (202,345 hours x \$44.47).

IC-5: Report/Notify Positive Tests/Other Violations

MROs, C/TPAs, and employers will be required to report information to the Clearinghouse. The number of reports from 2025 indicate that 57,507 drug and alcohol violations were reported to the Clearinghouse. The Agency estimates that an office clerk will spend ten minutes reporting positive test results, reporting information on a driver's failure to appear for a

² U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). “Employer Costs for Employee Compensation- March 2025.” Available at: [Employer Costs for Employee Compensation - March 2025](#) (accessed December 20, 2025).

test or reporting information on treatment processes to the Clearinghouse. In sum, 9,585 hours will be spent on reporting test results to the Clearinghouse (57,507 reports × 1/6 hours per report). Based on the BLS \$28.79 per hour loaded wage for an office clerk the cost for this task is \$275,918 (9,585 hours × \$28.79).

IC-6: Register/Familiarize

Employers, C/TPAs, MROs, and SAPs will be required to register and become familiar with the new processes and requirements of the Clearinghouse. Based on the number of registrations in the Clearinghouse in 2025, the Agency estimates there will be 79,065 carriers, 3,290 C/TPAs, 175 MROs, and 712 SAPs that will be required to fulfill these requirements. The FMCSA estimates that it will take an office clerk 20 minutes (1/3rd of an hour) to register and receive credentials and another ten minutes to become familiar with the new processes. Given the total of 83,242 such instances of registration, reception of credentials, and familiarization, the total number of hours spent to fulfill this requirement is 27,747 (83,242 registration-familiarizations × 1/3 hours per registration-familiarization). The FMCSA assumes a \$28.79 per hour wage for an office clerk assigned this task. The cost of these tasks is \$798,788 (27,747 hours × \$28.79).

IC-7: Authorization Verification

Employers, C/TPAs, MROs, and SAPs must verify the names of people authorized to report and obtain information from the Clearinghouse. Based on the current number of registrations, FMCSA estimates that 83,242 verifications will occur each year (79,065 carrier registrations + 3,290 C/TPA registrations, + 175 MRO registrations + 712 SAP registrations). Further, FMCSA estimates that it will take an office clerk ten minutes (1/6th of an hour) to verify each person authorized. The total number of hours spent to fulfill this requirement is 13,874 (83,242 × 1/6 hours per registration-familiarization). The cost for these tasks performed by an office clerk at \$28.79 per hour is \$399,394 (13,874 hours × \$28.79).

IC-8: Driver Consent Verification Full Annual Queries

IC-1 above describes how employers' cost of performing limited annual queries is estimated. Drivers will also incur time-related costs to comply with the requirement of the annual query process for which they are responsible. The FMCSA assumes that all employers will initially make limited queries to comply with the annual query requirement. The FMCSA assumes that employers will obtain general consent from drivers when they are hired that will serve as drivers' consent for the employer to make a limited annual query (or queries) from drivers at the time they submit an employment application. The FMCSA estimates employers will perform approximately 192,240 driver consent verification full queries. The Agency estimates that an office clerk will spend ten minutes (1/6th of an hour) to conduct a full query on a single driver. The total number of hours spent is 32,040 (192,240 queries × 1/6 hours per query). Based on the BLS \$28.79 per hour loaded wage for an office clerk, the estimated cost of performing this task is \$922,364 (32,040 hours × \$28.79).

IC-9: Driver Consent Verifications for Pre-employment Queries

A driver must consent, via the Clearinghouse, to an employer's request for a full annual query before the driver's information is made available to the employer. Therefore, drivers' time required to consent for performing a full annual query is included as a burden for this PRA.

As described in Item (b), there are two types of full annual queries (pre-employment and other full queries) that require driver consent made through the Clearinghouse before the driver-specific information is made available to the employer. The FMCSA estimates that it will take a driver ten minutes (1/6th of an hour) to provide driver consent to release information. Given 2,748,799 pre-employment queries and 192,240 average full queries performed for other reasons that require driver consent in 2025, the number of hours spent on pre-employment queries is 490,173 (2,941,039 queries x 1/6 hours per query). FMCSA estimates a driver's loaded hourly wage at \$39.79. We assume that respondent occupations correspond to Motor Vehicle Operators, Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Code 53-3000. The median hourly wage of Motor Vehicle Operators (SOC Code 53-3000) in the Truck Transportation industry (NAICS Code 484000) is \$27.96.³

Given that the annual burden is estimated at 490,173 hours this results in an estimated annual cost to respondents of \$19,502,974 (490,173 hours × \$39.79 per hour).

New-CDL and CDL-Renewal Queries

Both the Clearinghouse I and II final rules require SDLAs to access a driver's information in the Clearinghouse prior to issuing, renewing, upgrading, or transferring a CDL to determine whether the driver is qualified to operate a CMV. The FMCSA developed a web service to integrate this function into the Commercial Driver's License Information System (CDLIS) pointer system, which connects the records of CDL-holders in all 50 States and the District of Columbia, as well as a direct connection solution between the SDLAs and the Clearinghouse. The FMCSA is working closely with the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, which administers CDLIS, to provide for the most efficient and least burdensome method of granting SDLAs access to the Clearinghouse. The marginal costs associated with including the additional functionality required to grant access to the Clearinghouse are negligible. Accordingly, FMCSA does not associate any specific cost to this element.

³ U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). "Occupational Employment Statistics (OES). National. May 2020. National Industry-Specific Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates. NAICS 484000 (Truck Transportation)." Available at: [May 2021 National Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates \(bls.gov\)](https://www.bls.gov/publications/may2021/naics484000.htm) (accessed February 11, 2022).

The table below summarizes the calculations described above.

Table 1. Total Annual Number of Burden Hours and Associated Cost by Task								
IC	Submissions	Responsible	Performed by	Instances/ Respondents/ Responses	Minutes	Total Hours	Hourly Wage	Total Cost
IC-1	Annual Queries	Employer	Office Clerk	3,523,245	10	587,208	\$ 28.79	\$16,904,473
IC-2	Pre-Employment Queries	Employer	Office Clerk	2,748,799	10	458,133	\$ 28.79	\$13,188,693
IC-3	Designate C/TPAs	Employer	Office Clerk	3,290	10	548	\$ 28.79	\$15,785
IC-4	SAPs Report Driver Information Following Initial Assessment	SAPs	Occupational Health Specialist	202,345	10	33,724	\$ 44.47	\$1,499,703
IC-5	Report/Notify Positive Tests/Other Violations	Various	Office Clerk	57,507	10	9,585	\$ 28.79	\$275,918
IC-6	Register / Familiarize	Various	Office Clerk	83,242	20	27,747	\$ 28.79	\$798,788
IC-7	Authorization Verification	Various	Office Clerk	83,242	10	13,874	\$ 28.79	\$399,394
IC-8	Driver Consent Verification Full Annual Queries	Drivers	Office Clerk	192,240	10	32,040	\$ 28.79	\$922,364
IC-9	Driver Consent Verifications for Pre-employment Queries	Drivers	Drivers	2,941,039	10	490,173	\$ 39.79	\$19,502,974
	Total			9,834,949		1,653,032		\$53,508,092

Estimated Annual Burden Hours: 1,653,032

Estimated Annual Number Respondents: 9,834,949

Estimated Annual Cost: \$53,508,092

13. ESTIMATE OF TOTAL ANNUAL COSTS TO RESPONDENTS

Item 12 contains the monetized cost of time of respondents to make queries of, and report information to, the Clearinghouse. As shown in the table below, in addition to the costs in Item 12, employers will be charged Clearinghouse access fees estimated at \$8.0 million. Currently,

employers are charged \$1.25 for each query, whether full or limited, made to the Clearinghouse.

Table 2. Employer Clearinghouse Access Fees			
Query Type	Estimated Number of Queries	Cost per Query	Cost
Pre-employment Query	2,748,799	\$1.25	\$3,435,999
Annual Query-Limited	3,523,245	\$1.25	\$4,404,056
Annual Query-Full	192,240	\$1.25	\$240,300
Total	6,464,284		\$8,080,355

Employers also have the option to purchase an unlimited query option for \$24,500 per year.

14. ESTIMATE OF COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

FMCSA estimates an annual cost to the Federal Government of \$9.220 million, to include Call Center support of \$7 million, staff salaries of \$1.2 million, contract support of \$960K, and staff travel of \$60K.

15. EXPLANATION OF PROGRAM CHANGES OR ADJUSTMENTS

Both the number of responses and the annual burden hours decreased during the past 3 years. This burden hour decrease is due to the availability of more accurate estimates of respondents drawn from the first few years of the Clearinghouse's operation, as opposed to the estimates used during the rulemaking establishing the Clearinghouse. From item 12 above, the number of responses decreased by 604,890, the burden hours decreased by 108,117 and the cost burden decreased by \$4,238,669.

Table 3. Program Changes or Adjustments			
Information Collection Version	Annual Number of Responses	Annual Burden Hours	Annual Cost Burden
Currently Approved under OMB Control Number 2126-0057	10,439,839	1,761,149	\$57,746,761
Revised Estimates	9,834,949	1,653,032	\$53,508,092
Total Change in Burden from the Currently Approved Collection of Information	-604,890	-108,117	\$(4,238,669)

16. PUBLICATION OF RESULTS OF DATA COLLECTION

FMCSA will not publish any individual driver's drug and alcohol test results or any other information containing personally identifiable information.

17. APPROVAL FOR NOT DISPLAYING THE EXPIRATION DATE OF OMB APPROVAL

FMCSA is not seeking approval to not display the expiration date of OMB approval of the information collection.

18. EXCEPTIONS TO CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

There are no exceptions to the certification statement.

Part B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods

This ICR does not employ statistical methodologies.

Attachments

- A. Final rule (81 FR 87686), December 5, 2016.
- B. 60-day FR Notice (87 FR 66771), November 4, 2022.
- C. 30-day FR Notice (ass citation and date once published)
- D. Privacy Impact Assessment for the Clearinghouse Final Rule, June 20, 2019.