



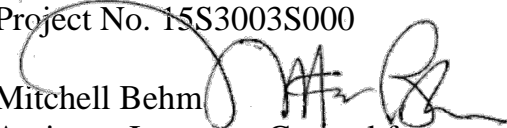
Memorandum

U.S. Department of
Transportation

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation
Office of Inspector General

Subject: **INFORMATION**: Audit Announcement –
Investigative Practices for High Risk Carriers
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
Project No. 15S3003S000

Date: May 05, 2015

From: Mitchell Behm 
Assistant Inspector General for
Surface Transportation Audits

Reply to
Attn. of: JA-30

To: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administrator

In 2013, large truck and bus crashes resulted in nearly 4,300 fatalities and nearly 83,000 injuries. High profile crashes and investigations have raised concerns about the timeliness and effectiveness of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) reviews of motor carriers that pose a greater risk. In 2013, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) conducted investigations of four motor carriers involved in crashes that collectively resulted in 25 fatalities and 83 injuries. The investigations revealed that FMCSA conducted safety reviews of these motor carriers prior to their crashes, one carrier only 5 days before, yet did not uncover or act on certain pre-existing safety deficiencies until after the crashes. Since 2010, FMCSA has been implementing its Compliance, Safety, Accountability (CSA) program to identify higher risk motor carriers for intervention, such as targeted roadside inspections and compliance reviews.

In 2014, a motor carrier with a history of violations was involved in a fatal crash in Illinois. The motor carrier had been flagged as high-risk in FMCSA's system, but an investigation was not conducted. Following the 2014 crash, Senator Dick Durbin requested that we audit FMCSA's investigative practices for high-risk motor carriers. Subsequently, the 2015 appropriations legislation directed us to review FMCSA's compliance review process. Accordingly, our audit objective is to assess FMCSA's processes for ensuring that reviews of motor carriers flagged for investigation are timely and adequate.

We plan to begin the audit immediately and will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. We will conduct our work at FMCSA Headquarters in

Washington, DC, and other locations. If you have any questions, please contact me at 202-366-5630 or Kerry R. Barras, Program Director, at 817-978-3318.

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cc: FMCSA Audit Liaison, MCPRS
DOT Audit Liaison, M-1