



For Large Trucks and Buses: A New Direction to Help Save Lives

A CHANGE THAT IS NECESSARY

Since the 1970s, Federal and State enforcement agencies, in partnership with many other stakeholders, have progressively reduced the commercial motor vehicle-related fatality crash rate. In an effort to maximize these efforts, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has taken a fresh look at how the agency evaluates the safety performance of motor carriers and drivers: Compliance, Safety, Accountability (CSA) is the result.

CSA covers the full spectrum of safety issues: from how data are collected, evaluated, and shared to how enforcement officials can intervene most effectively and efficiently to improve safety on our roads. CSA's data analysis expands on the previous SafeStat system, covering more behavioral areas specifically linked to crash risk.



A CHANGE BUILT ON REALITY

For a more accurate measurement of the safety performance of carriers and drivers, CSA captures all on-road safety performance data (all safety-based roadside violations and crash data) and classifies it into seven specific categories of carrier/driver behavior, called **Behavior Analysis and Safety Improvement Categories (BASICS)**:

Unsafe Driving	Vehicle Maintenance
Fatigued Driving (Hours-of-Service)	Cargo-Related
Driver Fitness	Crash Indicator
Controlled Substances/Alcohol	

A CHANGE TO HELP US ALL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

CSA's new intervention process is designed to reach more carriers and drivers sooner, so that problems can be identified and corrected before a crash occurs. The new interventions promote safety through several proactive tools designed specifically to compel safety compliance. These tools are:

- Early Contacts:
- Warning Letter
 - Carrier Access to Safety Data & Measurement
 - Targeted Roadside Inspections

Investigations

- Offsite Investigation
- Onsite Investigation – Focused
- Onsite Investigation – Comprehensive

Follow-on Corrective Actions:

- Cooperative Safety Plan
- Notice of Violation
- Notice of Claim
- Operations Out-of-Service Order

CSA includes making carriers' BASIC results available to roadside inspectors for use in inspection selection to enable them to conduct a more effective and focused inspection.

CSA also expands FMCSA's current carrier-based safety programs to address individual problem drivers who elude such safety programs by moving from one employer to another. Under CSA, FMCSA identifies and addresses drivers with poor safety histories during interventions with motor carriers. For now, the focus is on driver enforcement for serious rule violations such as driving while disqualified or committing numerous hours-of-service violations. Enforcement action may be taken directly against the driver for these violations.

A revised, more comprehensive Safety Fitness Determination (SFD) process is also a feature of CSA. As proposed, carrier safety fitness would be updated monthly based on roadside safety data along with the results of CSA investigations.

Together, these actions mean that everyone can be assured that their vigilance and hard work will bring the results we all want: safer highways for carriers, their drivers, and the entire motoring public.

A CHANGE THAT WILL BE NOTICED

CSA is a proactive, data-driven, performance-based national traffic safety initiative that transforms the way carriers, drivers, and compliance and enforcement personnel approach their jobs. It is critical that all stakeholders understand its impacts. To accomplish this, a dynamic educationally based outreach effort has been ongoing. We hope you'll be part of it so we can spread the word about CSA. The more enthusiasm we can build, the more effective CSA is.





A BETTER WAY TO MEASURE MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY AND TO HELP ALL CARRIERS AND DRIVERS IMPROVE THEIR SAFETY PERFORMANCE

MISSION

CSA is FMCSA's innovative new method of reducing bus and truck crashes on our roads. CSA enables FMCSA and its State Partners to more effectively identify the safety problems of motor carriers and their drivers. CSA also offers a new methodology that enhances the measurement of a motor carrier's safety performance and adds innovative new tools designed to correct safety problems.

MEASUREMENT

CSA offers a more comprehensive measurement system by including all safety-based violations found during roadside inspections. In addition, when used to assess performance, these violations will be weighted by their relationship to crash risk. The system also assesses the safety performance of both carriers and drivers. As a result, it provides a more thorough evaluation of safety performance.

METHODS OF INTERVENTION

The goal of CSA is to reduce crashes, so it broadens interventions and reaches more carriers. The program is designed to alert carriers earlier to safety problems so that they may correct them before crashes occur. Based on the risk posed by the carrier, the interventions may increase in severity and degree of interaction. This approach allows FMCSA and our State Partners to reach more carriers sooner, using less resource-intensive means while maintaining a strong enforcement presence.

FIELD TESTED

In February 2008, a 30-month field test (the Operational Model Test (Op-Model Test)) began that involved 68,000 randomly chosen commercial motor vehicle carriers in four states: Colorado, Georgia, Missouri, and New Jersey. Half of the carriers remained under the existing program and the other half became part of the CSA test group under the new system. Based on early promising results, FMCSA added five more states to the test in 2009: Delaware, Kansas, Maryland, Minnesota, and Montana. All of the carriers in those five states are covered under the new program and, in the summer of 2010, the control carriers in the four original test states also transitioned to CSA.

Throughout the test, FMCSA solicited feedback and listened carefully to enforcement staff, test participants, and industry safety experts. In response to input and test results, the agency is fine-tuning the new program as it embarks upon a phased national rollout.

ON AMERICA'S HIGHWAYS TODAY

As CSA rolls out, a concerted effort will continue to inform carriers and drivers of the changes and to encourage all stakeholders to become more involved in their own safety management practices by understanding how CSA impacts them.

For more details about CSA, please visit our Website:

<http://csa.fmcsa.dot.gov/>

