



Electronic Logging Devices (ELD) / On Board Computers (OBC) How to decide? Which option is best?

From talking with many of our customers and associates across the industry, there seems to be a significant amount of confusion regarding these devices. One size and potentially one provider does not fit all fleets or segments of fleets. This document is intended to answer a significant number of questions.

First, the mandate for ELDs has been approved and we are waiting for the phase-in cycle and implementation deadlines. The expectation is that will occur within the next 12 -24 months.

The mandate also states that only devices directly connected to the engine are approved. We would add that you require written verification from your provider that they will stand behind any DOT audit that involves Hours of Service (HOS) information collected or computed by their equipment. If the vendor you are talking with does not provide these fundamental requirements, we would suggest a different vendor.

Devices with the above capabilities will meet the mandate; however, we would suggest you also look for the following features:

- Engine Metrics (data collection and analytics)
- Messaging
- Integration with fleet management systems

These devices range in price from a few hundred to thousands of dollars (not including air time). The higher priced units have quite a bit more functionality, but you need to decide if you truly need that functionality for all or simply a portion of your fleet. Although there are several devices on the market that have all the capabilities we mentioned, BOLT System has spent a considerable amount of time evaluating and integrating four very popular units.

Listed in alphabetical order they are:

- PeopleNet
- Omnitrac (formerly QualComm)
- Rand McNally
- XRS (formerly XATA)

These devices span the technology spectrum from smart phones/tablets to proprietary hardware and software designs. The vendors generally have a range of products from text-only to graphic displays (including video capability). Currently most vendors sell their products with their own "air time package". At this time XRS is the exception - allowing you to purchase your display device and air time from a cell phone provider.

Keep in mind that your monthly charges can vary dramatically depending on the type of device, type and volume of collected information.



BOLT has made the decision to support a mix of devices in the same fleet management implementation. Information collected from the various devices is analyzed - using the exact same set of formulas and displayed on the same screens.

Our objective is to help you find the best price/performance solution to your fleet management issues.

If you would like additional information – or if you would simply like to discuss your options or any of the information cited here, please call us at 888-424-4638 x3.