

Telematics Frequently Asked Questions

What are telematics?

“Telematics” means technology-based hardware tools to collect and record vehicle operational data. Telematic devices collect, record, and transmit vehicle operational data. The devices plug into the vehicle’s dashboard computer and transmit the data directly from the vehicle to a Web-based reporting platform. Once installed, a DOL telematics device will remain in the vehicle until the vehicle is replaced.

Why must DOL install telematics?

Executive Order (EO) 13693 Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade, published March 2015, among other requirements, mandates that if an agency operates a fleet of 20 vehicles or more, it must deploy telematics at the asset level for all new passenger and light-duty vehicles, and for medium-duty vehicles (where appropriate) no later than 2 years after the date of the Order. Additionally, agency annual asset level fleet data must be accounted for in a formal Fleet Management System and relevant telematics data must be periodically submitted to GSA’s Federal Automotive Statistical Tool (FAST) reporting database, the Federal Motor Vehicle Registration System (FMVRS), and the Department of Energy (DOE) Fleet Sustainability Dashboard (FleetDASH) system. Telematics’ installation on Job Corps vehicles allows DOL to implement this new program and study it for “lessons learned.”

What is a “passenger- and light-duty vehicle” and “medium-duty vehicle”?

The term light-duty vehicle includes passenger cars, and depending on their gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) includes pickup trucks, minivans, passenger vans and sport-utility vehicles. As classified by GSA, light-duty vehicles have a GVWR of less than 8,500 pounds. Vehicles with a GVWR between 8,500 and 16,000 pounds are medium-duty vehicles.

When will DOL install telematics?

Beginning in October 2016, Department of Labor anticipates that it will start ordering against a GSA BPA contract with AT&T to install telematics devices on DOL-leased and owned fleet vehicles. This timeline allows DOL to meet the March 2017 deadline for telematics implementation.

What information will the telematics devices collect?

To meet Executive Order requirements, telematics will collect government-vehicle information on:

- Speed
- Location data
- Idling
- Utilization
- Maintenance
- Fuel consumption
- Emissions

Specifically, the AT&T telematics features are:

GPS Tracking:

- Monitors movement
- Tracks mileage
- “Geofencing” identifies when vehicle is outside designated area
- Records quick starts, stops
- Measures asset utilization (idling)

Vehicle Diagnostics:

- Helps foresee and prevent vehicle failure
- Maintenance and emissions monitoring
- Fuel-economy monitoring

What does this change mean for drivers?

Telematic devices do not interfere with the vehicle’s normal operation and will assist a driver’s safe vehicle operation by providing notice on required maintenance and potential vehicle failure. Telematics monitor government vehicles, not drivers. However, telematics data can be reviewed to consider the legitimacy of alleged vehicle misuse claims made against drivers. Federal agencies often place decals on the vehicles in plain view to notify vehicle users that the vehicle is being monitored at all times for location and diagnostics. DOL intends to use such telematics notification decals. To the extent that vehicle-level data may be used to identify driver fraud or vehicle misuse, the decal puts the driver on notice that the vehicle, which is government property, is being monitored.

How will telematics collected data be used?

Data collected by telematics will be used to analyze and further fleet optimization efforts to reduce vehicle costs and fuel emissions. Telematics does this by monitoring and reporting on vehicle emissions and fuel consumption. Data will also be used to monitor vehicle maintenance needs, drive patterns, and vehicle utilization.

How is Telematics data provided?

AT&T provides a Web-based software package that provides users with access to the data. This software allows for the establishment of user hierarchies for restricted data access.

Who will have access to telematics data?

Telematics data will be available to the National Fleet Manager and fleet staff/contractors. The Job Corps Agency Fleet Manager will have access to data specific to Job Corps vehicles. To the extent that an additional user level is needed, the Job Corps Fleet Manager could establish access to an individual designated as responsible for fleet management over a subset of the Job Corps fleet (for example, a particular Region). Additionally, DOL fleet data obtained from telematics must be reported to GSA’s FAST and other federal databases to meet Executive Order and statutory requirements.

How long does a telematics device last?

Telematics devices are expected to last for up to six years.

How will each agency know what vehicles will be installed with telematics?

Starting with the Fiscal Year 2017 vehicle acquisition cycle, telematics will be installed in designated new passenger and light duty vehicles and medium duty vehicles, and vehicles that have been designated as “priority” for telematics monitoring due to low utilization or other optimization criteria. The current Job Corps fleet was reviewed to identify priority vehicles for telematics installation. Priority vehicles also include relatively new vehicles (i.e., 2016 models) that will be in the DOL fleet for five or more years.

How will my agency schedule telematics installation?

DOL Fleet will work with AT&T to locate and schedule a local service provider in close proximity to where a vehicle is garaged. The vehicle must be taken to the service provider for telematics installation. Alternatively, for Centers that have sufficient vehicles located at a single site, arrangements can be made to have the vendor visit the site to install telematics on a group of vehicles.

What must Job Corps do now to prepare for telematics in FY 2017?

If any of your vehicles are selected for telematics installation, you will be contacted with further instructions for scheduling.

Contact for further information?

Please contact: Patricia Prior at Prior.Patricia.J@dol.gov at (202) 693-3340 or Marsha Fitzhugh at fitzhugh.marsha@dol.gov or (202) 693-3099.