
Deborah M. Freund, PE
What I’ll Talk About …

• Laws: Early History
• Regulations
  – Drivers
  – Vehicles and Equipment
  – Motor Carrier Operational Oversight
• Safety Results Quantified
• Questions
President Lyndon Baines Johnson, signing the DOT Act, October 15, 1966.

... the Act which I sign today is the most important transportation legislation of our lifetime ... It is one of the essential building blocks in our preparation for the future ... Transportation has truly emerged as a significant part of our national life. As a basic force in our society, its progress must be accelerated so that the quality of our life can be improved.

(photo courtesy of the LBJ Library)
Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV)

- GVWR, GCWR, GVW, or GCW of 4,536 kg (10,001 lbs) or greater
- Designed or used to transport more than 8 passengers (including driver) for compensation
- ... Or more than 15 passengers (including driver), not for compensation
- Used to transport hazardous material in quantities requiring placarding (regardless of GVWR)
CMV Driver Regulations

• Medical Fitness:
  – Prohibitions on alcohol and controlled-substance use
  – Physical, medical qualification requirements since 1952

• Safety Performance History: requirements strengthened March 2004

• Hours-of-Service:

• Radar detector use: banned December 1993

• Texting while driving: ban to be proposed mid-2010.
CDL Driver Regulations

• CDL CMV:
  – GCWR of 11,794 kg or more (26,001 lb or more)
  – GVWR of 11,794 kg or more (26,001 lb or more)
  – Designed to transport 16+ passengers, including driver
  – Of any size and used to transport HM

• CDL compliance required 1 April 1992; revised 2002

• Medical certification linked to CDL: FR Dec. 2008

• CDL Learners Permit: Under development

• Entry-level CDL driver training: Under development
3-Point Occupant Restraints

AND I AGREE WITH YOU... IN THE LONG HALL, BELTS WORK!
Vehicle and Equipment Regulations

• Automatic Brake Adjusters and Brake Adjustment Indicators: 1992, 1995
• Rear Impact Guards: 1995, 1998
• Trailer Conspicuity: 1992, 1999
• CMV Stopping Distance: July 2009
• Motorcoach Safety: new regulations in progress
Vehicle and Equipment Regulations

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Motor Carrier Operational Oversight Regulations

• Accident reporting: 1962, 1972, 1993
• Safety Fitness Rating Methodology: 1989
• “Unfit = Unsat”: 2000
• “Pay Up or Shut Down”: 2000
Comprehensive Safety Analysis 2010

CHANGE AHEAD

COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY ANALYSIS (CSA) 2010 IS COMING SOON!
Will you be ready?

CSA 2010 changes the way FMCSA assesses and addresses commercial motor vehicle safety. Under CSA 2010, FMCSA evaluates carrier safety using all available performance data from federal inspections and crash reports. All safety-based violations count, not only out-of-service or driving violations. Inspections without safety violations count. CSA 2010 also addresses safety issues by contacting more carriers earlier so carriers can correct safety problems before crashes occur.

Learn more: http://csa2010.fmcsa.dot.gov

FMCSA
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

HVT11
Melbourne 2010
One picture is worth 1 kilowords ...
Large truck registrations and vehicle-based fatality rates

- Pink line: Large trucks registered
- Blue line: Fatalities per 10,000 registered large trucks

Year: 1975 to 2007
Any questions?
Thank you very much!

Deborah M. Freund, P.E.
Senior Transportation Specialist
FMCSA
V 202.366.5541
E deborah.freund@dot.gov