

Client Quarterly Services Update



April 2007

THE ROAD TO SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE

On-Site Training

On Site HazMat and Fork Lift Training is available thru Fleet Safety Services

- Any size group
- Topics customized to your company's needs
- All training materials are included in the fee- ERG books too!
- Evening & Weekend sessions available

Call us for more information
800-215-2490



Spring is here!

Fleet Safety Services, Inc.
18 John Street Place
Worcester, MA 01609
www.fleet-safety.com

Phone: 508-791-1971
800-215-2490
Fax: 508-831-7611

"This is the first in a series of published DOT regulatory interpretations which will address some of the issues confronted by our clients".

Question: A driver used by a motor carrier operates a Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) to his/her residence out of State. Is this considered interstate commerce?

DOT Guidance: If the driver is operating a CMV at the direction of the motor carrier, it is considered interstate commerce and is subject to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSR). If the motor carrier is allowing the driver to use the vehicle for private personal transportation, such transportation is not subject to the FMCSRs.

Question: A person involved in an accident discovers that he or she is injured after leaving the scene of the incident and received medical attention at that time. Does the incident meet the definition of DOT accident as prescribed in 49 CFR 390.5?

DOT Guidance: No. The incident does not meet the definition of DOT accident in 49 CFR 390.5 because the person did not receive treatment immediately after the incident.

HAZMAT NEWS:

2007 PHMSA Hazmat Registration MUST be completed before July 1, 2007. A detailed reminder notice will be mailed to you prior to the beginning of June. Remember Registrations can be done for one, two, or three years.

Need to Renew your MA Hazmat License Endorsement?

Here are a few hints:

Visit your local RMV Branch to take the hazardous materials knowledge exam
Once you receive your pass certificate from the registry you must contact the IBT and get your fingerprints / background check completed. More info can be found at www.hazprints.com or 1-877-429-7746.

After you receive notice of passing your background check (*usually takes 30 days*) you can go back to the registry to obtain your renewed license with the Hazmat Endorsement

Background Check Sites

EMSI Woburn – phone 781-376-1806

EMSI Worcester – phone 508-755-3650

Need more info? Call Fleet Safety at 800-215-2490

IFTA FUEL TAX REMINDER

All mileage reports and fuel receipts must be submitted to our office by **APRIL 9** to ensure that your tax forms are completed and returned to you before the filing deadline. We cannot guarantee that your taxes will be completed in time for the **APRIL 31** deadline if we receive your information after **APRIL 9**. Thank you!

Preventative Maintenance Requirement



The DOT mandates that all companies must have a preventative maintenance program in place. Section 49 CFR 396.3 prescribes that a company *must have a means to indicate the nature and due of the various inspections and maintenance operations to be performed*. In plain English this means that a company must have some type of system in place which indicates “what they did, when they did it and when it is due again”. The regulations don’t mandate exactly what you have to do, simply that you have an effective system in place. This essentially means that you must be able to demonstrate that you have a system in place which maintains your vehicles in proper working condition.

Example: Every 3 months conduct a PM on your power units and trailers in which all major components of the unit are inspected. You can utilize a canned checklist for the inspection or maintain the information on a grease/white board in your shop, but be sure to keep records of all such PMs for at least 12 months. If you routinely inspect brakes and lights weekly or bi-weekly, keep a record of such as well.

Background Checks: Why conduct them?

There are as many reasons to conduct an employee background check. Some companies will conduct background checks on potential employees to determine whether or not the employee has a criminal record. This can be especially important if the employee is going to be handling money or working closely with customers. Also, imagine hiring an individual who has a history of violence and then putting that person in a customer service position. Doing such, you could be looking at a negligent hiring suit and subjecting your company to a great deal of liability.

What about other types of employee background check reports? Many companies run a credit check on potential employees. How does this relate to a persons ability to work? In some instances it does not relate but may give a good indication if the person is reliable and can be counted on. However, in other cases it directly relates to the position the person applied for. For instance you may not want to hire an accountant, or anyone else for that matter, who is in debt and on the verge of bankruptcy. It is just common sense. Keep in mind that a credit report can be rather subjective and many companies review them on a case by case basis.

If you are interested in obtaining background checks on prospective employees, Fleet Safety can provide that service. For information please call Fleet Safety at: 508-791-1971

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR DRIVER LISTS ARE UP TO DATE
Second Quarter Random Testing Selections will be sent out in Mid-April
Don't forget to Fax or Mail copies of Alcohol Tests to Fleet Safety at:
Fleet Safety Services, 18 John Street Place, Worcester, MA 01609
FAX: 508-831-7611 or 508-459-3099