CSA
Compliance ★ Safety ★ Accountability

Just the Facts about SMS

Safety Measurement System (SMS)

SMS assesses the relative safety of motor carriers, which allows the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to efficiently and effectively prioritize enforcement resources to address motor carrier safety issues.

- **SMS** is one of three web-based systems where the public can find safety and compliance information about motor carriers. The others are the **Safety and Fitness Electronic Records (SAFER)** system, which provides registration data and safety ratings, and the **Licensing and Insurance Website**, which allows users to confirm that a motor carrier has active operating authority and adequate insurance.
- The SMS identifies about the same number of small carriers that SafeStat did; and, of the carrier population with sufficient data to be measured, SMS identifies a proportionate number of small, medium, and large carriers for CSA interventions.
- The SMS has enough data to assess about 200,000 of the 525,000 active interstate motor carriers in at least one Behavior Analysis and Safety Improvement Category (BASIC); 12% of the carriers listed as active (approximately 92,000) have enough negative information to be assessed in at least one BASIC, and those carriers are involved in 83% of the crashes.
- All of the SMS's BASICs measure motor carrier compliance with safety regulations; some BASICs are more closely related to the risk of future crashes than others whereas some are more focused on the impact of a crash than others, but *all* are important to safety performance.
- Both internal and independent evaluations have shown that, of the six BASICs based on regulatory compliance (the Crash Indicator BASIC is based on actual crashes), the Unsafe Driving BASIC and the Hours-of-Service Compliance BASIC have the strongest relationships to future crash risk.
- Motor carriers can improve their SMS BASIC percentile ranks by demonstrating that they have improved their roadside performance through reduced crashes and/or roadside inspections without violations; in fact, about one out of every three roadside inspections annually (over 1 million) are inspections with no violations.
- CSA is having a positive impact on safety: roadside inspection violations per inspection declined by 8% in the 12 months after the SMS launch (December 2010).
- FMCSA is committed to continually improving and refining the SMS and expects to implement up to one major release each year after a preview period for motor carriers and enforcement.