

# Takin' A Load Off Your Mind ....

## FLEET COMPLIANCE GROUP, LTD.

www.fleetcompliance.com

### JUNE 2011

#### **PROPOSED RULE – Cell Phone Usage**

FMCSA research has shown that using a hand-held cell phone while driving requires a commercial driver to take too many risks.

Commercial drivers reaching for an object, such as a cell phone, while driving are three times more likely to be involved in a crash or other serious incident. Drivers dialing a hand-held cell phone while driving increase their risk by six times.

Some of the large carriers have already implemented policies banning their drivers from using hand-held phones.

In 2009, nearly 5,500 people died and half a million were injured in crashes involving a distracted driver. Distraction-related fatalities represented 16% of traffic fatalities in 2009, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration research.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration is proposing a rule that would prohibit commercial drivers from reaching for, holding or dialing a cell phone while operating a CMV. Drivers who violate the restriction would face federal civil penalties of up to \$2,750 for each offense and disqualification of their commercial driver's license (CDL) for multiple offenses. The State would be required to suspend a driver's CDL after two or more violations of any state law on hand-held cell phone use.

Motor carriers that allowed their drivers to use hand-held cell phones while driving would face a maximum penalty of \$11,000.

It is anticipated that approximately four million interstate commercial drivers would be affected by this proposal.

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.

Sing like no one can hear,  
Dance like no one is looking, and  
Love like you've never been hurt  
before.

#### **Progress in the Final Rules for Hours of Service**

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration is not going to meet the court-imposed deadline issuing new hours-of-service rules for drivers. They now intend to publish the final rule by October 28, 2011.

F.C.G. will do our best to keep you informed regarding the progress. When we know what changes are being made, we'll notify you. Watch both F.C.G.'s Newsletter and Safety Bulletins for the announcement of modifications and effective dates.

#### **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.

#### **U.C.R. Reminder: All Interstate Motor Carriers**

Don't forget to register under the Unified Carrier Registration (UCR) program (replaced the Single State Registration).

International and interstate carriers, including brokers, leasing companies and freight forwarders are required to register.

During 'inspections', the Michigan State Police are vigorously checking whether "interstate" carriers have registered

#### **UCR Reminder (Con't)**

under UCR. Citations will be written for carriers failing to register. Failure to register is considered to be a misdemeanor ...a \$500 fine and/or a 90 day jail sentence.

The citations will be written even if the vehicle/driver are still within the State borders of Michigan (or your home state) and/or whether you are transporting cargo, or not.

To register under the UCR program, Michigan commercial motor vehicle carriers can contact the Michigan Public Service Commission at (517) 241-6030 or visit [www.ucr.in.gov](http://www.ucr.in.gov).

#### **Questions ????**

- Why is it called a "drive through" ....when we have to stop?
- Why do they mark Christmas lights ...." for indoor or outdoor use only? Where else are we going to use them?
- Why is the name of the phobia for the fear of long words  
....Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia?
- How do you handcuff a one-armed man?
- Why does "closing **up**" a shop and "closing **down**" a shop mean the same thing?
- Why are they called stairs inside but steps when they are outside?
- Why is it that when we have the weight of the world on our shoulders ...we have to get it off our chest?

#### **Michigan Motorcycle License**

It is motorcycle season once again. 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.)

2976 Ivanrest SW, Ste 255, Grandville, MI 49418  
Telephone: (616) 532-1444 Fax: (616) 532-1794