



Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration 7-03
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Wednesday, July 2, 2003

FMCSA to Conduct Hazardous Materials Safety and Security Field Operational Test

The U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) today announced the beginning of the Hazardous Materials Safety and Security Field Operational Test. This test will measure the effectiveness of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) safety and security technologies for safeguarding hazardous materials being transported by trucks.

The announcement was made today by FMCSA Assistant Administrator and Chief Safety Officer John Hill at the California Goods Movement and Port Security Conference in Long Beach, Calif., hosted by the California Alliance for Advanced Transportation Systems (CAATS).

"We believe the use of ITS technology will improve the security of more than 800,000 shipments of hazardous materials that are hauled on U.S. highways everyday," said Hill. "The purpose of this operational test is to demonstrate the effectiveness of these solutions that may optimally speed up their deployment and adoption by the industry."

The field operational test will quantify the costs and benefits associated with transportation security technologies to assist companies in their decisions to deploy technology applications that are most appropriate for their businesses. A prototype test is scheduled later this month, with full-scale testing to begin in late August. The field operational test, managed by FMCSA and largely funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation's ITS Program, will be completed in the later part of 2004.

The test will include 100 trucks equipped with a variety of existing technologies. The technologies will be packaged in several different cost tiers, and will be tested across four different transportation scenarios. The project will test the capabilities of technologies such as:

- Driver verification using password logins, fingerprint biometrics and smart cards;
- Vehicle and load tracking, using satellites and other wireless systems;
- Off-route and stolen vehicle alerts, using geo-fencing;
- Cargo tampering alerts, using electronic seals;
- Driver distress alerts, using driver panic buttons; and
- Remote vehicle disabling in instances of known terrorist attacks.

Carriers and shippers that have expressed their intent to participate in the test include BP Chemical, Cox Petroleum, Distribution Technologies, Dupre Transport, Dyno Nobel, Dyno Transportation, ExxonMobil, GE Water Technologies, Hercules Incorporated, Orica USA Inc., Quality Carriers, Roadway Express, Roeder Cartage Inc., R&R Trucking, The Dow Chemical Company, and Transport Services.

The ITS field operational test deployment team is led by the Battelle Memorial Institute. Deployment team members include QUALCOMM Inc., the American Transportation Research Institute, Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance, Total Security Services International, Savi Technology and Biometric Solutions Group. Participating state agencies include the California Highway Patrol, Illinois State Police, Illinois Department of Transportation, Texas Department of Public Safety, New York State Police and the New York Department of Transportation. Original Equipment and Engine manufacturers, Caterpillar Inc., Cummins Inc., Detroit Diesel Corporation, Freightliner Trucks, and International Truck and Engine Corporation are also involved in the field operational test.

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