

Nova Scotia Electronic logging devices Q& A

The Nova Scotia Provincial Commercial Drivers' Hours of Service Regulations are being updated 1 January 2023. These Regulations were updated to include Electronic Logging Devices.

1. Do these requirements apply to me?

As a general guide, at this time, if you are a federal motor carrier, and are currently required to complete a daily log under Hours of Service requirements, a certified ELD is required.

If you are a Provincially regulated motor carrier in Nova Scotia, you are not required to have an ELD at this time.

2. Will there be a soft enforcement approach in Nova Scotia?

Nova Scotia will do soft enforcement for 6 months with education & inspection.

3. Have the day rules, shift rules, or cycle rules changed with the new ELD requirements.

No, the only change is how the daily logs (record of duty status) is being recorded.

4. Are there any exemptions?

You can only drive without an ELD if:

- Driving within 160 km of where you began your day and return at the end of the day to the same location where you began
- Driving a rented commercial motor vehicle, if the rental agreement is 30 days or less and has not been extended or renewed
- Driving a commercial motor vehicle with a model year before 2000 (model year 2000 or newer vehicles but with a pre-2000 engine are not exempt)
- Operating under a federal permit issued by a provincial director
- Operating under an exemption granted under section 16 of the Motor Vehicle Transport Act
- Intra-provincial motor carrier travelling only within Nova Scotia.

5. I am a federally regulated carrier in Nova Scotia, and operate outside Nova Scotia? Do I need an ELD as of 1 January 2023?

Yes, you will need an ELD as of 1 January 2023. Unless you meet an exemption listed in question 4.

6. I am a Nova Scotia Provincially regulated motor carrier but only operate inside Nova Scotia and outside the 160 local hours of service exemption. Do I need an ELD as of 1 January 2023?

No, at this time, provincially regulated motor carriers are not required to have an ELD outside the 160 km exemption until 1 January 2024.

7. I am a federally regulated carrier in Nova Scotia, but I only drive my Nova Scotia PR plated vehicle within Nova Scotia. Do I need an ELD as of 1 January 2023?

Due to the fact Nova Scotia is delaying the applicability of the rule to inter-provincial carriers until 2024, if you stay in the province, other RODs will be accepted and an ELD is not required.

8. Do I need to have a certain type of ELD?

Yes, your ELD must be certified by a third party from Transport Canada listed on their website.

<https://tc.canada.ca/en/road-transportation/electronic-logging-devices/list-certified-electronic-logging-devices>

9. What documents do I need to carry in my vehicle?

As a commercial driver you must also make sure that each commercial vehicle you operate has an ELD information packet that includes the latest versions of:

- a user's manual
- instructions on how to transfer data from the ELD, and how to transfer a driver's hours of service to an inspector
- printed instructions on what to do if the ELD malfunctions, and
- enough blank RODS so the driver can record the information for at least 15 days

10. Will there be a provision for a Nova Scotia Federal carrier who has 1 truck and only travels minimal kms per year (5-8000km)

No, exemptions are listed in Question 2.

11. Will there be an exemption for tow trucks? Emergency vehicles?

No exemption of tow trucks unless they meet requirements in question 2. Emergency vehicles continue to be exempt as the regulations do not apply to them.

12. What will be required when an extra provincial unit that primarily operates within its 160 km radius is required to leave its 160 km radius to facilitate repairs? (IE: D plated dump truck needs to go to ST John NB)

A Nova Scotia commercial vehicle (PR plated or D plated) travelling between provinces and outside the 160 km exemption is required to have an ELD.

13. I had a question today from a NB Carrier, his company is specialized in buying, repairing and re-selling commercial vehicles, when he delivers the vehicles in Nova Scotia he's operating on Transit Permit.

Intransit permits do not have a registered weight exceeding 4500 kg. Therefore, they do not meet the definition of a commercial vehicle.

14. If a carrier has multiple units but not all of them have prorated plates. Do the drivers of the vehicles not prorated need to operate an ELD as a federal carrier?

Due to the fact Nova Scotia is delaying the applicability of the rule to intra-provincial carriers until 2024, if you stay in the province, other RODs will be accepted and an ELD is not required. See question 6.