

# AAMVA Motor Carrier Services Update

May 2005



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

## **FMCSA Safety Belt Partnership**

Efforts to increase the use of safety belts by commercial vehicle drivers, continues with many events and efforts planned in the coming months. **“Be Ready – Be Buckled”** posters and brochures have been printed and are being distributed across the country. Stop by the AAMVA booth at the upcoming regional conferences and pick up a brochure and watch for more information on this important program coming soon.

## **FMCSA Proposes a Revised Registration System**

The Unified Registration System (UCR) would apply to every motor carrier, freight forwarder and broker required to register with the DOT under 49 CFR 390.19 or 49 U.S.C. 13901, except Mexico-domiciled motor carriers registered to operate between Mexico and points in the US beyond border commercial zones along the US – Mexico international border. The entities covered by this system would be required to register with FMCSA and periodically update registration information provided on a newly proposed registration form. This proposal applies to entities that are already subject to FMCSA Commercial Regulations, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs), or the Hazardous material Regulations (HMRs). The purpose of this proposal is to consolidate and simplify current Federal registration processes and to increase public accessibility to data about interstate carriers, property brokers and freight forwarders. FMCSA proposes to charge registration fees that will enable FMCSA to recoup cost associated with processing registration applications and administrative filings and maintaining this system.

For a copy of the Notice for Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) please contact Tim Adams at (502) 845-0398 or via email at [tadams@aamva.org](mailto:tadams@aamva.org). Comments on this NPRM are due by August 17, 2005.

## **CVSA 2005 Annual Conference**

CVSA held it's 2005 Annual Conference in Albuquerque, NM April 16 -21, 2005. The New Mexico Department of Public Safety did a tremendous job hosting the event. Captain Ron Cordova, New Mexico Department of Public Safety, is the new CVSA President and got his term off to a great start with a wonderful conference.

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General Session speakers included John Hill, FMCSA Asst. Administrator/Chief Safety Officer, who update the attendees on FMCSA initiatives, Teresa Bertucci, Asst. Administrator Intermodal Programs with TSA who updated the group on TSA initiatives.

Highlights from some of the Program Development Sessions included:

**Driver Data Acquisition and Use:** Challenges exist with law enforcement officers being able to access accurate and timely driver data at roadside.

**Commercial Vehicle Safety & Security Planning:** There are ongoing challenges with the development, delivery and measurement of initiatives aimed to deal with safety and security. These challenges are being complicated by the continual increase in freight volumes, as well as regulatory initiatives at the federal level. Both enforcement and industry are implementing programs to help manage these issues.

**PRISM Update and Discussion:** The Performance and Registration Information System Management programs links Federal CMV safety information systems with State CMV registration and licensing systems. PRISM is providing results in terms of effectiveness, cost and feasibility. The session provided a program update and an opportunity for attendees to ask questions and provide input for future direction.

### **Senate Passes \$295 Billion Highway Funding Bill**

The US Senate has passed a highway re-authorization Bill totaling \$295 billion which includes:

- Creation of the Unified Carrier Registration (UCR) program to replace the Single State Registration System (SSRS) beginning with Section 7131 of the Bill.
- Section, 7138, entitled "Facilitation of International Registration Plans and International Fuel Tax Agreements" appears to authorize funding for the border states that serve as a base for Mexican carriers under the IRP and IFTA.
- Funding for both the CVISN and PRISM programs as well as many other ITS programs.

The Senate's \$295 billion highway funding Bill did not include a provision making the current driver hours-of-service rule permanent. That means including the HOS rule in the final bill is unlikely, but not impossible, according to congressional staff and observers. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has been pushing to get its embattled driver-hours rule written into law since February, but neither the House nor Senate approved amendments to do it.

The Bill now will go to a conference committee to resolve difference between the House and Senate Bills.

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## May 2005

### House Oks Extension for Highway Spending

The House approved a one-month extension of the current highway and transit spending program. The action will keep programs going until June 30<sup>th</sup>. The Senate quickly and quietly cleared the seventh temporary extension of surface transportation programs Thursday, a day after the House passed the same measure. The extension (HR 2566) would fuel federal surface transportation programs for an additional 30 days, allowing lawmakers to negotiate the differences between the two chambers' competing versions of a multi-year reauthorization bill (HR 3). The president is expected to sign the new extension before the current one expires.

### Upcoming Events

- **AAMVA Regional Conferences**
  - Region II – Point Clear, AL *June 5 – 9, 2005*
  - Region I – Bretton Woods, NH *June 12 – 17, 2005*
  - Region IV – Tucson, AZ *June 24 – 28, 2005*
  - Region III – St. Louis, MO *July 12 – 17, 2005*
- **Roadcheck 2005** – Nationwide *June 7 – 9, 2005*
- **National Conference of State Transportation Specialist (NCSTS)** *June 12 -14, 2005 Boston, MA*
- **AASHTO Subcommittee on Highway Transport & Special Committee on Transportation Security** *June 15 – 17, 2005 Burlington, VT*
- **IFTA Annual Business Meeting** - *July 15 – 16, 2005 Halifax, Nova Scotia*
- **TAFI (Taking Action on Federal Initiatives) AAMVA – FMCSA Partnership** *July 22 – 24, 2005 Washington, DC* \*See [AAMVA website at www.aamva.org](http://www.aamva.org) \ for details\*
- **AAMVA Motor Vehicle & Traffic Law Institute** - *July 30 – Aug 3, 2005 Salt Lake City, UT*
- **North American Inspectors Championships (NAIC 2005)** - *August 15 – 21, 2005 Tampa, FL*

### 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](mailto:tadams@aamva.org) or phone (502)-845-0398.