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Friday Safety Brief

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CDL Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse: Return to Duty Process

Per [Title 49 CFR parts 40 and 382](#), drivers with drug or alcohol violations are given “prohibited” status in the FMCSA’s Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse. As of **November 18, 2024**, all prohibited drivers will lose either existing commercial driving privileges or their approval for a Commercial Learners Permit (CLP).

Drivers will be required to undergo a rigorous re-evaluation to return to good standing. Prohibited drivers must:

- Meet with a DOT-qualified Substance Abuse Professional (SAP)
- Complete their recommended treatment and/or education plan
- Pass a return-to-duty test
- Pass six unannounced follow-up tests assigned throughout the first 12 months back on the job

To prevent potential suspension, drivers and fleet managers alike must **learn the ins and outs of Clearinghouse procedures**, including pre-employment drug and alcohol testing, how to access records and what data must be reported to the FMCSA.