

# Client Services Update



June 2005

THE ROAD TO SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE

On-Site  
Training

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## Click it or Ticket

Active enforcement of state seatbelt laws will be happening now through June 5 during the national "Click it or Ticket" campaign. The national average of seatbelt use among truck drivers is less than 50% - please remind your drivers to use their safety belts whenever they are behind the wheel.



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## Updating Your DOT Number and the Prism System

The Performance and Registration Information Systems Management Program (PRISM) originated as a pilot project mandated by Congress. The PRISM system was established to increase the effectiveness of motor carrier safety data. This requires a YEARLY DOT # update versus the current Federal requirement of bi-annual updates. When you get your DOT number renewal packet (with the MCS 150 form) from the FMCSA please forward to Fleet Safety to ensure accurate and timely updating.

### PARTICIPATING STATES IN THE PRISM SYSTEM

As of March 1, 2004, twenty-seven States have joined the original five PRISM pilot States to implement the PRISM program. The States of Alaska and New York have also provided the FMCSA with a Letter of Intent to implement the PRISM program. PRISM States currently collecting MCS-150 forms and issuing USDOT numbers to motor carriers include Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Minnesota, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Tennessee. The following information identifies States participating in the PRISM program.

PRISM SYSTEM				
Pilot States	Grant States			Letter Of Intent States
Colorado	Alabama	Missouri	Rhode Island	Alaska
Indiana	Arizona	Nebraska	South Carolina	New York
Iowa	Arkansas	New Hampshire	South Dakota	Hawaii
Minnesota	Connecticut	New Jersey	Tennessee	
Oregon	Georgia	New Mexico	Utah	
	Kentucky	North Carolina	Vermont	
	Louisiana	Ohio	Virginia	
	Maine	Oklahoma	Washington	
	Massachusetts	Pennsylvania	West Virginia	



## Roadcheck 2005

June 7 - 9

Make sure your vehicles are ready for Roadcheck 2005, which will be held June 7 to June 9. Roadcheck is the international truck and bus roadside inspection program. During the 72 hour event, approximately 10,000 CVSA certified truck and bus safety inspectors will be on the job at inspection sites along highways and roads throughout North America. Roadcheck 2004 resulted in more than 50,000 inspections on commercial vehicles; brake defects were the major reason for vehicles being placed out of service.

### New Jersey Resumes Stopping Commercial Vehicles to Verify Tax Compliance

Two years ago New Jersey began stopping commercial motor vehicles entering the state to verify that companies were properly registered with the state's Division of Taxation and had filed their appropriate business taxes. Recently, New Jersey resumed its enforcement efforts against interstate motor carriers.

**All companies doing business in New Jersey, defined as making a single drop-off or pick-up at any New Jersey location, are required to register with the Division of Taxation for payment of corporate business taxes.** The state has a \$500 minimum annual nexus tax. **Carriers who are not properly registered are having their trucks stopped and held until payment is made.** If a vehicle is stopped, the Division is issuing a jeopardy assessment that is often significantly greater than the actual amount of money the carrier owes.

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## Are You Carrying Cargo In or Out of Canada?

Some information that can make your border crossing quicker and help you fulfill customs requirements.

If you are entering the US from Canada with Cargo you will need:	If you are entering Canada from the US on a regular basis your drivers may want to have:
PAPS Program (PAPS stands for Pre-Arrival Processing System - it is also known as the bar coding program)	CDRP (Commercial Driver Registration Program) registration for each of your drivers - this will expedite border crossing.
You must have a SCAC (Standard Carrier Alpha Code) code	Drivers must fill in a standard application, and submit documents, including a valid driver's license and proof of citizenship
You must submit proof of your SCAC code to US Customs	Drivers must then meet with Canadian officials, after which the driver is issued a "clearance card" which must be used as identification when crossing the border
You must have a Customs Broker	<b>Additional Information</b>
You must have the authorized bar coded labels in sets of two (Please contact Mina at Fleet Safety for more information on obtaining labels)	If your Load (either way) is valued at <u>less than \$2000</u> then you need the <i>CBP FORM 7523 - Entry and Manifest of merchandise free of duty</i>
If you are carrying food products, including animal feeds, you must submit <u>prior notice</u> to the FDA	If you are entering Quebec you will also need to fulfill all Canadian requirements and have an NIR number issued by Quebec

## Congress considers ban on devices to beat drug tests

They are called "Whizzinator," "Urinator," and "Quick Flush," and they're all designed to do one thing — help employees beat a drug test. Under current federal law, such products can be sold and purchased legally, but Congress is looking at the possibility of changing that. For example, the House Energy and Commerce Committee is looking at a possible ban on products that help people beat workplace drug tests. Products such as the Whizzinator allow users to provide "clean" urine samples "again and again, anytime, anywhere you need it," according to the manufacturer's website. Other products try to circumvent the testing process by masking certain illicit substances in urine.

Some states have made it illegal to possess these products, but there is no such federal law. Texas is one state that has made it illegal to possess such devices. When officers searched a San Antonio probation violator they arrested several summers ago, they didn't find a weapon, they found a Whizzinator. Local District Attorney Susan Reed told the Congressional committee at a recent hearing. "...A Whizzinator is designed to fool the person observing the drug test." Not only are the devices meant to fool an observer, but the chemical test, too. "...Also included in the \$150 package is synthetic urine and a heat pack, which is used to make the synthetic urine feel as though it has just left the probationer's body." Her testimony demonstrated the strong incentive that some have to dodge drug tests, especially when their freedom or their job is on the line. Testing is required because "the last thing you want to do is take someone's word that they are clean and drug free," she said. As a result, more than 250,000 drug tests are performed each year in Bexar County, Texas alone.

Lawmakers expressed concern that mechanical devices like the Whizzinator and other masking agents may be used to defeat drug testing not only of criminals on probation, but people invested with responsibility for public safety. Many CMV and school bus drivers, police officers, and airline pilots are routinely drug-tested.

Reed recommended federal legislation to combat the Whizzinator and similar products. "Texas is one of the few states that have made it against the law to possess such a device. Other states, such as New Jersey and Pennsylvania have also passed laws to address the problem," she said. "However, to really deal with the issue, the person shelling out the money to buy it shouldn't be the only one dealt a penalty. The individual or company that makes a profit working to defeat drug laws and our national drug policy should be held accountable for its actions."

Three owners of companies who declined to testify voluntarily were then subpoenaed. All declined to respond, invoking their Constitutional right against self-incrimination. Subpoenas have been issued to their companies for their records as well as their testimony.

(Reprinted from JJKeller)