



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

Memorandum

SP-94-011-CE

Subject Eligibility of Cellular Phones
and Subscriber Services

From Acting Director, Office of Motor Carriers
Field Operations

To Mr. Nicholas R. Walsh
Regional Director, Office of Motor Carrier (HMC-09)
San Francisco, California

Date May 10, 1994

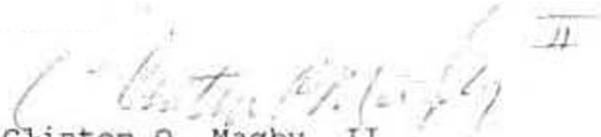
Reply to
Attn of HFO-30

This is in response to your memo of March 15, requesting an interpretation regarding the eligibility for funding of cellular phones and subscriber services under the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP).

In general, cellular phones in areas where geographical barriers do not permit the use of two-way radio communications or other systems can prove very valuable in providing the inspection officers with the information they need to make good decisions about the vehicles and drivers they inspect. The use at the phones is also consistent with our efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the MCSAP through the use of new or existing innovative technologies for inspection purposes. Therefore, cellular phones and related subscriber services are eligible items within the context of the MCSAP.

As is the case with all other MCSAP related equipment and services, funding may be approved for only that portion of the cost for MCSAP eligible activities. In recognition that cellular phones can be easily used for other purposes, the State should demonstrate that related costs are strictly for communications associated with commercial vehicle enforcement activities. Also, in light of the high costs of the subscriber services, the State should periodically assess whether the use at the phones continues to be a cost effective element of its MCSAP.

I hope this; is helpful to you.


Clinton O. Magby, II