

Minutes
CVISN Architecture Configuration Control Board
18 September 2008

Attendees:

Terri Ungerman (AR/OK)	Steve Trudell (NY)	Julie Lane (FMCSA)
Kathleen Gibson (GA)	Basheer Shaik (NC)	Harry He (Volpe)
Debbie Palazzo (LA)	Lynne Jones (OK)	Larry Trudeau (Volpe)
Melissa Zachary (LA)	Alana Gourneau (SD)	Jingfei Wu (Volpe)
Jodee Alm (MT)	Jennifer Spuler (TX)	Sandy Boys (APL)
Cathy Beedle (NE)	Bill Goforth (WA)	Nancy Magnusson (APL)
John Casteel (NE)	Anthony Velez (CSI)	Mary Stuart (APL)
Beth Hartley (NE)	Chris Campbell (Iteris)	

A meeting of the CVISN Architecture Configuration Control Board (ACCB) was held 18 September 2008. The list of Change Requests (CRs) that were discussed was posted to the ACCB Collaboration SharePoint site prior to the meeting. A list of all CVISN Architecture CRs may be found on the ACCB Collaboration site at:

https://partners.jhuapl.edu/BA/hp/cvisn/ACCB/CR_Status in the file: "ArchitectureCRs_all". For those CRs discussed at the meeting, the "Description" section of each CR summarizes the discussion and reflects changes to the CR.

Action items assigned appear in the relevant section of the minutes. Comments or corrections to these minutes or the CRs should be sent to Sandra Boys (sandra.boys@jhuapl.edu).

Items that the ACCB recommends submitting to FMCSA for approval are noted below the action item list.

The ACCB minutes and architecture CRs are posted on the Change Request page of the FMCSA CVISN Web site: <http://cvisn.fmcsa.dot.gov>.

The URL for the ACCB Collaboration site is <https://partners.jhuapl.edu/BA/hp/cvisn/ACCB>. To get a password for the CVISN Collaboration SharePoint site, contact Nancy Magnusson (nancy.magnusson@jhuapl.edu).

The next meeting will be held **23 October 2008** at 2:00 PM Eastern.

Discussion Items

1. Voting on Architecture CRs

None this month. COACH Part 1 Version 4 and the associated CRs 5678 and 5692 will be voted on at the October CVISN ACCB meeting.

2. Volpe/CVISN: Report on new and open SAFER CRs and SAFER releases

Volpe presented a list of nine SAFER CRs. Some of them are old CRs that were approved but never implemented, and Volpe wants to know whether they are still relevant.

SAFER CR #	ARC CR #	Synopsis	Comments
18	3114	Add carrier authority effective date to the L&I snapshot T0032.	Combined with SCR 173 below. Submitted by WI in 2003.
143	3670	Modify the XML T0029 v2 transaction not to include records that do not have transponder information	Volpe reported that there are 1200 records in the database with no transponder information. The T0029D needs to be sent to states so that they can delete the transponder in their CVIEW. This issue needs more review.
173	3114	Enhance T0032 transaction to include additional company information	Combined with SCR 18 above. Submitted by MO. Approved by FMCSA 2007-01-23.
348	3670	Enhancement to electronic screening transaction to add a data element to track the source of the transponder data	This SCR is related to SCR 302 which addressed the Transponder "Opt-Out" Process. States on the call suggested that Volpe close this CR. States will develop a new CR to address outstanding e-screening issues.
2289	NA	Enhance the XML output transaction creation process	
2461	NA	ISS score calculation change in DOT_423 schema	This is not the same issue as SCR 1782 "Published ISS-D scores should agree with scores sent via XML", which has already been approved.
2551	NA	Defect with T0031V2 transaction baseline	
2575	NA	SAFER does not receive all intrastate carrier SafeStat information	
2585	5832	Implement web service query for T0029V2 transaction	Volpe would like to expand this CR to include T0022 and T0028D.

Regarding SCRs 18 and 173, states on the call thought that the information contained in the current T0032 is adequate. Neither MO nor WI was on the call to discuss. Note that these CRs and others on this list are also on the prioritization list for FY 2009.

Bill Goforth, Bill Guiffre, Chris Campbell, and Mark Bell will develop new CRs for e-screening needs.

SAFER CR 2287 “Upgrade web service query from T0028v2 to T0028v3”, which appears on the prioritization list, has been implemented and is now in beta testing, waiting for FL to develop the client.

SAFER CR 301 “LAST_UPDATE_DATE in T0031 does not reflect the correct date from MCMIS to SAFER transfer” will be closed, per discussion on the “Last Update Date” telecon held on 2008-09-17. A paper summarizing the applicability of dates is appended to these meeting minutes.

The SAFER release is still scheduled for 2008-09-30. SAFER CRs 1838 and 1854 will be included. SCR 89 will be late.

3. Prioritization of CRs

Volpe prepared a list of open SAFER CRs that is posted on the telecon workspace. Volpe will update this list for discussion at the October CVISN ACCB meeting. States will then vote on priorities for the FY 2009 SAFER Development Plan.

4. FMCSA Technical Support (Chris Flynn, Volpe FMCSA Technical Support Project Manager or designee)

Nebraska raised this issue:

Nebraska recently processed the T0026 baseline files we downloaded from SAFER, and my program received a data exception error when processing one of the files. After researching the cause of the problem, I discovered there was a record in one of the T0026 baseline files, where the IRP_CARRIER_ID_NUMBER contained the word "APPLIED", as opposed to a valid DOT Number or for that matter a 0. After reviewing the SAFER 8.1 Data Dictionary, I can see where the IRP_CARRIER_ID_NUMBER is described as an optional 12 character field. I don't have a problem with this field being optional, thus containing a 0 from time to time, but since it is a DOT Number field (as I understand it), shouldn't it at least be numeric? For the time being I can change my program to handle this situation, but since it is the first time I have seen this field contain something other than 0 or a DOT Number, I thought I would bring it to your attention. Maybe we need to open a CR to further discuss this situation?

This led to a discussion of whether a CR should be written to request that all data elements related to US DOT Number in the SAFER database schema be changed from “VARCHAR2” to “Numeric”. This would be consistent with MCMIS. It was noted that this change would affect all the XML schema files. Also, it is perceived as being a problem that is caused by state systems, not by federal systems, and that the states should take responsibility for uploading valid data. It was also felt that the problem is not widespread.

5. Volpe/PRISM: Report on PRISM CRs relevant to CVISN stakeholders

The change to Query Central to display the IRP status field, requested by CVISN stakeholders at the 2007 CVISN Deployment Workshop, has been implemented and is

scheduled to be rolled out at the end of September 2008. The CVISN stakeholders noted that they use the IRP status field and they expect it to be exactly what the state supplies with registration data updates. If a vehicle is “active” many months after a registration expires, then that is a red flag for investigation. If a vehicle is taken out of service, then the status may be “inactive” prior to the expiration date. In most cases, the status should be “active” for any vehicle that is being inspected or screened. There is some concern by the PRISM program that it should not be displayed on Query Central because the data field is not well maintained by the states and is often incorrect and therefore confusing.

This issue is under review by FMCSA and will be reported at the next ACCB meeting.

6. CVISN ACCB Action Item Review

- **Action Item 159 (Volpe):** Provide updated list of outstanding SAFER CRs to review with ACCB for prioritization. **SUSPENSE DATE: 2008-09-17.** *Open. Provided for this meeting; will be updated for October ACCB meeting.*
- **Action Item 162 (Volpe):** Perform analysis on a work around related to the Last Update Date, since SCR 301 will not be done for the September release, and get back to ACCB with choices. **SUSPENSE DATE: 2008-09-10.** *Closed. Telecon was held with all interested stakeholders on 2008-09-17 to discuss Last Update Date. SCR 301 will be closed. See notes attached to minutes of 2008-09-18 ACCB meeting.*
- **Action Item 163 (JHU/APL & Volpe):** Clarify what Volpe is planning for new MCMIS data elements related to “last activity” and “last activity date”. Stakeholders are interested in what defines “activity” and the time frame that determines active/inactive status. **SUSPENSE DATE: 2008-09-18** *Ongoing. Will continue to monitor FMCSA Information Management Authority (IMA) discussion on new MCMIS fields.*
- **Action Item 164 (Volpe-Chris Flynn/Kris Weaver):** Post updated Inspection Mapping file to ACCB site. **SUSPENSE DATE: 2008-09-15.** *New. Comments have been submitted regarding the mapping that is currently posted. After Volpe and Kris Weaver discuss the questions, a new mapping file will be posted for states to review for the 9/18 CVISN ACCB meeting. Telecon will be held 2008-09-19.*
- **Action Item 165 (FMCSA-Julie Lane/Volpe):** Coordinate PRISM participation in CVISN ACCB. **SUSPENSE DATE: 2008-09-18.** *Closed. PRISM will participate in CVISN ACCB meetings.*

7. Review of new and open CVISN Architecture CRs

Updated COACH Part 1 and associated CRs 5678 and 5692 will be voted on at October meeting.

8. Proactive Data Quality / Operational Issues Focus Group report (Bill Goforth)

Data quality issues discussed above under FMCSA Technical Support.

9. Other Topics

- UCR

Julie Lane noted that UCR and CVISN coordination are still being discussed.

Action Items from Recent ACCB Meetings*

- **Action Item 159 (Volpe):** Provide updated list of outstanding SAFER CRs to review with ACCB for prioritization. **SUSPENSE DATE: 2008-10-17.** *Open. Provided for this meeting; will be updated for October ACCB meeting.*
- **Action Item 163 (JHU/APL & Volpe):** Clarify what Volpe is planning for new MCMIS data elements related to “last activity” and “last activity date”. Stakeholders are interested in what defines “activity” and the time frame that determines active/inactive status. *Ongoing. Will continue to monitor FMCSA Information Management Authority (IMA) discussion on new MCMIS fields.*
- **Action Item 164 (Volpe-Chris Flynn/Kris Weaver):** Post updated Inspection Mapping file to ACCB site. **SUSPENSE DATE: 2008-09-30.** *Open. Comments have been submitted regarding the mapping that is currently posted. After Volpe and Kris Weaver discuss the questions, a new mapping file will be posted for states to review for the 9/18 CVISN ACCB meeting. Telecon will be held 2008-09-19.*
- **Action Item 166 (Volpe):** Reply to Jennifer Spuler, TX, on questions related to update dates in XML schema files. **SUSPENSE DATE: 2008-09-30.** *New*
- **Action Item 167 (JHU/APL):** Contact MO and WI regarding SAFER CRs 18 and 173. **SUSPENSE DATE: 2008-09-30.** *New*
- **Action Item 168 (JHU/APL):** Contact states personally before ACCB meeting when CR submitted by them is going to be discussed. **SUSPENSE DATE: Ongoing.** *New*
- **Action Item 169 (Bill Goforth, WA):** Work with Bill Guiffre, Chris Campbell, and Mark Bell to develop CRs for e-screening. **SUSPENSE DATE: 2008-10-22.** *New*

* Action Item numbers line up with the Action Item list on the CVISN Collaboration SharePoint site.

Items that the ACCB Recommended for FMCSA ECCB Approval

None.

Items that the ACCB Disapproved

None.

Note: Updates to the Architecture CRs discussed at this meeting can be found in the file: “ArchitectureCRs_all,” which is on the ACCB Collaboration CR Status page (https://partners.jhuapl.edu/BA/hp/cvisn/ACCB/CR_Status).

Also please note that the comments in the “Description” sections of recent CRs have been organized so that the most recent information will be listed first.

Use of Update Dates in SAFER Transactions

The purpose of this paper is to clarify the meaning of various data elements related to information currency (i.e. date fields) that are used in SAFER transactions.

The following information, which is available in various sections of the *Safety and Fitness Electronic Records (SAFER) Software Version 8.1 Interface Control Document*, DRAFT Version 8.1, 2008, is summarized here:

Table 1. Input Transactions

Transaction	Data Element that SAFER Checks for Currency of Records received from State
T0019	IFTA_UPDATE_DATE
T0020	IRP_UPDATE_DATE
T0021	FLEET_UPDATE_DATE
T0022	IRP_STATUS_DATE
T0024	TRANSPONDER_UPDATE_DATE

Table 2. Output Transactions

Transaction	Type	Data Element that State Should Check for Record Currency of Data received from SAFER
T0025	Output	IFTA_UPDATE_DATE
T0026	Output	IRP_UPDATE_DATE
T0027	Output	FLEET_UPDATE_DATE
T0028	Output	LAST_UPDATE_DATE
T0029	Output	NA - the SAFER database does not maintain a separate update date field for the transponder id field
T0030	Output	NA - the SAFER database is the sole source of this information. It is therefore unnecessary to use update date to prevent old data from overwriting newer data.
T0031	Output	FILE_CREATE_DATE
T0032	Output	NA

For the T0028 vehicle data, LAST_UPDATE_DATE is the data element that should be used to check for the most recent data. This is the data element supplied by the states in the T0022 upload transactions and represents the date of change at the snapshot level, or for the transaction as a whole.

For the T0031 carrier data, FILE_CREATE_DATE is the data element that should be used to check for the most recent data. This is the data element supplied by MCMIS and represents the date when the file of changed carrier records is created by MCMIS and sent to SAFER. Volpe considers this to be a reliable field, consistently populated, and the recommended date source for checking data currency for the T0031.

Note that unlike in the T0028, LAST_UPDATE_DATE in the T0031 represents the last MCMIS Census data update. It does not represent the date for any other data element updates and it should not be used to check for most recent data at the snapshot level. Other data elements are available in the T0031 transaction to check dates for specific data items.