



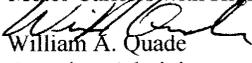
U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Motor Carrier
Safety Administration

Memorandum

MC-ECE-0012-08

Subject: **ACTION:** Compliance Review Priority for
Motor Carriers with High SafeStat Accident Scores

AUG 11 2008

From: 
William A. Quade
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
and Program Delivery

Reply to
Attn. of: MC-ECE

To: Assistant Administrator and Chief Safety Officer
Associate Administrator for Field Operations
MC-E Office Directors/Division Chiefs
Office of Chief Counsel, Enforcement and Litigation
Field Administrators/Service Center Directors
Division Administrator/State Director
National Enforcement Team
National Training Center

PURPOSE

This memorandum implements a Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommendation to establish compliance review priority for motor carriers with SafeStat Accident Safety Evaluation Area (SEA) values of 95 or higher, regardless of their scores in other SafeStat SEAs.

BACKGROUND

In June 2007 the GAO issued a report titled: "Motor Carrier Safety: A Statistical Approach Will Better Identify Commercial Carriers that Pose High Crash Risks Than Does the Current Federal Approach" (GAO-07-585, June 2007).

As part of that report, the GAO recommended that the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) apply a statistical negative binomial regression model to enhance the current SafeStat methodology.

The FMCSA chose not to implement this recommendation primarily because our analysis revealed that the negative binomial regression model would shift too many compliance review resources away from motor carriers with known driver, vehicle, and safety management deficiencies documented during roadside inspections.

In August 2007 the GAO issued a subsequent report titled: "Motor Carrier Safety: Federal Safety Agency Identifies Many High-Risk Carriers but Does Not Assess Maximum Fines as Often as Required by Law" (GAO-07-584).

As part of this report, GAO issued an alternative recommendation that stated: *"GAO previously recommended that FMCSA apply a regression model approach to identify carriers that pose high risks. If FMCSA decides not to implement that recommendation, GAO recommends that FMCSA improve its targeting of carriers that pose a high crash risk by prioritizing compliance reviews for carriers with very poor scores (worst 5 percent) in the accident safety evaluation area, so that these carriers will be selected for compliance reviews, regardless of their scores in the other evaluation areas."*

In response to this recommendation, FMCSA agreed to give high priority for compliance reviews to motor carriers with SafeStat accident SEA scores of 95 percent or above.

POLICY

SafeStat Category A and B motor carriers and other congressionally mandated reviews remain a top priority for the Agency. Each FMCSA division shall ensure that compliance review priority is also given to SafeStat Category D motor carriers (Accident SEA only) with SEA values of 95 percent or above that have not received a compliance review within the previous 24 months.

To help facilitate implementation of this policy, an additional section is being added to the monthly compliance review prioritization reports. The new report section will clearly identify compliance review candidates to meet the intent of this policy.

The FMCSA plans to evaluate the results of compliance reviews conducted on these motor carriers in terms of: (1) critical and acute violations documented; (2) resulting safety ratings; and (3) post review crash rates. To aid in identifying compliance reviews conducted in accordance with this policy, safety investigators should mark "high crash" in the special study codes field of part C for all Compliance Reviews of SafeStat Category D motor carriers with an Accident SEA value of 95 percent or higher.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE

The effective date for implementation is the first monthly SafeStat run after the date of this memorandum.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Bryan Price in the Enforcement and Compliance Division, at (412) 395-4816 or via e-mail atbryan.price@dot.gov.