



Memorandum

Date: October 22, 2019

Subject: INFORMATION: Audit Announcement | FMCSA's Oversight of Commercial Driver Disqualifications | Project No. 19S3009S000
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

From: Barry J. DeWeese
Assistant Inspector General for Surface Transportation Audits 

To: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administrator

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) primary mission is to reduce crashes, injuries, and fatalities involving large trucks and buses. In recent years, the number of large trucks and buses on the roads has increased. Similarly, according to FMCSA data as of June 2019, fatalities in crashes involving large trucks or buses have grown from 4,455 in 2013 to 4,949 in 2018, an 11-percent increase.¹

As part of its oversight, FMCSA reviews State commercial driver's license (CDL) programs annually to determine whether they comply with CDL regulations. Earlier this year, a fatal crash involving a commercial driver led to an internal investigation by the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) that found that RMV had not systematically processed out-of-State paper notifications of driver convictions in about 5 years. The investigation also identified a software flaw that hindered RMV's ability to process out-of-State electronic notifications timely. Consequently, in summer 2019, RMV issued thousands of CDL suspensions, based on previously unprocessed out-of-State notifications.

Accordingly, our objective for this self-initiated audit is to assess FMCSA's oversight of State driver's licensing agencies' actions to disqualify commercial drivers when warranted.

We will begin the audit immediately and coordinate with your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. We will conduct our audit at FMCSA

¹ States are expected to report crash data to FMCSA within 90 days of the crash. Crash data is considered preliminary for 22 months to allow for updates.

Headquarters and other selected locations. If you have questions, please contact me at (202) 366-5630 or Kerry R. Barras, Program Director, at (817) 978-3318.

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