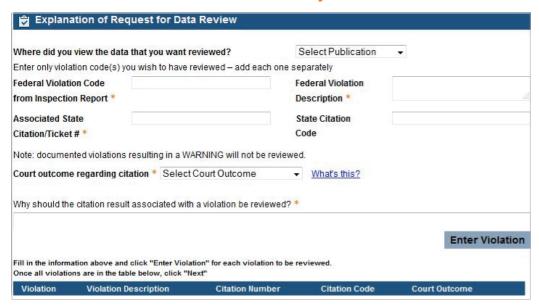# Data Quality 101

DataQs: Adjudicated Citations

FMCSA is committed to improving the quality and uniformity of its data. Under the adjudicated citations policy, you can request that your safety record data reflects the adjudication results for citations associated with roadside inspection violations. The adjudicated citations policy provides a process for drivers to request a review of the results of adjudicated citations.

Individuals may submit certified documentation of the results of adjudicated roadside inspection violations by submitting a Request for Data Review (RDR) in DataQs. As a result, State data can reflect the results of adjudicated citations related to roadside inspection violation data collected in the Motor Carrier Management Information System (MCMIS), which improves the overall quality of data.

What is an adjudicated citation?

A citation that has been contested and resolved through a due process proceeding in a State, local, or administrative tribunal, regardless of how the action is resolved, whether by a judge or prosecutor or as part of a plea agreement or otherwise.

What information is collected for an adjudicated citation in DataQs?

How is an adjudicated citation RDR reviewed?

Request is received → Supporting documents are asked for, reviewed, and confirmed → Document accuracy is confirmed with the courts → The adjudicated citation outcome is uploaded in SAFETYNET → The amended inspection is uploaded to MCMIS

What is the impact of the appended citation result?

The list below outlines how the citation result impacts the use of the associated violation in other FMCSA data systems. While the SMS results and the Pre-Employment Screening Program (PSP) Report will treat and display the violations differently based on the citation result, carriers and enforcement users logging into the Portal or the SMS will be able to see all violations listed on an inspection and the associated citation result recorded.

If the violation is appended to reflect:

3—Not guilty/dismissed	It will be excluded from the SMS calculations.
	It will be excluded from the PSP report.
2—Convicted of a different charge	The severity weight in the SMS calculations will be set to 1.
	It will be indicated as conviction of a different charge on the PSP report.
1—Convicted of a original charge	It will maintain the same severity weight in the SMS calculations.
	It will be included on the PSP report.
0—N/A	It will maintain the same severity weight in the SMS calculations.
	It will be included in the PSP report.

How does a user close an adjudicated citation RDR in DataQs?

Is there a documented court outcome?	Closed—Citation Results Entered
Was the violation removed due to an error?	Closed—Data Correction Made
Was the violation maintained?	Closed—No Data Correction Made
Was the outcome of the adjudicated citation invalid?	Closed—No Data Correction Made
Was a fine paid as a result of the violation?	Closed—No Data Correction Made

What is the update frequency and data retention of the various FMCSA systems?

System	Update Frequency	Crash Data Retention	Inspection Data Retention
Portal/MCMIS	Daily	-	-
SAFER	Daily	2 years	2 years
SMS	Monthly	2 years	2 years
PSP	Monthly	5 years	3 years

Note: The MCMIS data is only updated if SAFETYNET successfully uploads the data.

Questions? Feedback?

Contact the DataQs technical support team at (877) 688-2984.

To learn more about DataQs, visit the DataQs site at https://dataqs.fmcsa.dot.gov.

For more detailed information about how to use DataQs to improve data quality, please visit the DataQs Analyst Guide of Best Practices for Federal and State Agency users at https://dataqs.fmcsa.dot.gov/Data/Guide/DataQs_Users_Guide_and_Best_Practices_Manual.pdf.

As part of our commitment to continually improving our programs, FMCSA welcomes any comments, questions, or suggestions you have. Give us a call at 877-688-2984 (option 1) to speak with a member of the DataQs Technical Support Team, or email us at DataQs@dot.gov.