



## ***ELP ENFORCEMENT UPDATE***

01/07/26

### **California Highway Patrol Begins Enforcing English Language Proficiency Requirements**

The **California Highway Patrol** has begun enforcing the **English Language Proficiency (ELP) Out-of-Service Criteria (OOSC)** for drivers of commercial motor vehicles.

Drivers who are unable to satisfy the ELP requirements are now subject to out-of-service violations as directed by **updated guidance** issued by the **Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)** on May 20, 2025 and subsequently incorporated into the **Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) North America Standard OOSC** on June 25, 2025.

The **guidance directs law enforcement to conduct all roadside inspections in English** and outlines the specific procedures for assessing a driver's compliance with the ELP requirements.

An ELP assessment conducted by an inspector will include:

- 1) An interview to determine the driver's ability to respond sufficiently in English; and
- 2) The ability to read and interpret road signs, including dynamic roadside message signs.

Drivers are prohibited from using communication aids such as interpreters, cue cards, or smartphone apps during a roadside ELP assessment.

**Failure to meet the ELP assessment criteria, as determined by the inspector, will result in the driver being placed out-of-service.**

However, drivers in **border commercial zones** along the **U.S-Mexico border** are subject to citation for noncompliance but will not be placed out-of-service solely for failing to demonstrate English proficiency.

To view the updated, **unredacted** guidance document from FMCSA, including interview questions and highway traffic signs, [click here](#).

If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to **Nick Chiappe** at [nchiappe@caltrux.org](mailto:nchiappe@caltrux.org).