



Whitepaper

Human Interaction is Key for Successful ELDs

A Fleetworthy Close-Up



It's clear Hours of Service (HOS) management is a critical aspect of safety operations, as fatigue has proven to be a top cause of all accidents involving a Commercial Motor Vehicle.

Electronic Logging Devices (ELDs) are the best tool available to capture HOS data and measure against the HOS minimums set forth by the FMCSA in a standardized format. These devices are relied on heavily in our industry to act as the de facto HOS clock, referred to in audits, roadside inspections, and litigations. The HOS rules are specific in writing and expected to be followed, resulting in ELD manufacturers building and implementing logic and timetables into a recordable and presentable electronic device that your organization and law enforcement can access on demand.

There are many reasons why utilizing an ELD is critical for business operations and meeting minimum regulations established by the DOT and FMCSA. But what if the ELD is not painting an actual picture of compliance or risk and instead is providing a false sense of security for your fleet? Are you depending on your ELD to manage your HOS, or are you an active participant in the process?

The Value of Personal Connection

Successful fleet managers engage with their drivers on a personal level. Is there something going on in their lives that is affecting or limiting their rest periods and creating fatigue situations? Examples may include a second job, sick family members, or marital issues. Sometimes life gets in the way and drivers should feel comfortable telling their

managers they are too stressed or fatigued to drive without potential severe consequences.

Managers also need to review routes for compliance and reasonableness. If the route is too long, the driver is setup to fail from the beginning.

The intentions of ELDs were to make it easier and faster to accurately track, manage, and share HOS data, as well as create a safer working environment. While there is no doubt tracking HOS data is much easier than it was with paper logs, the data still needs to be analyzed and managed by a safety professional.

According to the 'Compliance, Safety, Accountability' (CSA) enforcement program, HOS violations in 2022 accounted for 3 of the top 10 violations with out-of-service (OOS) orders. The top HOS violations include exceeding the 11 or 14-hour limits, not taking 10 hours off, and false logs.

These statistics reveal that management is relying too heavily on ELDs and should start manually reviewing logs daily and hold their drivers accountable for following HOS rules.

The Impact of ELDs Alone

If you look at data published by the FMCSA in October 2022, regarding crashes involving fatality or injury, it shows ELDs are not as effective on their own as they are paired with diligent human interactions.

Accident rates for "accident by 100 million miles" increased 10% from 2016 (the year before the ELD mandate was



enforced) to 2019. This shows relying strictly on ELD data may not be an effective HOS management strategy for fleets or public safety.

Considering the cost of implementing these devices, one would expect to have an ROI specific to reduction in accidents/injuries/fatalities while also minimizing the workload on a motor carrier. Instead, increases in accidents, risk and significant lawsuits have grown based on the average size of verdicts since the ELD mandate went into effect.

According to the American Transportation Research Institute's (ATRI) "Impact of Nuclear Verdicts" study, fatigue and hours of service were the #2 and #3 reasons by cases with a 95% success rate in verdicts. In many of these cases, the driver's hours of service were egregiously in violation with the motor carrier found to be responsible and/or negligent.

How a motor carrier manages their ELD compliance, including reports, trends, and data output, is critical to going beyond the minimum requirements while not falling victim to complacent compliance.

If an audit is called tomorrow, how confident are you that you'd receive a satisfactory rating? Would your feeling of confidence increase knowing you had a partner in compliance that has the experience and tools needed to provide support?

How Fleetworthy Helps

Fleetworthy has the tools to ingest information from your ELD, identify trends, actionable data, and is able to provide recommendations to improve your overall standing within HOS Basic.

A single source of truth, providing visibility 24/7/365 into your fleet and drivers is crucial to creating a safety net around your operations. With Fleetworthy's CPSuite, you have a driver's HOS record at your fingertips while also providing your team with the ability to manage other safety regulated and risk minimizing requirements such as DVIR/ EVIR, maintenance records and driver qualification records.

Additionally, Fleetworthy's experienced team of experts are adept at interpreting the information coming from all data sources, compiling into a single dashboard that provides a C-Suite level layout while also providing the details required for effective day-to-day fleet management. Having these resources at your disposal allows you to focus on the right areas and free up time to maintain the personal interaction needed with one of your most valuable resources - your drivers.

With Fleetworthy, you'll go beyond the minimum standards of compliance. Together, we can help minimize the number of daily accidents one driver at a time.



Fleetworthy's proven solutions for fleet safety, compliance, toll management, and weigh station bypass help you streamline workflows and monitor risks in real time. With our automation capabilities and reliable data, you can go above and beyond minimum compliance requirements and trust that your records will stand up to the scrutiny of a DOT audit. Visit [Fleetworthy.com](https://fleetworthy.com) today to learn more about how our solutions can take your business beyond compliant and request a time to speak with our experts.

Fleetworthy is revolutionizing fleet management with proven solutions for safety, compliance, and efficiency. Our technology suite provides real-time insights and control, enabling customers to maximize efficiency, reduce risk, and save money.

With technology to improve safety, compliance, toll management, weigh station bypass, and more, Fleetworthy empowers fleets to perform at their best. We simplify operations to ensure every vehicle and driver is not just compliant, but beyond compliant.

Supporting millions of drivers and vehicles, Fleetworthy is leading a new era in fleet management technology. Our vision is to create a future where fleets operate with unparalleled safety and efficiency.

At Fleetworthy, we're not just powering fleets—we're driving the future of transportation. Join us in turning challenges into opportunities and helping your business reach new heights.

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