# Hill International Trucks
## Choosing an ELD:
## 5 Things to consider

With the ELD (Electronic Logging Device) deadline quickly approaching on December 18, 2017, motor carriers should already be looking in to which ELD device they will be implementing. ELD vendors have warned that it may take up to six months for purchasing the equipment, installation, training, and post-production support.

### What are your needs?

If you are only buying a device to replace paper logs because of the mandate, then a simple logging-only device may be the solution. However, some companies may require more advanced functions such as GPS tracking and engine monitoring. Having a device that can track a truck's location and cargo can give you a service advantage over your competitors. Additionally, having a device that can track a driver's shifting, speed, braking, etc. can be a great tool for coaching drivers.

### What type of device do you need?

ELD devices can come in the form of cell phones, tablets, or laptops. Something to keep in mind when selecting the type of device is how tech savvy the drivers are. For drivers who are less tech savvy and may require lots of training to use the device, the laptop route may be the most optimal.

### What are the costs per unit?

ELD devices can have high costs associated with them. It is important to understand how much the company is willing to spend, but also calculating the total various costs for implanting the ELD. Some costs associated with an ELD are  purchasing or leasing, installation, access fee, system time charges, and support. When comparing companies, it is important to understand the total costs associated with the implantation, not just the upfront cost. Also, check to see what company's pricing has the better value.

### Can you demo the product?

Once you have narrowed down your product list to a few, it is a good idea to ask the provider for a demo. If they are unable to provide you with a demo, it is probably best to steer away from that company. By actually using the product in a live setting, you will find what you like and dislike about the product, potentially altering your decision as to which product to choose.

### Did you involve your drivers?

Since the drivers will be the ones using the actual product, their input is highly valuable. You want to ensure that the device is user friendly and has met their needs. Failing to involve your drives in the selection process could cause problems and errors.

It is important to get a jumpstart on the ELD process, as implementing an ELD takes significant time for total implantation.  Waiting too long may cause fines and higher costs. If you have not begun the process for selecting an ELD, now is the time to do so.



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