

# Takin' a Load Off Your Mind

JULY 2009

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## UCR – Unified Carrier Registration

Hopefully you have noticed the requirements for the UCR. Because we are still receiving calls regarding this subject ...we'll cover it again for those of you who haven't registered yet.

All carriers of property and passengers in interstate commerce – whether a private carrier; Freight Forwarded; Broker and/or Leasing Company - - are all required to register. There is an annual fee ...based on the size of the fleet. Fines and penalties are being levied for those who have not yet registered.

You can register online at <http://www.ucr.in.gov>. Don't let this throw you off course when you see it's being handled by an Indiana website – it is. You are on the right page ...so continue completing the registration process. This registration is pretty comprehensive. However, if you have any questions, just give us a call at (616) 532-1444 ...ask for Larry

### **Puzzled about the laws ...**

**D.O.T. Compliance Workshop (a.m.)  
Hours of Service Workshop (p.m.)**

July 15 and August 19, 2009

...at our Grandville, MI office facility

For more details go to:

[www.fleetcompliance.com](http://www.fleetcompliance.com)

If you can't arrange your schedule for these dates – we hold these workshops nearly every month throughout the year ...or you can schedule our staff to present the material at your facility. Call for a quote.

## Medical Qualification

Even if a driver holds a current – valid medical card – they may not be qualified to operate a commercial vehicle. Circumstances can change. If the driver is using a controlled substance or is taking some prescription medications, s/he may not be qualified. Examples of disqualifying substances are Methadone or anti-seizure medications. If a driver is using a substance such as amphetamine, narcotic or other habit forming drugs, the driver is medically unqualified.

Important note: The Medical Examiner must follow the standards found in 49 CFR 381.41. Criteria for vision, hearing, epilepsy and diabetes is absolute and no discretion is allowed by the doctor. There are also stringent guidelines for hypertension.

### **Motor Carrier Responsibility - To Be Compliant Is To Know The Law**

Question: If I am leasing a driver (rather than directly employing the driver), am I exempt from having a driver qualification file?

Answer: No. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations apply to and place responsibility on the motor carrier and their driver. The FMCSA does not regulate driver leasing companies or temporary help service companies.

Question: What type of commercial motor vehicles are subject to cargo securement standards?

Answer: The rules apply to "all" commercial vehicles having a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) or a gross combination weight rating of 10,001 pounds or more. Every CMV must be loaded and equipped in accordance with the laws to prevent cargo from leaking, spilling, blowing, or falling from the vehicle. The cargo must be contained, immobilized or secured in accordance with the law to prevent shifting upon (or within) the vehicle to the extent that the vehicle's stability or maneuverability is not adversely affected.

*Looking for a source in the Grand Rapids area for a Michigan*

**CDL, Automobile or Motorcycle Skill Test?**

*Give us a call – 616-532-0704*

CDL Rentals Available

Appointments typically available within 1-4 days

## MICHIGAN – MINIMUM SPEED LIMITS

What has taken place with setting and posting of the speed limits in Michigan? Most of us know that the posted highway speed for trucks (CMV'S) is typically set at 60 m.p.h. However, many are still not aware that the minimum speed for everyone on most stretches of Michigan highway is now 55 m.p.h.

### **Fun facts ....**

- ✓ Junk is something you keep for years and throw away three weeks before you need it.
- ✓ Why do we pay to take an elevator high into a tall building ...and then put money into binoculars to see what's on the ground?
- ✓ Many years ago mattresses were secured to the frame with ropes. When you pulled on the rope the mattress became tighter. Thus the phrase ..."goodnight, sleep tight".
- ✓ Learn the rules so you know exactly how to break them.
- ✓ Why can't women put on mascara with their mouth closed?
- ✓ Why do we say "bye bye", but not "hi hi"?
- ✓ The length of a minute depends on which side of the bathroom door you are standing.

## Vehicle Identification

According to the Michigan Vehicle Code, any business operating commercial vehicles (single or combination) with a combination or single weight rating – or actual load between 5,000 – 10,001 pounds to have the business name (or registered logo/emblem) along with the city and state clearly identified on both side of the vehicle. The lettering must not be less than 3 inches in height; not lower than the bottom edge of the door; and must be in a sharp contrasting color in relationship to the background color.

## Random Drug Tests

A test must be administered "within" two hours of when you notify him/her that they have been selected ...no exceptions. Before informing the driver – make sure the collection site is ready and available for the test within the two hour time frame.