



Memorandum

**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation
Office of Inspector General

Subject: **INFORMATION:** Audit Announcement –
FMCSA’s Implementation of the Compliance,
Safety, Accountability Program
Project No. 13M3002M000

Date: January 14, 2013

From: Joseph W. Comé 
Assistant Inspector General for Highway and
Transit Audits

Reply to
Attn. of: JA-40

To: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administrator

At the end of 2010, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) implemented its Compliance, Safety, Accountability (CSA) program intended to improve commercial motor vehicle safety by focusing enforcement efforts on higher risk carriers. The centerpiece of CSA is the Safety Measurement System (SMS), which uses seven safety improvement categories called Behavior Analysis and Safety Improvement Categories to evaluate carriers’ performance and assess their potential crash risks. CSA also includes a wide array of enforcement interventions, such as targeted roadside inspections and compliance reviews, aimed at improving carrier safety.

At the September 13, 2012, hearing on truck and bus safety programs before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Highways and Transit Subcommittee, members of Congress and the trucking industry expressed concerns about CSA implementation, particularly the SMS evaluation of carrier performance and risk.

Following the hearing, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the subcommittee requested that the Office of Inspector General (OIG) evaluate FMCSA’s implementation of CSA. Specifically, our audit will assess whether FMCSA has (1) established adequate controls to ensure the quality of the data used to evaluate carrier performance and risk, and (2) effectively implemented CSA enforcement interventions. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) is currently reviewing

CSA's identification of the highest risk carriers,¹ and we will coordinate with GAO during our audit to avoid duplication of work.

We plan to begin this audit in January 2013 and will coordinate with your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. If I can answer any questions or be of further assistance, please contact me at (202) 366-5630 or Wendy Harris, Program Director, at (202) 366-2794.

cc: FMSCA Audit Liaison, MC-PRS
DOT Audit Liaison, M-1

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¹ GAO's mandate was originally included in the U.S. Congress, Committee on Appropriations, Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, S. 1596, September 21, 2011. This bill was incorporated into Public Law 112-055 (passed November 18, 2011).