



August 31 Deadline for ICSA Membership Renewals

Last week ICSA members received a notice with a link to renew their ICSA annual membership for the July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 period and providing a grace period through August 31, 2022. Our records show that many members have not yet renewed their ICSA membership even though this is a requirement to retain insurance coverage.

This is a friendly reminder for those who have not renewed to click on the link below and renew by August 31. After that deadline, ICSA must notify members' insurance agencies of those that have not met this requirement of the Terms and Conditions of Membership. Don't let that happen! Members must log in and renew no later than August 31 to continue insurance coverage.

We thank those that have renewed and hope all members will take advantage of the many services ICSA offers beyond discounted insurance coverage.

[Renew ICSA Membership](#)

ICSA Launches New Driver and Fleet Legal Services

We are proud to announce new driver and fleet legal services for ICSA members through a new partnership with U.S. Legal Services (USL). USL is well known throughout the trucking industry for the safety and business tools they provide for the single-truck professional driver and small fleets.

USL understands the individual needs of both single-truck operators and small fleets, including the regulations they face, and has developed the CDL Defender specifically for this segment of the trucking industry. This includes the Professional Driver Business Advantage at no additional cost to the driver. USL's success in assisting drivers and small fleets has resulted in an average 88% reduction in violation severity points and therefore lower SMS scores of drivers USL has represented. USL also has achieved a 95% success rate in winning DataQ challenges, helping keep both driver and fleet CSA scores down.

What this means for ICSA members is that USL will represent members who sign up for USL services and

their drivers for all moving, non-moving, and DOT violations, all the way up to and including potential trials, using properly licensed and credentialed, local attorneys. USL's data shows local attorneys who are familiar with the local jurisdiction, prosecutors, and judges obtain better results. Its nationwide network of attorneys is experienced in working with professional drivers and go the extra mile to find supporting evidence to better represent the driver's side of the case.

The Professional Driver Business Advantage provides coverage for the formation of a business entity (S-Corp, LLC, etc.) to protect drivers' personal assets while running their businesses and maintaining compliance with state and federal regulations. Network attorneys will review and prepare usual and customary legal documents, papers, forms, and contracts.

This service helps drivers understand how to operate their businesses effectively and efficiently. USL's Business Advisors will set up and review the small business plan to ensure drivers' goals and strategies are determined and met. This financial and tax advice helps drivers operate their businesses more efficiently.

The Professional Driver Business Advantage provides access to unlimited consultations with a tax professional who can file members' taxes, personal and professional, including all schedules and forms.

These legal services will be available to every ICSA member and driver through a low-cost subscription administered by USL. Be watching for a special bulletin containing a link to explore and sign up for the [ICSA-USL partnership](#).



**U.S. LEGAL
SERVICES**

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COACHING CORNER

How to Prepare for Brake Safety Week

By Mike Hitchcock

ICSA Senior Safety Advisor

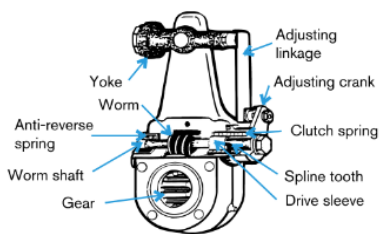


Commercial enforcement personnel throughout the U.S. will be conducting brake inspections at roadside and in weigh and inspection stations August 21-27. Enforcement officers inspected nearly 35,000 trucks during Brake Safety Week in 2021. Over 12% of those vehicles were placed out of service for critical brake-related conditions. During last year's RoadCheck, brake systems and brake adjustment violations accounted for 38.9% of all vehicle out-of-service violations.

Do you know how to adjust self-adjusting brakes? Most people I ask do not.

Understanding how the average self-adjusting slack adjuster works can go a long way in helping drivers keep them adjusted. Having all your brakes working together ensures that no one brake is doing all the work and overheating. In normal use the driver uses 5-10psi of air application. This may not be enough application pressure to push the yoke far enough to adjust up a notch for all your brakes at the same time. That will leave them uneven and cause some to work harder than others, leading to uneven heat and wear and less braking power when you need it.

Adjust your brakes: Using the foot valve and applying full pressure when stopped will throw the yoke back as far as possible on all brakes and take up a notch on the brakes that need adjustment. Do this regularly each day when stopped, starting with your pre trip inspection, when disconnecting from a trailer to ensure your bobtail is evenly adjusted, and every time you hook to a new trailer to ensure that it is adjusted evenly with the tractor.



Lines & Hoses: Brake check week will also focus on worn and chafed airlines. Check your lines ahead of time. Ensure that none are touching anything. Insulate or isolate any you find that are touching something. Look for ways to reroute lines or separate them to reduce points of contact. Where they must touch, secure them together so

they don't rub. Zip ties work well for this. If the hose can't move or vibrate it will likely not chafe.

Use these tips to prepare ahead of time for brake safety week:

1. Inspect your brakes and adjust as part of your pre- and post-trip inspection.
2. Listen for air leaks with engine on and off. Also check with brakes off then with brakes applied.
3. Listen for air leaks around the trailer and glad hands.
4. Check your brake hoses for kinks and contact points. Make sure there are no kinks, worn areas or chafing.
5. Secure hose movement to prevent wear.
6. Airlines should not hang down and touch the tractor deck or frame.
7. If you are pulled in for inspection, be sure to adjust your brakes when you park! Use a full foot valve before setting the parking brake!

Failing to take care of your brakes can have some very real consequences, including having your truck placed out of service, being forced to pay for roadside brake repairs, or worst of all, having the brakes fail on your truck and cause a catastrophic crash! Don't become a 2022 Brake Safety Week statistic. Check your brakes today.

National Truck Driver Appreciation Week Coming September 11-17

We think truck drivers should be appreciated every week all year long! However, National Truck Driver Appreciation Week is an important time for the rest of America to pay respect and thank professional truck drivers for their hard work and commitment to one of our economy's most demanding and important jobs.

ICSA will recognize its members who participate in a short survey on industry issues with the gift of a great new ICSA hat! Complete the survey to throw your name in the hat (pun intended) for a chance to also win a \$500 gift card. Watch for an ICSA email just after Labor Day with the survey link and instructions on how to participate. Thank you, ICSA truckers!



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New First Gear™ Driver Training Now Open



Several weeks ago, we informed our members that we would be making available to you the First Gear™ commercial vehicle driver online training curriculum at no cost. That day has arrived! Watch for an email from the email account

admin@firstgear.server.tracorp.com titled, "New ICSA Account Created." The email contains the link to the training program, your administrator username and password, and a link you can provide your employees so that they can register themselves. If you do not receive the email, please check your junk or spam folder and make sure to mark an email from Tracorp as "not spam or junk."

First Gear™ brings valuable training to carriers to coach drivers on safety tips and tactics. You may assign drivers the entire curriculum or customize assignments to those topics where you believe drivers need additional training. Even seasoned drivers can become complacent over time, putting themselves, the motorist public and your company at greater risk.

This program is designed for everyone who uses it to learn something new or to refresh their knowledge even if they have been behind the wheel a while. Most importantly, you can easily access the training from a mobile phone or tablet – no computer necessary!

If you can't find the email and wish to access First Gear™, please email us at contact@safecarriers.org, provide a name and phone number where we can reach you and we will follow up with you.

Latest ICSA Safety Awards

Independent Carrier Safety Association recognizes its safest members with quarterly safety awards for the top three single-truck operators and the top three small fleets. We are pleased to congratulate these winners for the second quarter of 2022:

Fleets

- 1st Place: **The Josiah Co.**, Richmond, TX
- 2nd Place: **ASAP Trucking, LLC**, Atlanta, GA
- 3rd Place: **Shana Investments, LLC**, Moreno, CA

Single Truck Operators

- 1st Place: **ELH Logistics**, Southfield, MI
- 2nd Place: **MDS Enterprise, Inc.**, Charlotte, NC
- 3rd Place: **Lysander Transport**, Homestead, FL

First place winners receive a \$500 gift card and an ICSA-branded scale model truck, while 2nd and 3rd place winners receive some very nice and useful ICSA-branded prizes. ICSA selects safety award winners based on these criteria:

- ICSA membership dues paid up and an active member profile set up in safecarriers.org
- SmartDrive camera(s) installed and active
- SmartDrive score under 50 for the quarter
- Enrolled in ICSA's approved drug testing consortium and hair testing completed
- No claims

Congratulations to our 2nd Quarter safety award winners!

Q2 Safety Award Winners

Single Truck:

First Place: ELH Logistics	Second Place: MDS Enterprises, Inc.	Third Place: Lysander Transport
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Small Fleet:

First Place: The Josiah Co.	Second Place: ASAP Trucking LLC	Third Place: Shana Investments, LLC
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