



# 2017 Report on Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Skills Testing Delays

## BACKGROUND

States are required to test commercial driver's license (CDL) applicants for the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for the safe operation of the applicant's intended commercial motor vehicle (CMV).

Section 5506 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, 2015 (FAST Act) requires the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to conduct an annual survey of CDL skills testing delays in each State and in the District of Columbia (D.C.).

## STUDY APPROACH

The study is based on a survey covering five broad areas of CDL skills testing process in each State: (1) State laws and policies; (2) CDL skills testing delays; (3) CDL skills testing volume and demand; (4) CDL skills testing resources; and (5) General comments and feedback.

This report covers wait times experienced from January 1 to December 31, 2016, to allow for a full year's collection of data. Future reports will cover subsequent 1-year periods.

## FINDINGS

Key findings are summarized in Table 1 on the next page. The survey was sent to all 50 States and D.C.; 46 responded, for a 90 percent response rate. Responses varied in detail: one State provided only general comments, one State only provided wait times at a few test locations, and others provided detailed information about each segment of the CDL skills test.

Nine (9) States do not use third-party resources, 9 States use only third-party resources, and 26 States use both

State and third-party resources (6 States did not respond to the survey).

States cited various reasons for using third-party testing; the majority indicated that State testing alone would not provide enough resources to cover skills test demand, or they wanted to provide applicants with additional locations for testing. States that do not use third-party testing frequently cited fraud as a concern, and some States that use third-party testing limited options to reduce the possibility of fraud. Some States noted that they would not have the additional resources necessary to properly monitor third-party programs. Additionally, a few States that do not currently use third-party testing are actively considering implementing third-party testing in the future.

While third-party testing locations tend to have shorter wait times than State locations, the majority of both State and third-party testing locations had net wait times of less than 7 days. Given the relatively short overall delays, States choosing not to use third-party resources did not seem to experience significant adverse impacts.

## LIMITATIONS

Not all States reported every requested statistic. Some statistics were estimated based on available data. For example, the number of CDLs issued was estimated from the number of scheduled tests and retests minus cancelled and failed tests. In this example, known confounding factors exist, such as CDLs that do not require a skills test. Estimated statistics are clearly indicated in the report and should be applied with caution.

To read the complete report, please visit: [<https://rosap.ntl.bts.gov/view/dot/53959>]



**Table 1. Number of Skills Tests, CDL Skills Testing Delays, Number of Qualified Examiners, and Number of Testing Sites, by State, Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2016.**

State	Number of Initial Tests	Initial CDL Skills Test Net Wait Time* Sec. 5506(1)(A)	Number of Re-Tests	CDL Skills Re-Test Net Wait Time* Sec. 5506(1)(B)	Number of Qualified Examiners Sec. 5506(1)(C)	Number of Testing Sites Available Sec. 5506(1)(D)	Increase or Decrease in Number of Sites from Previous Year Sec. 5506(1)(D)
Alabama	Not Reported	0 days	Not Reported	13 days	155	23	No Change
Alaska	Not Reported	25 days	Not Reported	32 days	137	43	Increased
Arkansas	Not Reported	1 day	Not Reported	5 days	53	40	Decreased
California	Not Reported	23 days	Not Reported	37 days	514	148	Decreased
Colorado	8,108	0 days	1,351	0 days	230	90	Decreased
Connecticut	5,781	2 days	1,734	2 days	25	3	No Change
District of Columbia	Not Reported	0 days	Not Reported	27 days	4	1	No Change
Florida	69,926	0 days	5,131	0 days	396	200	No Change
Georgia	16,990	0 days	5,950	7 days	262	94	No Change
Hawaii	Not Reported	0 days	Not Reported	7 days	9	7	No Change
Idaho	Not Reported	0 days	Not Reported	0 days	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported
Illinois	Not Reported	5 days	Not Reported	5 days	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported
Indiana	13,985	0 days	Not Reported	8 days	38	11	Decreased
Iowa	27,879	4 days	3,702	13 days	262	47	Decreased
Kentucky	4,804	0 days	2,354	2 days	40	34	No Change
Maine	2,440	0 days	1,583	15 days	24	21	No Change
Maryland	6,605	11 days	1,595	25 days	145	28	No Change
Massachusetts	Not Reported	16 days	Not Reported	30 days	26	18	No Change
Michigan	Not Reported	0 days	Not Reported	3 days	90	69	Decreased
Minnesota	2,094	1 day	Not Reported	1 day	190	80	No Change
Mississippi	Not Reported	3 days	Not Reported	18 days	Not Reported	Not Reported	Not Reported
Missouri	Not Reported	0 days	Not Reported	4 days	84	22	No Change
Montana	6,453	6 days	Not Reported	13 days	59	20	No Change
Nebraska	3,499	0 days	3,732	Not Reported	177	61	Increased
Nevada	13,466	0 days	1,166	7 days	73	33	Decreased
New Hampshire	1,967	0 days	Not Reported	4 days	9	5	No Change
New Jersey	16,969	47 days	5,000	31 days	110	12	No Change
New Mexico	2,125	0 days	565	2 days	90	64	Increased
North Carolina	25,760	0 days	3,183	9 days	359	217	No Change
North Dakota	2,960	2 days	Not Reported	16 days	40	11	No Change
Ohio	Not Reported	0 days	Not Reported	0 days	49	11	No Change
Oklahoma	15,058	0 days	6,274	5 days	30	23	Decreased
Oregon	4,619	13 days	1,004	17 days	128	230	Increased
Pennsylvania	30,985	0 days	12,530	0 days	451	143	Increased
Rhode Island	1,396	0 days	Not Reported	0 days	5	1	No Change
South Carolina	6,792	0 days	Not Reported	0 days	65	113	Increased
South Dakota	1,585	0 days	Not Reported	1 day	21	40	No Change
Tennessee	22,547	0 days	5,997	7 days	122	71	No Change
Texas	Not Reported	14 days	Not Reported	27 days	160	Not Reported	Not Reported
Utah	9,304	0 days	2,158	10 days	201	228	Increased
Virginia	Not Reported	0 days	Not Reported	7 days	197	165	No Change
Washington	7,786	0 days	3,225	4 days	123	106	No Change
West Virginia	3,271	0 days	409	0 days	26	26	No Change
Wisconsin	28,577	0 days	7,961	0 days	224	103	Decreased
Wyoming	Not Reported	0 days	Not Reported	4 days	61	78	No Change

\*The net wait time is reported, which is the current scheduling wait time minus any mandatory waiting period, since applicants can schedule their test while they are still in the mandatory waiting period.

