

Takin' A Load Off Your Mind

FLEET COMPLIANCE GROUP, LTD.

www.fleetcompliance.com

SEPTEMBER 2011

Understanding C.S.A.

Drivers continue to have a concerns regarding C.S.A.

- It has been found that more than 75% of the commercial drivers in this country do not have a clear understanding and feel they may lose their job because of C.S.A.
- Nearly 65% feel their past violations will affect the motor carrier should they change jobs and be hired by a new motor carrier.
- It is also true that motor carriers feel that when they hire a new driver ...the past violations of a "new hire" will now fall under the motor carrier's S.M.S. score.

None of these previous statements are true.

It is important that drivers (and motor carriers) are educated as to how C.S.A. will actually affect them.

F.C.G. suggests that a means to educate yourself and driver/employees is important. If you have any questions regarding meetings, or educations materials, please contact our office.

F.M.C.S.A. Regulation – Interpretation

Question: Is a person who has full-time employment with a non-motor carrier and drives for a motor carrier on a part-time basis considered an intermittent, casual, or occasional driver when employed by the motor carrier?

Guidance: No. A person who drives for only one motor carrier (even if it is only one day per month, etc.) would not meet the definition of an intermittent casual or occasional driver in 390.5 of the F.M.C.S.A. safety regulations. The motor carrier, therefore, must fully qualify the driver and maintain a qualification file on the employee as a regularly employed driver.

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", one company representative is entitled to attend one session per year, at no charge.

Driver Safety Bulletin

This is a new service provided by F.C.G. The subscription is available either monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly. Contact our office for details and pricing.

Unauthorized Passengers/Logbook Form and Manner

Most of the laws that result in citations while drivers are on the road have been law for many years. Since the inception of C.S.A., it has become apparent to law enforcement as to what may create more revenue for their jurisdiction. What we all grew accustomed to as not being a problem in the past ...is now becoming a problem for drivers. They are becoming more stringent as to writing the citations.

Unauthorized passengers is one that has come to the forefront. If the driver has a passenger (that is not a co-driver), they "must" have written authorization from the company (on company letterhead); this authorization must be in the truck at the time. If the authorization is not present ...the passenger will be removed from the truck until the authorization has been obtained. (...my husband invited me on a truck-run with him and specifically asked the employer that he not be given written authorization! Boy, I don't understand that one? I think I'm still in Tennessee!)

Logbook Form & Manner is another of the past and present regulations that are resulting in more citations than pre-C.S.A.. The "small-stuff" on the logbooks such as incorrect hour calculations in the right column; shipping documents, dates, co-driver names, blank spaces, etc. We are seeing citations for all of these. The points for these violations are added to the driver's PSP which result in increased percentages on the motor carrier's SMS.

We recommend that you stay on top of these violations by setting up a thorough disciplinary plan and audit procedure. Do not make changes to the logbook for your drivers. First, the logbook must be in the driver's own handwriting; and secondly, if you don't force the drivers to change their behavior – the violations will continue. If you have questions on these topics, please give us a call.

Quotable Quote:

"Let go of your attachment to being right, and suddenly your mind is more open . You're able to benefit from the unique viewpoints of others, without being crippled by your own judgment".
Ralph Marston

Cell Phone Distractions - Proposed Rules

On March 26, 2010, at about 5:14 a.m., near Munfordville, Kentucky, the driver of an 18-wheel semi truck proceeded from the left lane of southbound Interstate 65, crossed a 60-foot-wide median, struck and overrode a cable barrier, entered the northbound travel lanes, and struck a 15-passenger van, occupied by the driver and 11 passengers (eight adults, two small children, and an infant). The truck driver and 10 of the 12 occupants of the van were killed.

Investigators determined that the driver used his cell phone for calls and text messages 69 times while driving in the 24-hour period before the crash. The driver made four calls just minutes prior to the accident, the last call was made at 5:14 a.m. – the same time the truck left the highway.

The NTSB is now proposing a ban on the use of cell phones in commercial motor vehicle ...except in emergencies. The basis for this proposal justified?

We will keep you up to date as information becomes available.

A Lesson to Learn From ...as told by one student.

During college, a professor gave a pop quiz. The last question was interesting. ...What is the first name of the woman who cleans the building?

Surely this was some kind of joke thought the student. He had seen the woman several times. She was tall, dark-haired and in her 50s, but how would I know her name?

He handed in his quiz, leaving the last questions blank. He then asked the professor if the last question counted toward the quiz grade. The professor answered, "absolutely".

Then proceeded to tell the student ..."In your career you will meet many people. All are significant. They deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say "hello".

The student found out the lady's name was Dorothyand has never forgotten this lesson.

Michigan Motorcycle License Testing

The motorcycle course for the Skills Test in Michigan has changed. If you are planning to attempt obtaining a motorcycle endorsement on your Michigan Driver's license, be sure to check on the Michigan Secretary of State website to review the changes. Or, if you have any questions, you are welcome to contact our office. We offer Michigan Motorcycle Skills Test year round at \$35.00 (Grandville, MI site only.)

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