

Commercial Motor Vehicles: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations

Description:

Enforcement of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs) is the responsibility of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, whose primary mission is to prevent commercial motor vehicle-related fatalities and injuries. Administration activities contribute to ensuring safety in motor carrier operations through strong enforcement of safety regulations, targeting high-risk carriers and commercial motor vehicle drivers; improving safety information systems and commercial motor vehicle technologies; strengthening commercial motor vehicle equipment and operating standards; and increasing safety awareness.

Regulatory Reference

The following regulations are of primary concern to motor carriers. This list is not exhaustive and does not include all of the FMCSRs.

- 49 CFR § 382 Controlled Substances and Alcohol Use Testing
- 49 CFR § 383 Commercial Driver's License Standards; Requirements and Penalties
- 49 CFR § 385 Safety Fitness Procedures
- 49 CFR § 387 Minimum Levels of Financial Responsibility for Motor Carriers
- 49 CFR § 390 Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations; General
- 49 CFR § 391 Qualification of Drivers
- 49 CFR § 392 Driving of Commercial Motor Vehicles
- 49 CFR § 393 Parts and Accessories Necessary for Safe Operation
- 49 CFR § 395 Hours of Service for Drivers
- 49 CFR § 396 Inspection, Repair and Maintenance
- 49 CFR § 397 Transportation of Hazardous Materials; Driving and Parking Rules

Appendix G to 49 CFR Subchapter B—Minimum Periodic Inspection Standards

Applies to:

The FMCSRs apply to all motor carriers, drivers and other affected motor carrier employees.

General Requirements:

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, along with the Hazardous Material Regulations are the primary focus of Federal and State enforcement directed toward transportation of LP-gas by truck. Critical issues in complying with the FMCSRs are specifically addressed in individual guides in this reference.

Recently, Congress has passed legislation that requires the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to expend more enforcement efforts aimed at motor carriers that do not comply with the FMCSRs, and do not maintain good safety records. Specifically, FMCSA is charged with developing a motor carrier safety fitness rating system, and to take action against motor carriers that are found to have unacceptable records of unsafe operations or repeated violations of regulations.

Training Requirements:

At various points in the FMCSRs, motor carriers are informed that affected employees must be familiar with the provisions of the FMCSRs that relate to specific employee job functions.

Additional Information and Resources

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration website can be found on the Internet at www.fmsca.dot.gov .

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations Pocketbook, J. J. Keller & Associates, Inc., Neenah, WI