



Motor Carriers, the SMS Preview Is Extended!

What Is the SMS Preview? SMS is the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) workload prioritization system and is the foundation of the Agency's enforcement and compliance programs. FMCSA is committed to continually improving SMS, in an open and transparent manner, so that motor carriers are educated and can focus on improving safety compliance before changes are made. On March 27, 2012, FMCSA launched the preview period for the first set of improvements.

What Are the Proposed SMS Changes? The first package of proposed SMS enhancements includes:

- Strengthening the Vehicle Maintenance Behavior Analysis and Safety Improvement Category (BASIC) by incorporating cargo/load securement violations from the current Cargo-Related BASIC.
- Changing the Cargo-Related BASIC to the Hazardous Materials (HM) BASIC to better identify HM-related safety and compliance problems.
- Better aligning the SMS with Intermodal Equipment Provider regulations.
- Aligning violations that are included in the SMS with Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance inspection levels by eliminating the vehicle violations derived from driver-only inspections and driver violations from vehicle-only inspections.
- More accurately identifying carriers involved in transporting HM.
- More accurately identifying carriers involved in transporting passengers.
- Modifying the SMS display to:
 - Change the current terminology, “inconclusive” and “insufficient data,” to fact-based definitions.
 - Separate crashes with injuries and crashes with fatalities.

Where Can Motor Carriers Find Out More? On the Compliance, Safety, Accountability (CSA) Website's Resources page, motor carriers can access a foundational document (http://csa.fmcsa.dot.gov/Documents/SMS_FoundationalDoc_final.pdf) that provides additional information about the first set of SMS changes. A Federal Register Notice (<https://federalregister.gov/a/2012-12634>) outlining the changes is also available for review.

Where Can Motor Carriers Access the Preview? Motor carriers should view the SMS Preview to see how methodology changes will affect their SMS results, and they can access the Preview through either of these two websites:

1. Visit the CSA Website (<https://csa.fmcsa.dot.gov/login.aspx>) and log in with an FMCSA-issued U.S. DOT number and a personal identification number (PIN); or
2. Log in to the FMCSA Portal (<https://portal.fmcsa.dot.gov/login>) and select the “CSA Outreach” link.

How Can Motor Carriers Provide Their Comments About the SMS Changes? FMCSA encourages motor carriers to submit their comments regarding the SMS changes by July 30, 2012, to the Federal Docket Management System, Docket ID Number FMCSA-2012-0074 (<http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=FMCSA-2012-0074-0001>).



This is an official U.S. government publication, produced and disseminated by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

CSA is FMCSA's enforcement program to improve large truck and bus safety and ultimately reduce CMV-related crashes, injuries, and fatalities. For more information about CSA, visit <http://csa.fmcsa.dot.gov>

