

Module 5 – Written Exercise Chapter 5 (Truck Driver Apps)

There are a lot of things that need to be in alignment for a shipment to get from one company to another. Truck drivers used to have to rely on news reports, other truck drivers on their CB's, or other radio information to find out the necessary information to have a smooth drive from one destination to another. With the availability of smartphones and apps, some of the more onerous tasks have been made easier. The following are some applications that long and short distance truckers could download on their smartphones, tablets, or laptops to help make their jobs easier.

#1 – Axon Trucking Software is actually an application/software that helps out the complete trucking company. It will help a trucking company be able to track employees, pay them, keep track of manifests, scan documents as they are used by the truckers themselves, keep track of fuel management and it has a satellite tracking ability. Although this is geared more to “trucking companies”, a lot of semi-drivers are independent contractors that get contracts from a main company. So, it should still be helpful for the individual driver as well. The cost is a one-time licensing fee that I could not find the price for. They want you to contact them directly for demos before that. Although I don't think this would be something most individual drivers would use (unless the company they worked for used it), it is still good to mention it for those drivers that are actually running their own company too. It showed up on two different trucking app best of lists. (<https://www.axonsoftware.com/>)

#2 – For the individual long distance truck driver, I would recommend the Google Maps app as a tried and true, free application, that fulfills several of the books needs. It has excellent maps and directions, routing information with real time knowledge of slow downs and detours, ability to find truck stops and weigh stations directly on the map route and off it, as well as truck rest areas. If a driver does not have extra money to pay for apps, the Google Maps app that comes with most Android based phones is a good free option for them. (<https://www.google.com/maps>) Although I have provided the online link here to Google Maps, the app is available in the Google Play Store.

#3 – The Keep Truckin ELD app has both Apple (<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/keeptruckin-driver-eld/id706401738>) and Android (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.keeptruckin.android>) versions available. It also has a version for individual drivers and one for a fleet or company. The driver version is free for an electronic logbook that has been approved by the Department of Transportation. It contains warnings for all kinds of different things that a truck driver needs to do along the way including sleep, breaks, shift time, and more. It has alerts for problems with the semi itself like an electrical or battery issue or other maintenance and repair information. Drivers can also use the app to take pictures of the bills or invoices as well as a scorecard on how they are doing with their driving. The app will note if they are going too fast, braking too hard, or even turning too fast around a corner. The FLEET version of the app allows all trucks to be tracked with real time location information, being able to contact others directly through the app, and even monitor the vehicles “telematics” which includes speed and fuel consumption. The app through the Apple and Android stores are free, but according to <https://go.keeptruckin.com/keeptruckin-fleet-management-software> there is a cost version that probably has more bells and whistles.

#4 – The Truck Map app available in the Google Play Store (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.truckmap.truckmap>) and Apple Store (<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/truckmap-truck-gps-routes/id1198422047>), is a free app that helps with a lot more than just navigation. It helps to direct drivers to the right entrances for trucks both at

the facilities they are delivering to and truck specific parking as well. It gives updates on weigh stations status, turn-by-turn GPS, truck parking fees, gas prices, info on low overpasses and road restrictions, and even a way to search for freight jobs by date or location. For a free app this one seems very handy.

It was quite frustrating to find prices on most of the software/applications because everyone wants to customize a quote instead of giving you base pricing. They wanted me to give them my personal information to call me for quotes. I'm definitely not a truck driver. So, I didn't want to end up on all of those spam call lists.

I did 4 apps because I wasn't sure if the Axon one in the beginning would count or not. It is an app, but it seems more helpful to a company owner.

Application Links:

Axon Software - <https://www.axonsoftware.com/>

Google Maps - <https://www.google.com/maps>

Keep Truckin ELD App - <https://go.keeptruckin.com/keeptruckin-fleet-management-software>

The Truck Map App - <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.truckmap.truckmap>