



Safety First

Deep South
Insurance Services Since 1967

We're On The Road With You

Spring 2014

Welcome To The New Safety First

Since more than 35% of business people today receive their e-mail through their smart phone or a tablet, we determined it is time to produce **Safety First** in a responsive format that adapts to the device the e-newsletter is being viewed on by the reader. So, whether you are reading this issue of **Safety First** on a desktop computer or a smart phone, it automatically adapts to the device to give you the best user experience. We hope you enjoy the new format!

Managing Your Exposure To Regulatory Infractions and Penalties

In today's more robust regulatory environment, it is important for trucking companies and owners of fleets to stay in front of any potential regulatory related issues. To assist with that effort are several helpful tips:

1. Obtain a PIN number from DOT which will allow you to access carrier and driver specific information which can help manage your Compliance Safety Accountability (CSA) program
2. Routinely check your DOT/SMS (Safety Measurement System) score by going to www.ai.fmcsa.dot.gov where you can enter your Department of Transportation (DOT) number. The CAB Report made available to you by Deep South can be utilized as well. Many operators of fleets are blind sided by not properly managing their CSA scores. Being proactive in understanding any potential issues enhances safety strategies and reduces regulatory complications.
3. Always make sure your MCS-150 filing (number of trucks, trailers, drivers, and annual miles are filed with DOT) is current and up to date. The DOT requires you to update this information every 2 years. Information can be found at www.fmcsa.dot.gov. This information is important since the DOT is using this information to account for each motor carriers level of exposure when calculating SMS scores.
4. Ensure that DOT safety inspection annuals are completed each year for all Commercial Motor Vehicles (CMV) per DOT rules and regulations. This information can be found under Part 396 of the FMCSA rules. This is a basic requirement.
5. To combat maintenance violations and other related fleet safety matters it is important that drivers conduct routine "Pre-Trip" inspections of their CMV's. Proper maintenance procedures and activities are vital to operating a safe fleet. In addition, record keeping and files should be kept current at all times.
6. Administrative controls are important to have in place to ensure medical cards from a certified medical provider, Driver Qualification Files (DQF), log books and other key information are kept up to date and accurate.





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7. Every company should conduct routine safety meetings to discuss your companies fleet safety procedures and safety performance. To address any issues, it is important to make sure drivers know the carrier and driver violations that are part of the DOT/SMS record and require attention. Self auditing, employee/driver safety engagement and the implementation of proactive procedures can minimize DOT safety interventions and violations.

8. For assistance, contact your Deep South Loss Control Consultant for guidance and consultations. Be sure to utilize our on-line resources at www.deep-south.com, "Ask An Expert" askanexpert@deep-south.com or contact us at 855 258-8178. You can also follow us at [Twitter@deepsouth67](https://twitter.com/deepsouth67).

Each of the recommendations offered can assist with managing your CSA score, the potential for DOT interventions, and overall general fleet safety. We encourage you to drive safety initiatives at your company to reduce your total cost of risk, improve operational productivity and save lives!

National Registry of Certified Examiners Requirement - Effective May 21, 2014



In an effort to ensure consistency of medical evaluations for drivers and ultimately enhance safety on America's roadways, the Federal Motor Carrier Administration, put in place new rules that become effective on May 21, 2014 governing medical examinations. Currently, all interstate commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers are required to have a valid medical certificate signed by a healthcare provider. The change created by the implementation of the National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners is that, within 2 years of the rule's effective date, all CMV drivers must be examined by a Medical Examiner who is listed on the National Registry.

The National Registry provides CMV drivers and carriers with a convenient list of medical examiners in their area who have been certified as having the knowledge to determine if a driver can safely handle the medical demands of driving a commercial motor vehicle.

To learn more about this requirement and comply with the rule, a number of links and resources are provided below:

Search For A Registered Certified Medical Examiner In Your Area

<https://nationalregistry.fmcsa.dot.gov/NRPublicUI/home.seam>

Certified Medical Examiner Requirements Fact Sheet For Drivers

<http://d31hzlhk6di2h5.cloudfront.net/20140425/25/46/54/bd/9f568b8d5c683924dbb97e13/FactSheetCMVDrivers.pdf>



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Hours of Service Rules and A Proposal To Require Electronic Log Books

More than 12 percent of the 129,120 crashes that involved large trucks or buses in 2012 were the result of impaired driving including fatigue according to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). Over the past two years, the FMCSA has put in place new rules relative to hours of service to address the issue of driver fatigue and improve safety outcomes. At the core of the hours of service issue is the paper logbook that must be maintained by the driver to accurately record hours of service. The logbook has always been an administrative burden for drivers. It is also an area where inaccuracies, either by mistake or on purpose, can lead to violations and in worse case scenarios fatigued drivers involved in accidents.

To address the issue, on March 13, 2014 the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration announced a proposal to require interstate commercial truck and bus companies to use Electronic Logging Devices (ELDs) to reduce the administrative burden of maintaining paper log books and enhance compliance with safety rules that govern the number of hours a driver can be at work.

The proposal has had input by the Motor Carrier Safety Advisory Committee and from the public in two listening sessions. At this point the proposed rule is still under review. To learn more about the Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Electronic Logging Devices, please click the link below.

[Electronic Logging Devices - Proposed Rulemaking
Interstate CMV Drivers - Hours of Service Rules](#)

Towing and Recovery Services - Passenger Liability A Growing Challenge

A significant exposure that has been identified relative to tow truck and recovery services results from ride along passengers. Quite simply, tow trucks were not designed for the safe transport of passengers.

Naturally, at the scene of accident or if a car breaks down, passengers of the towed vehicle may seek a ride home. In the best of circumstances, the dispatcher of the tow truck company advises the customer to contact a relative, friend or cab company to provide transportation away from the scene of the accident or breakdown. If the dispatcher is unable to address the issue, tow truck drivers should be informed about the company's ride along policy and strongly encouraged to follow the policy. Only as a last resort should a tow truck or recovery operator allow a passenger or passengers in the tow truck and then only when certain requirements are met.

For additional information, please click on the links below:

[Tow Truck Passenger - Technical Bulletin](#)
[Tow Truck Passenger - Sample Policy](#)





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Deep South Loss Control Resources - Information That Can Save Your Company Money and Improve Safety

Deep South's loss control hub on the web is a substantial resource that many clients draw upon to improve safety initiatives. In the Clients Only Section of the website, new issues of Risk Watch are posted regularly along with other alerts and publications designed to help clients reduce their exposure to risk. Be sure to check back often for new information and resources.

Here are some of the things that you will now find at www.deep-south.com/services/losscontrol:

Ask An Expert - 24/7/365 access to loss control staff to get answers to questions

Risk Watch - Comprehensive reviews of safety topics (Client Only)

Tool Box Safety Talks - Resource materials to guide safety meetings (Client Only)

Sound Bites on Safety - Brief audio files on safety topics

And More Resources.....

- > A listing of the services that we are able to provide
- > A comprehensive menu of direct links to major safety resource web sites
- > Access to our library of on-line videos. (Client Only)
- > Printable brochures and informational flyers.

www.deep-south.com

