

**IMPROVED
ENFORCEMENT**

**SAFER ROADS
FOR STATE AGENCIES**



**Commercial
Vehicle
Electronic
Screening**

State Agencies with Limited Staff Must Inspect an Increasing Number of Vehicles

“Electronic screening is good for government because we can avoid the substantial costs associated with physically expanding weigh stations to deal with growing truck traffic. Our Woodburn Port of Entry south of Portland, for example, was built in the mid-1980s to weigh 2,300 trucks per day. Now we process 5,300 trucks on a busy day there. Instead of building a bigger weigh station with more static scales and attendant staff, weigh-in-motion scales allow us to efficiently sort that traffic.”

—Gregg Dal Ponte, Deputy Director, Motor Carrier Branch, Oregon Department of Transportation.

Today, more than 400,000 domestic motor carriers operate more than four million tractor-trailers on U.S. roadways. To ensure the safety of the motoring public, state agency enforcement officials must inspect these vehicles at roadside weigh and inspection stations. Yet two factors affect the quality and consistency of these inspection efforts:

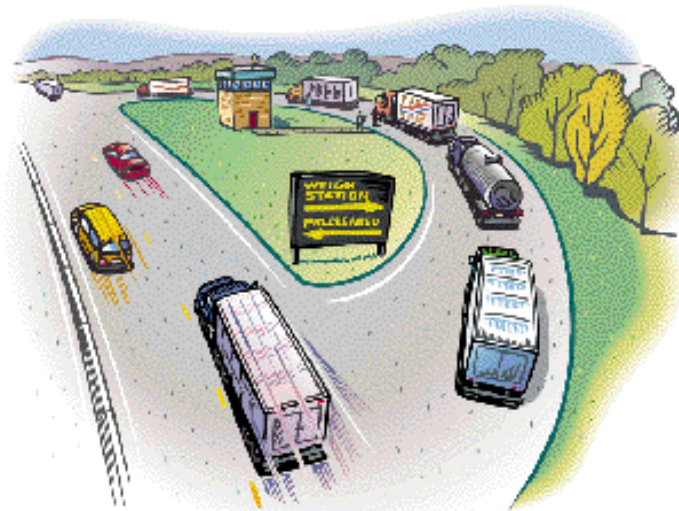
- Number of inspectors available at any one site
- Location and capacity of the weigh and inspection stations

As a result, stations with limited staffing or those along busy corridors often become congested and must close, allowing potentially non-compliant trucks to bypass the station until those already in the queue are processed.

Electronic Screening Maximizes Existing Staff Resources and Accommodates Increased Traffic

Electronic screening offers state enforcement officials the opportunity to pre-select vehicles for bypass, based on the vehicle's safety history and current standing. Because these safer vehicles pass by, enforcement officials can:

- Target their enforcement activities, focusing on those vehicles and drivers who are possibly operating in violation of motor carrier safety regulations
- Maximize the effectiveness of their safety enforcement efforts



“With more than eight million inspections a year and tight highway resources, we have to look at innovative ways to operate our weigh stations efficiently. With electronic screening, we may be able to focus our

attention on non-compliant trucks because the safest ones, which are enrolled, will be able to drive by without stopping.”
—Kenneth I. Warren, Executive Director, Mississippi Department of Transportation

“Electronic screening saves us time and frees us to be able to concentrate on the carriers, drivers, and vehicles that need more of our attention.”

—Alan Frew, Port of Entry Manager, Idaho Transportation Department

Electronic screening allows state agencies to:

- Use their labor and assets more efficiently
- Reduce the significant costs associated with enforcement activities
- Consistently ensure regulatory compliance

“Electronic screening has the potential of assisting law enforcement agencies to focus their efforts on non-compliant carriers as opposed to those who are compliant.”

—Brenda Dietrich, Assistant Division Commander, Motor Carrier Division, Michigan State Police

The electronic screening of vehicles also:

- Reduces paperwork
- Reduces data entry errors
- Reduces state pollution levels

“The bypass system ushers in a new transportation era by streamlining the movement of commercial vehicles without compromising public safety. In addition, the bypass program yields compelling environmental benefits.”

—Chief Lee Denno, California Highway Patrol

Promote Interstate Commerce and Improve Highway Safety

The trucking industry pays nearly \$23 billion in federal and state highway use taxes annually. Electronic screening rewards those carriers that operate safely and comply with state laws by providing:

- Faster delivery times
- Greater convenience
- Increased profits

These incentives encourage carriers to have their trucks travel through those states equipped with electronic screening.

"In order for carriers to realize the business benefits that come from electronic screening, states need to work together toward putting these systems in at as many locations as possible. We realize it'll take time to work it out, but we believe it'll be worth it."

—Jim Belshee, Director of Safety, William Edwards, Inc.

Effective weigh and inspection stations also reduce the frequency and severity of commercial vehicle accidents.

"After two years (September 1995-September 1997) and more than 160,000 bypasses, there has been no degradation of safety at electronic clearance equipped sites. In fact, vehicle and mechanical failure as a factor in truck accidents has significantly decreased on our highways because we have been able to focus our inspection efforts on unsafe trucks, while pre-approved trucks just drive by."

—D.O. Helmick, Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol

"Electronic screening will help us in our primary mission—ensuring safety and preserving highway assets—by supporting a kind of commercial vehicle safety 'community watch program' where carriers are our partners in promoting safety."

—Ken Jennings, Commercial Vehicle Size and Weight Program Director, Virginia DOT



INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS



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