

Truck and Bus Safety Laws and Regulations: Past, Present, and Future

**Deborah M. Freund
Federal Motor Carrier Safety
Administration**

Laws Influencing Motor Carrier Safety

- 1935 – 1990
 - 1935: Motor Carrier Act
 - 1960s-70s: Highway Safety Acts; DOT Act
 - 1980s: Motor Carrier Safety Act, CMV Safety Act
 - 1990s: Omnibus Employee Testing Act; HM Transportation Assistance Act; ICC Termination Act; TEA-21; Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act (MCSIA)
- 2000s: SAFETEA-LU, MAP-21
- Future: ???

- 1930s – 1980s:
 - Driver Physical Qualifications (1930s-1980s)
 - CDL regulations (1988)
- 1990s:
 - Controlled substances and alcohol regulations (1994 -)
 - Vision and Diabetes Waiver Programs
- 2000s:
 - Hours-of-Service (2003, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2011)
 - HOS Electronic Logging Devices (~~2010~~, TBD)
 - CDL + Medical Certification (2008)
- Future: Entry-Level Driver Training; Physical Qualifications; Prohibition of Coercion; Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse; ...

Regulations for Commercial Motor Vehicles

- 1939, 1952:
 - Most of the basic “in-use” regulations
- 1960s – 1970s:
 - Most of the basic “new vehicle” regulations
- 1990s:
 - Brake regulations (ABAs, ABS)
 - Rear-impact guards; conspicuity marking for trailers
- 2000s:
 - Cargo securement (2002, 2006)
 - Intermodal equipment (2008, 2012)
 - Motorcoach occupant restraints (November 25, 2013)

Regulations for Commercial Motor Vehicles

- Future
 - Electronic Stability Control
 - Heavy-Vehicle Speed Limiters
 - Motorcoach Rollover Structural Integrity
 - Tractor Cab Crashworthiness
 - Intelligent Vehicles (V2V) (pending decision in 2014)

Regulations for Motor Carriers and Other Business Entities

- Before 1980:
 - Motor carrier registration, financial responsibility
- 1980s – 1990s:
 - Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program
 - Commercial Drivers License Program (1988)
 - Safety ratings, fitness determination (1991, 1997, 2000)
- 2000s:
 - New Entrant Safety Assurance Process (2008)
 - Intermodal Equipment Providers (2008)
 - National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (2012)
 - Unified Registration System (August 2013)

Regulations for Motor Carriers and Other Business Entities

- 2000s (continued)
 - Revoking Operating Authority of “Reincarnated” carriers (April 2012)
- Future:
 - Compliance, Safety, Accountability; Motor Carrier Safety Fitness Determination
 - Unified Registration System 2 (MAP-21 provisions)

- FMCSA's website: <http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov>
- USDOT General Counsel – Significant Rulemakings
<http://regs.dot.gov>
- Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>
- Federal Digital System: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys>
- Regulatory Plan and Unified Agenda, Fall 0013:
<http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eAgendaMain>