



Memorandum

**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

Office of Inspector General

Subject: INFORMATION: Notification of Audit
of Safety Status Measurement System
Project Number: 03I3002I000

Date: November 6, 2002

Reply to

From: Theodore P. Alves
Assistant Inspector General for Highway
Infrastructure and Safety Programs

Attn of: JA-30

To: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administrator

We are initiating an audit of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) Safety Status Measurement System (SafeStat). SafeStat is an automated analysis system designed to measure the relative safety fitness of motor carriers based on performance data. SafeStat uses a scoring system that measures the relative safety status of motor carriers in four areas: crashes, drivers, vehicles, and safety management. Scores are calculated for carriers with sufficient safety data related to each area. Currently, the scores are updated every 6 months and are available to the public on a website. Additional uses of SafeStat data include carrier safety screening and monitoring by other Federal agencies that employ motor carriers and by other firms making business decisions in which the safety status of a carrier is a factor (e.g. shippers, insurers, and lessors).

This audit is being initiated at the request of Representative Thomas E. Petri, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Our overall objective is to determine whether FMCSA's SafeStat reliably identifies high risk carriers. Specifically, we will determine whether the:

- SafeStat model is valid and will verify whether the scores calculated are consistent with the model's design,
- data SafeStat uses are complete, consistent, accurate, and timely, and

- data quality control systems are adequate to ensure information quality for intended uses.

We plan to conduct the audit at FMCSA Headquarters, at the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center, and at other field locations selected during the audit. We plan to start the audit immediately.

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cc: National Highway Traffic Safety Administrator