

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY



FMCSA Regulation § 391.11(b)(2) requires commercial motor vehicle drivers to “read and speak the English language sufficiently to converse with the general public, to understand highway traffic signs and signals in the English language, to respond to official inquiries, to and make entries on reports and records.”

The trucking industry has been clear and consistent on this issue: it cannot support or advocate for any policies that undermine or conflict with existing federal safety regulations. Compliance with FMCSA requirements is essential to maintaining roadway safety, ensuring effective communication with enforcement and emergency personnel, and upholding uniform national standards.

STATES WITH THE MOST VIOLATIONS BY LICENSE PLATE



PRIOR TO ELP ENFORCEMENT, 21 U.S. STATES OFFERED THE CDL WRITTEN TEST IN SPANISH.

STATES SUCH AS CALIFORNIA AND WASHINGTON SIGNIFICANTLY EXACERBATE CONCERNS RELATED TO COMPLIANCE WITH FMCSA REGULATIONS. THESE STATES OFFERED CDL KNOWLEDGE TESTS IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES. AS A RESULT, THERE ARE DRIVERS CURRENTLY OPERATING ON THE NATION’S HIGHWAYS WHO OBTAINED THEIR CDL BY TESTING IN A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH, RAISING ONGOING CONCERNS ABOUT UNIFORM SAFETY STANDARDS AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE.



BEFORE ENFORCEMENT CALIFORNIA ADMINISTERED CDL TESTS IN SEVEN LANGUAGES: ENGLISH, SPANISH, ARMENIAN, CHINESE, HINDI, PUNJABI, AND VIETNAMESE. BEFORE 2021, CA OFFERED THE TEST IN 25 LANGUAGES. MANY DRIVERS STILL CARRY CDL



WASHINGTON STATE OFFERS CDL TESTING IN FOUR LANGUAGES: ENGLISH, SPANISH, RUSSIAN, AND SERBIAN-CROATIAN.

THE FOLLOWING STATES HAVE SEEN MAJOR INCREASES IN ELP VIOLATIONS SINCE FEDERAL ENFORCEMENT:



1100%



665%



600%



500%



317%



282%



242%



233%



166%



166%