



# Motor Carrier Services Update October-November 2005

**MCS UPDATE**

**OCT-NOV 2005**

*"Striving to meet the needs of the AAMVA membership and working to improve highway safety and efficiencies in the motor carrier services community."*

## MCS Sessions at IRP Annual

AAMVA MCS had three informative sessions at the IRP Annual meeting in Orlando, Florida in early November. Thanks to excellent presenters and panelists, valuable information was shared on issues facing the motor carrier services community.

Topics included:

- Federal Heavy Vehicle Usage Tax (HVUT)
- Unified Carrier Registration (UCR)
- Hot shot rigs—Unconventional vehicles
- Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Update
- Large Motor Carrier Basing Issues
- Motor Coach/Bus Issues

In addition to the MCS general session, there was an open forum to discuss the UCR and related issues and offered an opportunity for the jurisdictions and industry representatives to talk about the new program.

An informative session on Emergency Preparedness was also held. During this session attendees heard from several folks representing AAMVA, IRP, IFTA, Industry and the state of Louisiana, who talked about what was done in the wake of the hurricanes that hit the gulf coast region earlier this year. A lot of information was shared and many efforts were and continue to be implemented to keep the general public, jurisdictions and industry informed of executive orders issued to waive registration and permitting requirements for relief efforts, as well as sharing updates, information and processes on many other issues. For the most part the job was done well; however there is always room for improvement and ways to make us more efficient and effective in dealing with future events.

For information and copies of the presentations from these sessions, visit the Motor Carrier Services section of the AAMVA web site or contact Tim Adams via e-mail at [Tadams@aamva.org](mailto:Tadams@aamva.org) or by telephone at (502) 845-0398.

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## Federal Heavy Vehicle Usage Tax (HVUT) Update

The IRS is interested in working with AAMVA to facilitate a solution to the HVUT issue that has been a long time burden for jurisdictions and the industry. Recent developments are:

- Funding allocated through the highway reauthorization bill to pay for enhancements and improvements to the HVUT process.
- IRS working with AAMVA and other groups to obtain input on how the process should work and what the best approach would be.
- Estimated date for delivery of first phase, which is the electronic filing piece, is early 2007.

AAMVA has joined forces with the FMCSA CVISN HVUT ad hoc working group to address the HVUT issue. This brings together most of the parties with an interest in improving the HVUT including the filing, reduction of the paper burden, and creating a better verification process. In addition to jurisdictional representatives, industry will also be represented on this working group. Stay tuned for more updates in the coming months!

## Unified Carrier Registration

### UCR

The Unified Carrier Registration (UCR) was passed in the highway reauthorization bill to replace the Single State Registration System (SSRS). Major provisions of the legislation included:

- Repeal of the SSRS
- Establishment of the Unified Carrier Registration System
- Enactment of the UCR Agreement
- Implementation of the UCR Plan

#### Key Dates:

- Signed into law on Aug. 10, 2005
- Transition termination date: Jan. 1, 2007
- SSRS termination date: Jan. 1, 2007
- State plans required to be submitted to Secretary of Transportation no later than three years after enactment

#### Critical Actions Prior to Implementation:

- Regulations to establish the UCR System
- Establish fee system
- Establish and appoint the UCR Board of Directors
- Appointment of UCR Board Chair and Vice Chair

#### Actions Required by UCR Board:

- Prescribe uniform forms and formats
- Write UCR Agreement
- Write dispute resolution procedures
- Designate a Depository
- Recommend fee structure to Secretary

#### Actions Required by States:

- Submit UCR Plan
- Identify state agency responsible for UCR
- Show how UCR revenue will be used

A series of questions and answers were discussed at the UCR session in Orlando in November. A document containing these questions and answers can be found on the AAMVA web site under the Motor Carrier Services section. If you are unable to access this information contact Tim Adams.

Stay tuned for updates on the UCR and development and implementation progress.

### New Canadian Hours of Service

Canada's new hours-of-service rules were released recently. The Canadian regulations, which will be effective Jan. 1, 2007, are intricate with the rules different north and south of 60 degrees latitude.

Generally, with some variation, restrictions and allowances, the regulations increase the minimum off-duty time from eight to 10 hours per day; retain the option of splitting sleeper berth off-duty/driving time, although somewhat different for single and team drivers; allow cycles of 70 hours in seven days or 120 hours in 14 days; and provide for a rest (a.k.a. restart) of 36 consecutive hours and 72 consecutive hours depending on the cycle.

Details of the regulations can be found at <http://canadagazette.gc.ca/partII/index-e.html%20>.

*This update is issued regularly and is directed to the motor carrier services, motor vehicle and law enforcement community. Nothing in this update is confidential and further dissemination of the contents of this update is allowed and encouraged. The programs and services highlighted in this update focus on the issues of motor carrier services.*

*Comments and submissions to this update are welcomed.*

*Contact Tim Adams via e-mail at [Tadams@aamva.org](mailto:Tadams@aamva.org) or by phone at (502) 845-0398.*

## Other Motor Carrier Items of Interest

### Highway Watch Emergency Exercise

The American Trucking Associations (ATA) and Mississippi State University will conduct the second emergency exercise of the Highway Watch Program's Emergency Planning and Education Center (HWW EPEC) on Dec. 13-15, 2005. This event will now be held at both ATA Headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia and remotely at the MSU Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems Extension (CVAS-E) facility in Canton, Mississippi.

Exercise 2 will focus on these areas:

- Truck to rail intermodal
- Cross border movement
- Tanker operations
- Auto hauling; and
- Freight brokerage and shipment

Executives and operations management, trade association decision makers and governmental operations management will especially benefit from participation.

For more information and/or to register for Exercise 2, you can contact Jack Legler, ATA Director Emergency Planning and Response, at (703) 838-1849 or at [jlegler@trucking.org](mailto:jlegler@trucking.org).

### Safety Research Targets Reductions in Truck Work Zone Crashes

The American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI), the trucking industry's not-for-profit research organization, has released its "Safety by Design: Optimizing Safety in Highway Work Zones" study, which analyzes truck related work zone crash data and offers counter strategies to mitigate work zone accidents.

The research analyzed numerous sets of truck-related work zone safety statistics, and commissioned a targeted state-level analysis of truck accidents by work zone crash location. The study also examined national and multi-state data to differentiate truck crashes in work zones, as compared to non-work zone accidents. It presents a variety of tactics and approaches for reducing work zone accidents and exposure.

Among other factors, the study considers work zone accidents by time of day and location within the work zone. While critical of the availability and accuracy of truck-involved work zone accident data, it does provide important insights on improving work zone safety.

A key concern, based on findings that show that truck-car accidents are highly prevalent in the lane tapering region of work zones, is that many states are now considering reducing the length of work zone tapers in order to increase traffic flow and lane capacity. Doing so may compromise safety as cars cut in front of trucks, forcing them to brake quickly.

For a copy of the executive summary, visit [www.atrionline.org](http://www.atrionline.org).

**The new AAMVA committee structure goes into effect Jan. 1, 2006. With this change it is important that the Motor Carrier Services discipline continues to have strong representation to ensure that priority issues are pushed up within the standing committees.**

**If you or some of your employees are interested in getting actively involved in AAMVA Motor Carrier Services issues, please let Tim Adams know.**

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### **Dept. of Treasury Call for Comments on HVUT**

The Dept. of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506 C2A). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning Form 2290/SP/FR Heavy Vehicle Usage Tax Return.

AAMVA comments, prepared and circulated at the IRP Annual meeting in Orlando and via the MCS Yahoo! Group are available on the MCS section of the AAMVA web site.

### **Improving Communication**

We continue to work to improve communications via the web site, this monthly update and other avenues such as the MCS yahoo group. Please share any ideas or recommendations you might have on ways to improve communication within the MCS community.

If you are not signed up for the MCS Yahoo! Group and would like to sign up, contact Tim Adams via e-mail at [Tadams@aamva.org](mailto:Tadams@aamva.org).

If there are topics that you would like covered in future updates, please let Tim know and he will provide information and updates when possible.

## **Share Your News**

### **Share Information with the Membership**

- Has your jurisdiction implemented a new process for electronic credentialing?
- Has your jurisdiction recently implemented PRISM or a new CVISN process?
- Is there something exciting happening in your jurisdiction with respect to motor carrier services or highway safety?

If so, please share the news with your fellow AAMVA jurisdictional members. We are always looking for interesting news or information to share with the AAMVA membership and would like to hear from you. Please send any news or information you have to Tim Adams via e-mail at [Tadams@aamva.org](mailto:Tadams@aamva.org) or give Tim a call at (502) 845-0398.

## **Upcoming MCS Events**

- IFTA-IRP Audit Workshop—*January 6-9, 2006 Tempe, Arizona*
- NCSTS Winter Meeting—*January 15-17, 2006 Savannah, Georgia*
- United Motor Coach Expo—*January 18-23, 2006 Tampa, Florida*
- CVSA Cooperative Hazardous Materials Enforcement Development (COHMED) - *January 22-27, 2006 San Diego, California*
- IRP Managers Workshop - *April 7 - 10, 2005 Austin, Texas*
- CCMTA Annual Meeting - *May 14 - 18, 2005 Prince Edward Island, Canada*