CDL Class A Training Information

General information/requirements:
- Prior to the start of training, participants must provide a copy of their CDL permit, DOT health card and negative drug screen results; be registered in the federal Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse; and pass a driving background check (required to train using state vehicle).
- Training complies with the new federal entry-level driver training requirements that went into effect in February 2022.
- M State provides one-on-one training with an M State instructor.
- M State monitors student progress for the online training platform.
- An M State tractor/trailer is available for training. Own vehicle may be used.
- M State uses a manual transmission tractor and 53-foot flatbed trailer for training. The manual transmission tractor eliminates restrictions on the Class A CDL.
- M State instructor chaperones students to CDL testing. M State vehicle is available for use.

Class A CDL permit information:
- DOT health/medical card is required to take the CLP test.
- CLP study guides are online – test can be taken at any DVS location. Be prepared to wait in line to take the CLP test.
- The CLP test has three parts: General Knowledge, Combination Vehicles and Air Brakes. Be prepared for all three parts.
- CLP is good for six months. Drivers have six months to complete the training after obtaining the CLP.
- The health/medical card and CLP are necessary to schedule the road (driving) test with DVS. Be aware that the wait time for a DVS road test appointment may be several weeks.

Federal drug and alcohol information:
- Negative drug/alcohol screen must be within 30 days of start of training.
- The one-on-one range and road driving training are scheduled as close to the road test date as possible.
- It’s best to have your CLP and schedule your CDL road test BEFORE completing the drug/alcohol screen.
- M State can provide detailed instructions on how to register in the Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse, which is necessary before the start of training,
Training details:

1. **Theory instruction**
   a. Theory section is self-paced online training using D2L online learning platform.
   b. Training follows the “J. J. Keller® Entry-Level Driver Training Obtaining a CDL Student Manual.” We have J.J Keller manuals available for use if interested.
   c. Instruction covers 33 learning objectives with an estimated finish time of 20-30 hours.
   d. Must pass with a minimum score of 80 percent on learning objective assessments before advancing to the next section.

2. **Behind the wheel – range**
   a. Training covers seven learning objectives as outlined in the current standard.
   b. Range training takes place in Wadena or Detroit Lakes, or in other locations where a suitable range training site is available.
   c. Training is delivered in five-hour modules. Students train according to skill level. Some students may take longer than others to complete this section.
   d. Students must successfully complete all objectives before advancing to the next section.

3. **Behind the wheel – road**
   a. Training covers 12 learning objectives as outlined in the current standard.
   b. Training is delivered in five-hour modules.
   c. Estimated completion time of range/road training is 20 hours. Students train according to skill level. Some students may take longer than others to complete this section.
   d. Students must successfully complete all objectives before taking the behind the wheel CDL road test. Final training module includes chaperoning the student to the road test.