



# ELP ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

02/12/26

## Update on English Language Proficiency Enforcement

The California **Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)** has implemented new guardrails following the state's recent enforcement of the **English Language Proficiency (ELP)** Out-of-Service Criteria (OOSC) for commercial motor vehicle drivers.

If a roadside inspector determined that a driver does not meet the ELP requirement and places them out of service, **the driver will receive a notice from the DMV directing them to visit a field office for an ELP assessment.**

**DMV's ELP assessment** aligns with **FMCSA's updated guidance** and requires a driver to **answer interview questions and interpret highway road signs in English.**

The **assessment will be administered orally**, allowing up to three chances. The third and final attempt will be conducted as a written assessment in English.

**Failure to appear** for the assessment will result in the **suspension of the driver's CDL**. If a driver does not successfully pass all three attempts, their CDL will be **automatically downgraded** to a non-commercial license.

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