Data Quality 101

SAFETYNET: Crash Reports

The SAFETYNET Crash Reports make your job easier by helping you find specific information in the SAFETYNET database. Reports can answer questions about the safety performance in specific locations or types of drivers, and help validate the quality of your crash data by identifying missing data. Ultimately, reports help you support motor carrier safety programs and help FMCSA prioritize at-risk carriers for interventions.

The SAFETYNET System is an automated information management system designed to support FMCSA motor carrier safety programs by monitoring the safety performance of interstate and intrastate commercial and some noncommercial motor carriers. The effectiveness of FMCSA's safety compliance and enforcement programs depend on the quality of the data you report.

What types of canned reports are available?

You can view the following types of reports by selecting Reports from the top menu:

Report Type	Description
Record Summary Reports	Provides a record summary report and a function to generate custom reports.
Data Entry Reports	Generate specific data entry reports.
Summary Reports	Provide quantitative overviews of the status of the Crash Program.
Crossover Reports	Generate carrier reports from inspections and crashes.
Upload Status Reports	Provide a summary and details report of the crashes uploaded and pending confirmation, as well as the number of days between the crash date and upload date.

What are the most commonly used canned reports?

The two most commonly used reports are the Crash Facsimile Report and the Motor Carrier Management Information System (MCMIS) Upload Edit Results Messages Report.

The Crash Facsimile Report has been formatted for easy review and is located in the Data Entry Reports category. It is used primarily to fill internal requests for copies of crash reports. The report provides limited data, including the SAFETYNET portion of a crash report. Information from a full report (e.g., a crash narrative) is available from the State agency that collects all crash reports.
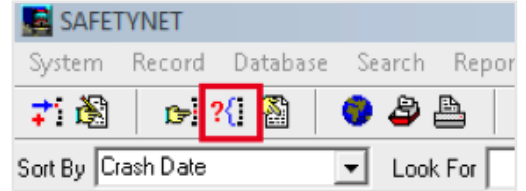
The MCMIS Upload Edit Results Messages Report is located in the Data Entry Reports category and displays confirmation results from MCMIS after uploaded records have been processed. The report displays any records that were rejected by MCMIS, along with Warnings and Errors so you can complete any missing or inaccurate data.

How can I create a simple query in SAFETYNET?

SAFETYNET provides a querying tool that allows you to search for specific information in the database.

Access the Query function by either clicking on Record from the top-menu and then on Query, or by clicking on the Query icon from the toolbar, as seen to the right.

Example: A simple query can answer questions like, "How many 2015 crash records are there in the SAFETYNET System?"

- To create a simply query
  - Click Add
  - Select Crash Date from the Field dropdown list
  - Choose a Comparison operator (e.g., > =)
  - Provide a Value (01/01/2015)
  - Select Save, name the query, and click Run to execute the query

- **Note:** Simple queries commonly use one or more conditions that are combined by the use of an AND/OR operator
  - Use an AND if you would like ALL the query conditions to be met
  - Use OR if you would like ANY query condition to be met
  - Contact your Data Quality Specialist for help with developing queries

How can I create a custom report?

SAFETYNET makes it easy to create custom reports. The grid can be customized by adding and/or removing columns. Query results from the grid can then be exported into other software to create attractive, shareable reports.

To create a custom report, first run a query. To export the results:
  - Select Reports → Record Summary → Print/Save
  - Keep the default settings, and under Select Rows, choose All Rows
  - Click on Save to export the grid as a text file
  - Open MS Excel and click on File → Open
  - Navigate to the location of the saved grid.txt file, and click Open
  - MS Excel will run the import wizard; maintain default settings from the wizard
  - When the import is done, save the file as a XLSX file

Hint: By default, the file name is grid.txt, but you may want to use a more meaningful name.

For more detailed information about SAFETYNET, refer to the SAFETYNET Manual. You can find the SAFETYNET Manual within SAFETYNET. Go to the SAFETYNET help menu and choose the appropriate module.

The SAFETYNET Manual is designed to help States optimize their use of SAFETYNET and thus improve the quality of their safety data. The manual offers guidance to help you enter complete and accurate data.

Contact Information

As part of our commitment to continually improving our programs, FMCSA welcomes any comments, questions, or suggestions you have. Please contact Scott Valentine at Scott.Valentine@dot.gov or call 202-366-4869.

For questions regarding FMCSA Technical Support, you can contact the Technical Support team at FMCTechSup@dot.gov or call 617-494-3003. For additional technical support, you may also contact Nelson Canas at Nelson.Canas.CTR@dot.gov or call 617-494-6019.