

Motor Carrier Safety Advisory Committee (MCSAC)
Task Statement #09-03

I. TASK TITLE

Provide advice to FMCSA on approaches that could be implemented to improve the existing processes, procedures, and requirements for ensuring that new entrant motor carriers are knowledgeable about Federal motor carrier safety mandates prior to beginning operations in interstate commerce.

II. BACKGROUND

The FMCSA's current process for motor carriers to operate in interstate commerce requires that carriers (both private and for-hire) submit a motor carrier identification report (FMCSA Form MCS-150) and undergo a new entrant safety audit within the first 18 months of operation in interstate commerce. On average, these audits have been conducted within 6 months for passenger carriers and 9 months for all other carriers. In 2008, FMCSA received new motor carrier applications for operating authority from 49,847 carriers, an average of more than 4,000 applications per month.

Certain for-hire motor carriers cannot begin operations in interstate commerce until they apply for, and are granted, operating authority by FMCSA. Among the requirements for obtaining operating authority is payment of an application fee, filing of proof of insurance, and the designation of a process agent.

III. TASK

The FMCSA requests that the Committee provide a letter report to the Agency identifying approaches or strategies the Agency should consider for ensuring that new entrant motor carriers are knowledgeable about the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations and Hazardous Materials Regulations, and have the ability to implement and maintain safety management controls and a safety culture in the workplace to achieve full compliance with the regulations and minimize the risks of crashes.

Additionally, in the letter report please differentiate among recommendations that could be implemented immediately, those that require regulatory change, or those that require statutory change.

IV. ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE TASK

The FMCSA requests that the Committee submit a letter report outlining its findings at the September 2009 Committee meeting.

FMCSA TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVES

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