

AAMVA Motor Carrier Services

January 2005



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

Motor Carrier Services Committee:

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Staff Liaison: Tim Adams

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AAMVA's Motor Carrier Services Program has been involved in the following issues:

Federal Heavy Vehicle Usage Tax (HVUT)

HR 4520 "American Jobs Creation Act of 2004," Section 867, created changes to HVUT that deal primarily with the industry side of the process:

- Under the provision for proration of the tax, when a vehicle is stolen or destroyed the term sold is added. Assumption would be that the carrier may receive prorated credit when a vehicle is sold as well as when a vehicle is stolen or destroyed.
- The provision of the law that allows the carrier to pay the tax in installments has been repealed.
- A new subsection has been added to require carriers filing a tax return with 25 or more vehicles shall file the return electronically.
- These changes shall apply to taxable periods beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

On December 15, 2004, Jay Maxwell and Tim Adams met with IRS representatives at the IRS office in Washington, DC to discuss HVUT, recent changes, and the impact on the AAMVA membership. The IRS plans to develop and implement the electronic filing process, as the new law requires. The first phase of the process will include the electronic filing for carriers with 25 or more vehicles. The next phase would add electronic payment and the following phase proposes to develop the electronic verification piece to allow jurisdictions to verify proof of payment electronically. In this process, the much-needed database, which will include the VIN so the payment can be verified or filing electronically, will be developed.

There is an issue surrounding with whom the IRS can share this information. Currently, the IRS is only able to share tax information with jurisdictional revenue taxing agencies. Since many jurisdictions handle registration in transportation departments or other agencies, it is unclear as to how the IRS will handle sharing data.

AAMVA MCS Industry Forum

On Wednesday **February 16, 2005**, AAMVA will host the first Motor Carrier Services Industry forum at AAMVA Headquarters in Arlington, Virginia.

The MCS Industry Forum will bring together the diverse group of motor carrier industry community stakeholders, associations and federal government representatives to discuss issues facing the motor carrier services community. The meeting will be informal and open dialogue is encouraged. AAMVA's goal is to work in partnership with other groups that

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also focus on improving highway safety and enhancing services to make compliance with MCS-related programs efficient and effective.

AAMVA Joins FMCSA Safety Belt Usage Improvement Program

While the usage rate of safety belts by drivers and passengers in four-wheel passenger vehicles has increased over the past several years to 80 percent, the number of commercial vehicle drivers buckling up is estimated at less than 50 percent. Based on analysis of commercial vehicle accidents involving fatality of the driver, most of those who lost their lives were not wearing a safety belt.

AAMVA joins in partnership with FMCSA, CVSA, ATA, IACP, NHTSA and other stakeholders to promote education and outreach, research and analysis, and to increase awareness and enforcement. For more information on the program check out the link on the FMCSA Web site at www.fmcsa.dot.gov/safetybelt/index.htm, or contact Tim Adams, MCS Program Director at (502) 845-398.

Highway Watch Program

AAMVA recently met with representatives from the American Trucking Associations (ATA) to discuss the Highway Watch program. The Highway Watch program is the highway sector's national safety and security program sponsored by the U.S. Transportation Security Administration to educate and enroll transportation-related individuals (truck drivers, highway workers, DMV employees, etc.) and use their skills, experiences and "road smarts" to protect the critical infrastructure and transportation of goods, services and people. Working with AAMVA Training and Law Enforcement staff, we are determining how AAMVA can help to promote and educate transportation-related folks about Highway Watch.

Law Enforcement Coalition

AAMVA, in partnership with the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA), International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the National Sheriffs Association (NSA), is working to develop a security training program for law enforcement. The training will be an extension of the Highway Watch (HW) program, but will include more comprehensive and thorough content geared specifically for the law enforcement community. The proposed program would give officers the basic HW training and promote the importance of the officer being aware of HW and HW participants. There would be several phases of this training, all geared toward ensuring the law enforcement community obtains the training in areas such as identifying terrorist acts, etc. The Coalition is working on obtaining funding to develop and implement the program.

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NAFTA

In conjunction with IFTA and IRP, AAMVA is continuing the discussions of having things ready to go when the Mexican border opens. Changes are being balloted currently in both the IFTA and IRP agreements to allow for Mexican motor carrier's participation and to allow the four border states to serve as base jurisdictions until Mexico may join the agreements. A proposal has been submitted to FMCSA for AAMVA to facilitate a meeting of the U.S. border states to finalize cost estimates and discuss issues relating to other credentials such as SSRS, oversize/overweight permits, etc. It is still uncertain when the border will open. However, AAMVA is trying to facilitate the process and ensure our members and the industry are prepared.

MCS Committee Meeting

MCS met via conference call on Jan. 13, 2005. The committee is looking at many issues beyond those highlighted in this update. In addition to the reoccurring topics, several new topics were introduced:

- Interoperability issues: What is needed to move toward open format and sharing of transponder data
- Weight uniformity: Legal operating weights, federal size and weight certification
- Intra-jurisdictional registration/credentialing issues
- Jurisdiction Scale Facility Traffic/Safety Issues
- Hot shot rigs
- Trailer registration issues
- SSRS/UCR

Over the next few months, the MCS Committee will develop goals, objectives and action plans for each of these areas. Please contact Tim Adams or any committee member with comments or questions concerning current issues or to propose additional areas of interest.

Topics for Future Updates

- Uniform Reciprocity Agreement
- ITS/CVO CVISN
- PRISM
- Hot Shot Rigs
- Interoperability issues
- SSRS/UCR
- Jurisdiction Scale Facility-Highway Safety Issue

CONTACT US

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

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Watch for a new designed and updated MCS section of the AAMVA web site with periodic updates coming soon!!