Takin' A Load Off Your Mind ....

FLEET COMPLIANCE GROUP, LTD.

www.fleetcompliance.com

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HOPES TO INCREASE TRUCK PARKING

Two years after a New York truck driver, Jason, was senselessly murdered at an abandoned South Carolina gas station, a congressman was joined by Jason's widow, and members of the transportation industry on May 11, 2011, to announce the introduction of "Jason's Law".

This is a bill aimed at increasing truck parking facilities across the country. Jason's wife then began personally lobbying Members of Congress on Capitol Hill to co-sponsor the bill.

Jason was murdered in March of 2009 during a robbery attempt for a meager $7 at an abandoned gas station in South Carolina. He was a long haul trucker who had stopped to rest (in compliance with federal regulations) because the law requires truckers to rest after 11 hours of driving.

The case called attention to the nationwide shortage of safe, accessible rest stops for truckers, and led the congressman to introduce a similar bill in the 111th Congress. "Jason's Law" would create a grant program that would help alleviate the parking shortages and help pay for expansion and safety improvements at existing rest areas.

We will advise you when we here any further information regarding this bill.

Michigan Center for Decision Driving

Studies have shown that some of the best drivers have a tendency to overestimate their driving abilities. The consequences can be dangerous, sometimes deadly. Drivers should be fully aware of the proper stopping and skid-control techniques to help reduce crashes.

At the MCDD, truck drivers learn these techniques both in the classroom and in actual hands-on activities on the skid course.

The course is offered Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at Eaton Corporation Proving Grounds in Marshall, Michigan. The cost for Michigan drivers is $50 and fees for out-of-state drivers is $200.

Fleet Compliance Group, Ltd. has always, and continues to recommended this course for all professional drivers.

If you know of anyone who is not receiving a copy of our "Takin' A Load Off Your Mind" ...and may benefit from the information we provide, please let us know.

Guarding your SMS scores ...

I'm sure you have heard that drivers are the source of the scores you receive on your SMS through the new CSA Program.

Many of you have been working diligently to alert your drivers of the consequences for bad behavior. We want to remind you not to forget about the other key staff that can affect the outcome of your scores. Educate them ...

- Administrative Team - spot problems in areas such as logbook auditing, etc.
- Sales and Service Representative - what load types your drivers can handle ...within the law. Educate shippers and receivers.
- Dispatchers - understand how loads can affect "fatigue" ...without putting pressure on the driver to violate the law.
- Management/Human Resources - establish good policies to encourage safe behavior ...through rewards and/or disciplinary programs.
- Mechanics - establish a procedure for making repairs to safety defects when driver's make the reports. Assure that vehicle inspections are done correctly.
- Safety Personnel - organize everyone's efforts. Outshine everyone in training and knowledge of the laws, rules and safety programs.

There are so many choices available to keep your drivers and staff up-to-date and trained on the requirements and laws that will affect your scores.

When you are ready to establish policies and/or train your staff, give us a call and we'll be happy to assist you through this process with our recommendations and/or training programs.

Monthly Workshops

D.O.T. Compliance & C.S.A.

One Wednesday of each month
8:15 – 11:45 a.m.
$ 85.00 per person

Logbook Auditing

Same Wednesday as above workshop
1:00 – 3:30 p.m.
$ 70 per person

Pre-registration & payment required

If you are a client of our "Compliance Services", don't forget that you are entitled to attend one session per year, at no charge.

Michigan Motorcycle License

You can be cited in Michigan for operating a motorcycle without a Cycle Endorsement on your license. We have seen fines run from $75 - $200 for not having this endorsement. Call F.C.G. if you need to take a Michigan Motorcycle Skill Test. $35.00 (Grandville, MI site only.)

A friend is someone who
understands your past,
believes in your future, and
accepts you today
...just the way you are.

Referral for Driver Re-examination

While reporting an unsafe driver may seem drastic, in some cases it may be the only way to handle a serious situation. If you are concerned for the safety of a family member or friend who can no longer drive safely, or if you are concerned for the safety of other highway users, a referral to the Department of State is the responsible thing to do.

Michigan law allows to re-examine a driver when there is reason to believe the driver may be unable to operate a motor vehicle safely. Michigan utilizes information from law enforcement, medical personnel, SOS branch offices, and concerned citizens, including family members, to identify unsafe drivers.

A form (OC-88) or letter can be submitted to the Traffic Safety Division to request a review of an individual's driving skills. The form/letter must include information about the behavior that justifies an evaluation. (Note: You will be required to include your personal information and signature which will remain confidential to the extent permitted by law.)

There are many conditions that will be considered in the case for re-evaluation (i.e., convulsive disorders, usage of drugs, impaired or deteriorating vision, and/or mental and physical functions, etc.). If a determination is made for re-examination, the driver will be notified by mail. A medical/vision statement may be required to be completed by physician.

A driver assessment analyst will determine if licensing controls are necessary or if there will be subsequent re-examinations. Licensing controls may range from requiring special equipment, restricting driving times, and/or to suspension or revocation of driving privileges.

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