



The Case for Driving Simulation

A practical guide for getting the most value in a simulation-based training program

For decades, simulation training has been a proven method for improving driver and operator performance in the military, aviation, public safety and commercial driver industries. With a commercial driver client base that includes over 125,000 professional drivers, L3 has built a substantial knowledge base regarding state-of-the-art simulation technology and the proper methods used that help yield maximum benefit for investments made in training programs that include simulation.

Did you know that a “blended learning” approach that provides a balance of instructor-led training, computer-based training and simulation-based training is 85% more effective than single-mode training?

At L3, we incorporate the latest in adult learning theory and methodologies to create the highest impact training possible. Training that improves driver performance is the primary goal of an L3 simulation-based training program.

WHAT BENEFITS CAN BE GAINED BY USING SIMULATION TRAINING?

All clients have business problems they are trying to solve and they have recognized that a new direction and approach to training is key to realizing improvement. The most common problems clients seek a solution for are:

- Reduce number of accidents
- Reduce severity of accidents
- Reduce training time
- Reduce operational costs
- Improve driver retention
- Meet or exceed mandated training compliance

In a recent survey, most clients confirmed the benefits and results they have realized by using a simulation training approach. Clients of all types and segments in the transportation industry experienced improvements whether they are small or large size carriers, over-the-road freight or private, specialized fleets.

Reduce number of accidents:

- Mid-Size Commercial OTR fleet: 10% reduction year over year
- Large-size commercial OTR fleet: 25% reduction
- Private fleet: 30% reduction over 2 year timeframe

Reduce severity of accidents:

- Large-Size Commercial OTR fleet: 10% fewer ‘major’ accidents

Improve fuel MPG:

- Private fleet: 16% improvement
- Mid-size commercial OTR fleet: 5% improvement over 2 years
- Large-size commercial OTR fleet: 335,000 fewer gallons used per year

Optimize training time:

- CDL Truck driving school: Reduced training cycle time by 25%
- Large-size commercial OTR fleet: Reduced training time by 20 days = US \$1 million in annualized revenue

Reduce insurance costs:

- Mid-sized commercial fleet: Reduced insurance premium costs by 5%



Cost-effective training tools for commercial and government fleets.

WHAT ARE BARRIERS TO SUCCESS AND HOW DO CLIENTS OVERCOME THEM?

Some clients experience barriers to success. The most common barriers include:

- Lack of leadership support
- Poor alignment of safety goals with training
- Poor evaluation of training needs/issues
- Lack of courses/curriculum
- Poor quality or inconsistent delivery of training
- Poor record keeping
- Using simulation training as a “one time” effort or with some but not all drivers
- Downtime on simulator equipment

WHAT BEST PRACTICES ARE USED TO BENEFIT FROM SIMULATION?

When successful customers were asked they cited several best practices that, when applied, increase the probability of realizing immediate and long term return-on-investment from simulation training.

- Leadership support
- Alignment of driver training efforts with safety goals and operational/productivity goals
- Quality of training program (i.e. standards based curriculum combined employing blended learning approach)
- Discipline and attention to consistency in the delivery of training (this is accomplished through choosing the right trainers, providing quality train-the-trainer certification and perform ongoing assessment of trainers)
- Embedding simulation into all types of driver training (new hire, remedial, safety initiative training, fuel MPG)
- Ongoing evaluation of training effectiveness (through surveys, skill assessments, driver performance records)
- Having fully operational simulator equipment
- Quality and timeliness, of L3 customer service and support



HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENT A SIMULATION-BASED TRAINING PROGRAM?

Successful clients apply a training design process model to ensure quality with their training. Simply put, the most successful clients have a well conceived curriculum that is designed to address specific performance issues (safety or productivity related) and the training program is then delivered in a consistent way to maximize the results sought.

L3 is committed to ensuring client success with simulation training. For assistance in auditing driver training curriculum, to obtain specific recommendations for your organization or to speak with successful clients and learn best practices first hand, please contact an L3 representative today.

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