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Friday Safety Brief®

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Requirements for IEP's & Motor Carriers, Drivers Operating IME

AGENCY: FMCSA, DOT.

ACTION: Final rule; partial extension of compliance date.

SUMMARY: The FMCSA extends until June 30, 2011, the June 30, 2010, compliance date of its December 29, 2009, final rule concerning the inspection, repair, and maintenance of intermodal equipment (IME), specifically with respect to the requirement for drivers and motor carriers to prepare a driver-vehicle inspection report (DVIR) on an item of IME even if no damage, defects, or deficiencies are discovered by, or reported to, the driver. This action is being taken to provide the Agency with sufficient time to address, through a notice-and-comment rulemaking proceeding, an issue raised in a petition for rulemaking submitted on March 31, 2010, by the Ocean Carrier Equipment Management Association (OCEMA) and the Institute of International Container Lessors (IICL) (also referred to as "the petitioners"). The requirements for intermodal equipment providers (IEPs) to have in place inspection, repair and maintenance programs, and a process for receiving and taking appropriate action in response to DVIRs on which damage, defects, or deficiencies are reported, remain in effect.

DATES: *Compliance Date:* As of **August 20, 2010**, the compliance date for the requirement in Sec. 390.42(b) for drivers and motor carriers to prepare a DVIR on an item of IME if no damage, defects, or deficiencies are discovered by, or reported to, the driver, is extended until **June 30, 2011**.

Public Access to the Docket: You may view, print, and download this final rule and all related documents and background material on-line at <http://www.regulations.gov>, using the Docket ID Number FMCSA-2005-23315.

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Public Listening Session

AGENCY: FMCSA, DOT.

ACTION: Announcement of public listening session; request for comment.

SUMMARY: FMCSA announces it will hold a public listening session to solicit input on key challenges facing the motor carrier industry, issues facing stakeholders, and concerns that should be considered by the Agency in developing its next 5-year Strategic Plan. FMCSA invites interested persons to participate in this important opportunity to help build FMCSA's next strategic plan. This notice also invites written comments, suggestions, and recommendations from all individuals and organizations on FMCSA's mission, vision, and strategic objectives (goals) for the plan.

DATES: The public meeting will be held **September 8, 2010**, in three consecutive listening sessions:

Safety Partners, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Industry Partners, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Enforcement Partners, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Submit comments for discussion at the listening session by **September 1, 2010**.



US DOT Strengthens Commercial Bus Safety with National Passenger Carrier Strike Force

At an event on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. on August 31, 2010, FMCSA Administrator Ann Ferro joined state and local officials at a commercial bus checkpoint to observe the safety inspection of motor coaches, tour buses and other commercial passenger vehicles. The Washington, D.C. checkpoint was part of FMCSA's annual national Passenger Carrier Strike Force, during which federal, state and local police agencies conduct thousands of motorcoach, charter bus and other passenger carrier inspections at popular travel destinations across the U.S. The sweep started August 23 and runs through September 4. It is taking place in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories.

"Safety is our number one priority," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "We owe it to the millions of passengers who travel on commercial buses to make sure that every bus on the road is as safe as possible."

"By taking the Passenger Carrier Strike Force to some of the nation's busiest travel destinations, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration will be able to reach a greater number of carriers and remove unsafe vehicles and drivers from the road," said FMCSA Administrator Anne Ferro. "This safety initiative is a crucial part of our efforts to prevent crashes and save lives."

In addition to these strike force sweeps, FMCSA performs roadside safety inspections of commercial buses on a daily basis throughout the year. In 2009 alone, FMCSA and its law enforcement partners inspected more than 130,000 commercial buses, which led FMCSA to place 4.3% of bus drivers and 7.6% of buses out-of-service for violations ranging from significant vehicle deficiencies to hours-of-service non-compliance. FMCSA also performs strike force sweeps of household goods movers and drug and alcohol compliance throughout the year.

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