

AAMVA Motor Carrier Services Update

April 2005



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

FMCSA CMV Safety Belt Usage Improvement Partnership

“Be Ready – Be Buckled”

AAMVA Region II VP Fred Porter and MCS Program Director Tim Adams joined USDOT Secretary Norman Mineta, FMCSA Administrator Annette Sandberg and a host of other officials to kick off the new Commercial Safety Belt Partnership Campaign Friday April 1, 2005 in Louisville, Kentucky at the Mid America Truck Show. The event sponsored by the CMV Safety Belt Partnership, hosted a large group of commercial vehicle drivers and their family along with many representatives from FMCSA, state government and industry, for a breakfast and energetic kick off for the new campaign to increase awareness and encourage CMV drivers to use their safety belts when behind the wheel.

As a member of this partnership AAMVA will help promote the program to encourage use of safety belts by CMV drivers. Every year thousands of Americans die or are seriously injured in motor vehicle crashes because they fail to buckle up. Recent studies show that less than 50 percent of CMV drivers buckle up compared to 80 percent of passenger vehicle drivers. Through this latest campaign, “Be Ready – Be Buckled”, we hope to improve that number and reduce deaths on our highways. To learn more about safety belts and the partnership, visit www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safetybelt. Contact Tim Adams for information on the CMV Safety Belt Partnership.

Expanded CVISN

Work on developing proposals for expanded CVISN continues. The primary focus of the AAMVA representation with this effort is the driver data sharing component. The working group has held two conference calls and hopes to finalize the proposal by the end of May. Tim Adams will be providing an update on the status of the working group’s efforts at the upcoming ITS America meeting in Phoenix in early May. Additionally, information on the proposals will be made available in upcoming editions of the MCS Monthly Update.

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Highway Watch Survey

Free Training for the ATA Highway Watch Program?

If your jurisdiction is interested in free training for the ATA Highway Watch Program, please let us know by completing this short online survey which can be found at the following link, www.aamva.org/survey/Jurisdiction/survey.asp?id=66. A complete description of this program is available on the Web site at www.aamva.org/Documents/privatejuris/surATAHighwayWatchTrainingProgram.pdf. If you have any questions regarding this program, contact Shelly Jackson via email or at (703) 908-5897 or Tim Adams via email or at (502) 845-0398.

AAMVA Motor Carrier Services Website Updates

The Motor Carrier Services section of the AAMVA website has been modified and updated to reflect current information. If you have a chance, please visit the site and take a look. Additionally, if you have suggestions or information that you would like to see provided on the MCS section of the site, please let Tim Adams know and we will do our best to get the information up there. Watch for additional updates and changes to the site over the coming weeks.

You can access the MCS section of the AAMVA web site by going to:

www.aamva.org/committees/mnu_comMotorCarrierServices.asp

Senate Begins Work on Highway Reauthorization Bill

The Senate will begin to debate the \$284 billion highway reauthorization bill next week. However, GOP leaders had to file a cloture on a motion to advance the surface transportation bill after objections from Senators Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) and Jon Kyl (R-AZ). Both senators feel their states should receive more money for highway construction since they are "donor" states. Donor states receive less money for highway construction than they contribute to the Highway Trust Fund through gasoline excise taxes. The cloture vote is scheduled for 11:45 a.m. on Tuesday, April 26. It is expected that the Senate leadership will be able to secure the 60 votes needed to move forward. Both the House bill (H.R. 3) and the Senate version would authorize \$284 billion for highways, public transportation and traffic safety programs. The Administration supports the \$284 billion cap set by the President.

A few specific items included in the Senate Bill are the creation of the Unified Carrier Registration System (UCR) to replace SSRS. Also, funding is proposed to continue the implementation of PRISM and the CVISN program. Included as part of the Bill are two exemptions on the driver hour of service regulations, involving utility companies and certain haulers of agriculture products.

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MCS Breakout at IRP Workshop

At the IRP Managers workshop one of the four breakout sessions this year focused entirely on Motor Carrier Services issues. Ellen Hite, International Chair for MCS, gave an overview of some of the MCS initiatives and how things are progressing with developing work plans for some of the issues the MCS committee is focusing on. Sharon Nimmons, South Carolina Department of Public Safety, provided an overview of the MCS operations in South Carolina and gave a wonderful overview of their initiatives relating to the USDOT New Entrant Program. Bob Defibaugh from Ideakase, Inc. led a discussion on the industry perspective on basing requirements of the various programs relating to motor carriers.

The breakout sessions were very interactive with a lot of good discussion. Thanks to all who attended the sessions as well as to the presenters, who did an outstanding job offering quality and meaningful information.

MCS Committee Conference Call March 28, 2005

The MCS Committee met via conference call on March 28, 2005, to discuss the outcome of the Motor Carrier Services Industry Forum that was held on February 16, 2005. The committee agreed that the issues identified were all issues that need attention but also agreed that it would be impossible to adequately address each and every issue. Over the next couple of months the committee will be working on draft work plans to address a few of the issues. Additionally, partnerships will be sought with various other groups to attempt to jointly address issues of common concern.

CONTACT US

If you have questions or comments about this status update or need information on MCS issues or activities, contact Tim Adams, Program Director, MCS via e-mail at tadams@aamva.org or phone (502)-845-0398.