

DDH Notes

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FEDERAL & STATE UPDATES

IRS - 2290

COMPLIANCE, SAFETY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY - CSA

Companies are able to review their safety violations and can see their scores under the CSA program. This system takes into consideration all violations and warnings during the last 24 months, not just out of service violations. The violations are weighted based on their age and severity and placed in one of the seven BASIC categories, then a score is calculated and a percentage is assigned when your company is compared to other companies. The calculations are being constantly modified. Carrier scores and percentages are updated monthly.

Please contact our office if you want us to review your score with you.

Any driver or vehicle violation that is incorrect can be challenged and removed from your CSA records thus helping your safety status. Carriers can contact our office to check CSA status, and also review and challenge any violations listed in error. Accidents can also be removed if there is an error. Currently, the accidents that are posted are a way to show that there is accident involvement regardless of fault.

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine has just recommended replacing the current CSA system over the next two years with a method using "item response theory," also known as latent trait

theory. Various items should be addressed, such as not accounting for crashes that are not the carrier's fault.

FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION - FMCSA

Congress has several bills being discussed to delay the ELD mandate. If one does get through the House it has to pass in the Senate and be signed by the President. It is unlikely that all this will happen. Then a DOT study would be done on the merits of the mandatory ELD's. The Supreme Court refused to hear the case on the ELD requirement. The ELD requirement is scheduled to be in place December 18, 2017. The good benefits are you can track all your vehicles at all times with the ELD's. Drivers will no longer have to do paper hour-of service logs, paper vehicle inspections, and trip reports. When deciding on an ELD device, make sure that the device and software are IFTA and IRP compliant; many are not. Contact our office for more information or for an ELD demo.

The speed limiter proposal has been withdrawn by FMCSA.

Drivers that are renewing their state driver's license need one more piece of paper to stay legal. All interstate CDL holders and applicants must provide proof of their medical

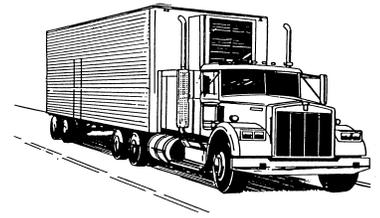
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Internal Revenue Service Heavy Vehicle Use Tax (IRS Form 2290) must be filed by the end of August. The taxable year runs from July 1st to June 30th. Any vehicle that has a GVW of 55,000 pounds or more is subject to the tax. The maximum tax remains at \$550.00. The Schedule I paid receipt listing vehicle serial numbers is required to purchase license plates. The tax is prorated monthly for vehicles placed in service after July. When a vehicle is sold, the new owner must pay the tax under their name. The carrier selling the vehicle may apply for a credit for the unused part of the tax and apply it to a new vehicle or file for a refund.

Carriers operating vehicles across international borders should have a copy of the stamped Schedule I receipt in the cab of the vehicle being used in the United States. Customs officials will be checking vehicles that cross the border from Canada and Mexico to ensure compliance.

The return must be filed electronically. Any carrier that would like us to file the tax return must make a check payable to the U.S. Department of Treasury for the amount of the tax due, and we must receive it by **August 15th**.

If you sold any vehicles between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 you may be eligible for a credit and refund for the unused portion of the Federal Highway Use Tax that was paid for those vehicles.



FEDERAL & STATE UPDATES

certification to their home state licensing agency. Proof of medical certification is required at renewal time. During the year any new medical card must be provided to the state agency to keep their CDL active.

All entry level CDL drivers that received his or her CDL after July 20, 2003, must have new entry driver training prior to driving a commercial motor vehicle. The new training must include Driver Qualification, Hours-Of-Service, Driver Wellness, and Whistleblower Protection. The driver must receive a certificate proving completion of the training. The impact for carriers is that they must make sure any driver that was issued their initial CDL on or after July 20, 2003, has received the training and the training certificate must be in their driver qualification file. We have the training packet and certificates; to obtain these, please contact our office.

UNIFORM CARRIER REGISTRATION SYSTEM - UCR

Every company with an interstate USDOT number is required to file under the UCR. Many states now require even intrastate companies and farmers that operate vehicles over 10,000 GVW or combination vehicles over 10,000 pounds to obtain a DOT number even if they do not cross a state line. Each state can determine if they will require solely intrastate private and for-hire carriers to register under the UCR. States have begun enforcement of the UCR filings. Each state has established their own fines for non-filing.

Several UCR filings did not reach the FMCSA website which is the official location for enforcement.

We have verified all of the UCR filings we completed and can verify any others when requested.

INDIANA

Indiana has increased their diesel fuel tax from 16 cents to 26 cents per gallon and the fuel surcharge has been increased from 11 cents to 21 cents per gallon, but the surcharge will now be built into the price of the fuel. Also, the fuel tax for gasoline was increased from 11 cents to 28 cents per gallon. The effective date for the tax increases was July 1, 2017.

Indiana vehicle registration fees have been increased for an 80,000 GVW truck to \$1,692 and the excise tax fee is \$502 or a total of \$2,196. The increases were effective on July 1, 2017.

PERMITS THAT EXPIRE AUGUST 31, 2017:

**FEDERAL HIGHWAY USE TAX
IRS FORM 2290**

DID YOU KNOW

If you operate vehicles in the following states, you must still have the following paperwork in addition to IFTA license and decals:

KENTUCKY - Trucks must be on file with the state and must list current license plate number

NEW MEXICO - Trucks must be on file with the state

NEW YORK - Trucks must be on file with the state (receipt is required to be carried in vehicle and decal displayed)

OREGON - Permit for each truck (recommend copy of receipt to be carried in vehicle)

New Mexico and Oregon have ports of entry where temporary trip permits may be purchased. Some of the Oregon ports do close and carriers must have a permit if traveling in the state.

Contact our office for:

- ◆ Federal & State Compliance
- ◆ Fuel & Mileage Tax Reporting
- ◆ DOT Safety Compliance
- ◆ Drug and Alcohol Testing
- ◆ Online Driver Qualification, Vehicle Maintenance and Company Document Management
- ◆ Electronic Logging Devices
- ◆ Temporary Permits



PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING FEDERAL OR STATE REQUIREMENTS, OR ANY OTHER TRANSPORTATION CONCERNS.

Dave