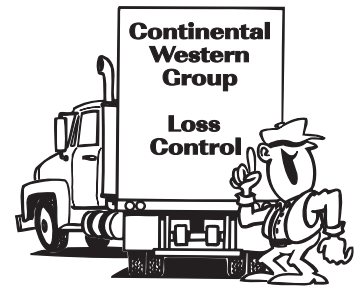


# TRUCK TALK

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## DOT Update

There has been a lot of activity recently at the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. Many new initiatives have been made into law, and several proposals are on the table.

- CSA 2010, now known as just CSA for Compliance, Safety, and Accountability, has been active since the end of December 2010. SafeStat has been replaced by the Safety Management System, known as simply SMS. Those of you with an "Alert" on one or more of the 7 BASICs can expect a letter from the DOT advising you that certain areas of your operation need some attention.

NOTE: To log into the SMS website and see all of your safety data, you will need a FMCSA-issued PIN number. If you do not have a PIN or have forgotten your PIN, you can request one at <http://safer.fmcsa.dot.gov> and select 'Click here to request your Docket Number PIN and/or USDOT Number PIN'. Be sure to request a USDOT Number PIN, not a Docket Number PIN. You can also call 1-800-832-5660 to obtain your PIN or if you need assistance.

- The proposal for the new Hours of Service regulations has been made public. There are quite a few proposed changes, most notably is the chance of a reduction of one hour of available driving time per day.
- A proposed regulation would require all interstate companies that are currently required to use logbooks to record compliance under the federal hours of service regulations to install electronic on-board recorders in their vehicles. EOBRs are devices attached to commercial vehicles that automatically record and monitor drivers' hours of service. Motor carriers will be given 3 years from the effective date of the final rule to comply with these requirements. This proposal was just made public on 1-31-2011. There is a lot to this proposal that is still unknown, such as the minimum capabilities of the recording device. What is known, however, is the carriers who violate this EOBR requirement would face civil penalties of up to \$11,000 for each offense. Noncompliance would also

negatively impact a carrier's safety fitness rating and DOT operating authority. For additional information and instructions on how to comment on this proposal, please visit the FMCSA website at [www.fmcsa.dot.gov](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov).

- FMCSA has available the New Employee Pre-Employment Screening Program, also known as PSP. The program helps motor carriers make more informed hiring decisions by providing electronic access to a driver's crash and inspection history from the FMCSA Motor Carrier Management Information System (MCMIS). Individual drivers can also request a personal driving history for a fee of \$10.00. For more information on this program please go to [www.fmcsa.dot.gov](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov) and click on the PSP link.
- In an effort to reduce instances of distracted driving, the FMCSA in December 2010 announced a proposal to ban the use of hand-held cell phones in commercial motor vehicles. The proposal would prohibit commercial drivers from holding, reaching for or dialing a cell phone while operating a commercial motor vehicle. Drivers could face fines of up to \$2,750 per violation – and loss of their commercial driver's license for multiple offenses – while carriers' fines could be as high as \$11,000. States could also suspend CDLs after two or more violations of any state law on hand-held cell phone use. These type of offenses will also have an impact on the carriers' BASIC scores.

There are other proposals on the table as well, such as Medical Examiner Certification, a U.S. Cross Border Trucking Program, T.A.C.T. (Ticketing Aggressive Cars and Trucks) Program, and an effort to tie the medical examination requirement to the driver's CDL.

All of these programs and proposals will have an impact on a motor carrier's daily operation. It is very important to stay informed and get involved in the comment process. If you have any questions concerning these or other topics, please contact one of the Continental Western Group Loss Control Representatives listed at the bottom of this page.

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