

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

ISSUED: June 7, 1978

Forwarded to:

Governors of all States
(See attachment)

SAFETY RECOMMENDATION(S)
H-78-45

On March 8, 1977, a tractor-semitrailer struck the rear of a Campbell County (Virginia) Public Schools schoolbus on U.S. Highway 29, near Rustburg, Virginia. Three of the 33 occupants of the schoolbus died in the collision. A copy of the National Transportation Safety Board's report of its investigation of this accident is enclosed.

At the time of the accident, the truckdriver held valid driver licenses from the States of Florida and North Carolina. He has been licensed in North Carolina since the early 1960's. A review of his driving record over the past 17 years, which included the operation of commercial vehicles, revealed that he had accumulated 38 traffic violation convictions in eight States, six driver license suspensions, and four highway accidents. Twenty-one of these traffic convictions, the suspensions, and the accidents occurred in North Carolina.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Highway Safety Program Standard (HSPS) No. 5, Driver Licensing, requires that each State have a driver license program that allows each driver to hold only one license, which identifies the type(s) of vehicle(s) the driver is authorized to operate. HSPS No. 5 also suggests that each State identify problem drivers and act to reduce the frequency of their involvement in traffic accidents and violations through a driver improvement program. The Safety Board believes that a driving record such as that amassed by the truckdriver in the Virginia accident indicates a problem driver and that cases such as his should be dealt with as described in HSPS No. 5.

Also, Chapter 6 of the Uniform Vehicle Code (UVC), which several States have adopted, states:

No person shall receive a driver's license unless and until he surrenders to the department all valid licenses in his possession issued to him by this or any other jurisdiction--no person shall be permitted to have more than one valid driver's license at any time.

The State of Florida had issued this truckdriver a license, even though he held a valid North Carolina license.

We recognize that the implementation and conduct of driver improvement programs require a significant effort by each State. The removal of problem drivers from our highways is a positive step toward preventing highway traffic accidents and saving lives.

Therefore, the National Transportation Safety Board recommends that each State:

Review its driver licensing program(s) to insure that it conforms to the one-license concept and the driver improvement program suggested by Highway Safety Program Standard No. 5, Driver Licensing, and by the guidelines set forth in Chapter 6 of the Uniform Vehicle Code. (Class I, Urgent Action) (H-78-45)

KING, Chairman, McADAMS, HOGUE, and DRIVER, Members, concurred in the above recommendation.

By:  James B. King
Chairman

Attachment

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