

Module 12

Special Permit – Research / Pilot Project



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Things to think about ...

Although the Federal *Commercial Vehicle Drivers Hours of Service Regulations* outline rules that commercial vehicle drivers must follow, there are always exceptions to the rules.

In situations where drivers are involved in research or pilot projects, motor carriers can apply for a special permit.

What is a special permit for research / pilot projects?

How does a motor carrier apply for this special permit?

What are the conditions for this special permit?

What will I learn in this module?

- Special permit for research / pilot projects
- Application for a special permit for research / pilot projects
- Conditions for a special permit for research / pilot projects

What is a special permit for research / pilot projects?



Legislative References:

- *Federal Commercial Vehicle Drivers Hours of Service Regulations (SOR/2005-313) Section 1 Interpretation*
- *Federal Commercial Vehicle Drivers Hours of Service Regulations (SOR/2005-313) Section 61 Special Permits*

Some motor carriers may be involved in research or pilot projects. These projects may require drivers to:

- Work for longer periods than the daily, work shift, and cycle limits allow
- Retain different data on a log page
- Use a handheld electronic log system

In these types of situations, a motor carrier can apply for a special permit. If approved, the permit authorizes the motor carrier to operate under special terms and conditions for a specific period of time.

Motor carriers need to apply to the federal director for their special permit. The federal director is an official of the Road Safety and Motor Vehicle Regulation Directorate within the federal Department of Transport.



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How does a motor carrier apply for this special permit?

There are two parts to the application process for a special permit for research / pilot projects:

- 1) The permit applicant (usually the project coordinator) must submit a detailed work plan to the federal director. The work plan must include at least the following information:
 - Nature of the proposed research or pilot project
 - Objectives of the proposed research or pilot project
 - Competence of the applicant to participate in the proposed research or pilot project
 - Criteria and method for measuring results
 - Safety implications and approach to addressing any possible risks identified
 - Duration of the proposed research or pilot project
 - Manner of and timing for reporting results
- 2) The motor carrier must submit the information and documentation required for a permit application (We will discuss permit applications in Module 13).

What are the conditions for this special permit?

The federal director considers the safety and health of the public, the driver and the employees of the motor carrier when reviewing the special permit application. If the director approves the application, the motor carrier receives a permit that authorizes the motor carrier to operate under special terms and conditions for a specific period of time. We will discuss the permit process and the obligations of permit holders in Module 13.

While operating under a special permit for research or pilot projects:

- Daily limits and requirements may not apply
- Work shift limits and requirements may not apply
- Cycle limits and requirements may not apply
- Daily log requirements may not apply (We will discuss daily logs in Module 17)
- Special conditions may apply to the driver, carrier, other parties, etc.

In other words, the driver can work as needed during the research or pilot project and may not need to record his/her activities in a daily log. However, as soon as the special permit expires, all standard limits and daily log requirements would apply again.



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Module Self-Check Questions

If you can answer the following questions, you are ready to move to the next module. If you can't answer the questions, please review the module again before continuing.

- 1) Describe a special permit for research / pilot projects.

- 2) Describe the application process for a special permit for research / pilot projects.

- 3) Describe the possible conditions for a special permit for research / pilot projects.



Answers to Module Self-Check Questions

- 1) Describe a special permit for research / pilot projects.
 - Authorizes the motor carrier to operate under special terms and conditions for a specific period of time
- 2) Describe the application process for a special permit for research / pilot projects.
 - Research or pilot project coordinator (applicant) submits a detailed work plan to the federal director
 - Motor carrier submits information and documentation required for a permit application
- 3) Describe the possible conditions for a special permit for research / pilot projects.
 - Daily limits and requirements may not apply
 - Work shift limits and requirements may not apply
 - Cycle limits and requirements may not apply
 - Daily log requirements may not apply
 - Special conditions may apply to the driver, carrier,
 - other parties, etc.



Notes: