FMCSA Final Ruling to Establish Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) published the final rule that establishes a national drug and alcohol clearinghouse for commercial truck and bus drivers, effective January 4, 2017. The compliance date is January 6, 2020.

The clearinghouse database will create a central repository containing records of violations of FMCSA’s drug and alcohol testing program for CDL holders. Motor carriers will be required to query the system for information about driver applicants and report drug and alcohol testing violations.

This is a big win for the industry and the public. According to Bill Sullivan, ATA Executive Vice President of Advocacy, “Today’s announcement provides the trucking industry with a powerful tool to keep drivers who have tested positive for drugs or alcohol out from behind the wheel of our trucks.”

The ATA has been working for years to create this clearinghouse. This will obviously help keep potentially risky drivers off the roads and, according to the ATA, it will also “improve the efficiency of the hiring process by ending the so-called three-year look-back.”

Controversy Regarding On-Road Driver Training Hours

The Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration (FMCSA) announced a rule on entry-level driver training on December 7th 2016 with a compliance date of February 7, 2020. This final rule did not set a minimum number of hours of classroom instruction or driving instruction to obtain a Class A or Class B CDL.

The FMCSA was petitioned by the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA) and three safety groups to reinstate a minimum hours requirement for behind-the-wheel training that was not included in the agency’s final rule on entry-level driver training. The petitioners said the final rule “ignores decades of recommendations by safety experts.”

The American Trucking Association (ATA) said that it supported the final rule that mandated “proficiency-based rather than hours-based standards”.

DOT Compliance

The FMCSA has released the redesigned CSA website.

For more information, visit the following link: https://csa.fmcsa.dot.gov/

Career Opportunity!

Field Recruiter - New Hope, PA

This full time position is based in our corporate office in New Hope, PA and requires field work and some overnight travel.

The Field Recruiter must be a team player who can develop leads and bring qualified Class A and B drivers on board.

Job Duties include but are not limited to the following:

- Developing and screening of leads: on the line, through social media, outbound calling and referrals
- Completing and processing job applications
- Conducting road tests for truck drivers
- Heavy phone interaction and relationship building with commercial truck drivers

Seminar
Friday March 24th, 2017

Reasonable Suspicion

Location: The Inn at Lambertville Station,
At this seminar, you will learn to determine when reasonable suspicion for drug or alcohol use exists and how to initiate a reasonable suspicion test. We will also teach you practical approaches to handling these types of situations.

Topics will include:

- Understanding the regulations regarding reasonable suspicion testing
- The indicators of substance abuse
- How to approach drivers professionally, rationally, and in a concerned manner
- How to initiate tests
- Completing required documentation
- Your responsibilities in the area of reasonable suspicion testing

Our interactive and relaxed atmosphere will make it easy for you to spend time with your peers from other businesses while satisfying your minimum federal regulatory requirement in this area.

Presenter: Jeffrey W. Muntz
General Manager, Operations
Fundamental Labor Strategies, Inc.

Don't miss out on this interactive seminar.