

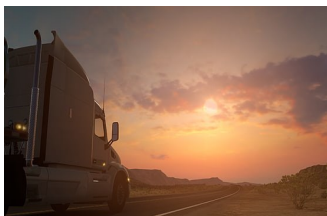


FMCSA Proposes CSA Overhaul

Say “Goodbye BASICS” they will now be called “safety categories.” And say “Goodbye IRT”, or Item Response Theory, a decades-old FMCSA concept that was too complex to implement and too slow to be useful. (<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/02/15/2023-02947/revised-carrier-safety-measurement-system>)

Why should ICSA members care that the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is once again proposing changes to the Safety Measurement System (SMS), the mathematical system used to calculate motor carrier safety ratings in the CSA (Compliance, Safety, Accountability) program? Simply this: safety ratings are used by shippers to evaluate and select carriers to haul their freight, by FMCSA and other commercial enforcement agencies to determine which carriers need inspections or compliance audits, and by insurers to determine if you are a good safety risk.

The changes envisioned by FMCSA are numerous and substantive – far more than the “headline” items described above to get attention. The changes deserve close carrier scrutiny, which is why FMCSA is taking major steps to help explain the proposal and solicit feedback. Meanwhile, ICSA’s regulatory contributor Warren Hoemann will be closely following the rulemaking process and will communicate key actions to members. We will cover the rulemaking in greater detail in our March Regulatory Roundup.



What should you do in the meantime? Understand that until any SMS changes are formally adopted, the current evaluation system will stay in place. One positive note is that FMCSA has specifically stated that crashes reviewed through the agency’s Crash Preventability Determination Program and found to be Not Preventable will continue to be excluded from the SMS methodology. Below are details on the comment period, a special CSA preview website and three public Q&A webinars, which we encourage members to attend. Click on any of the date links to register. The public comment period is a full 90 days; comments are due by May 16, 2023.

FMCSA has set up a [CSA Prioritization Preview website](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/02/15/2023-02947/revised-carrier-safety-measurement-system) to explain the SMS changes in detail. ICSA members can log in and see how the proposal may affect their own results. The public can see a hypothetical carrier example. (<https://csa.fmcsa.dot.gov/prioritizationpreview>)

FMCSA will hold three public Q&A webinars:

Thursday, March 7, 3-4 p.m. Eastern Time

Tuesday, March 14, 3-4 p.m. Eastern Time

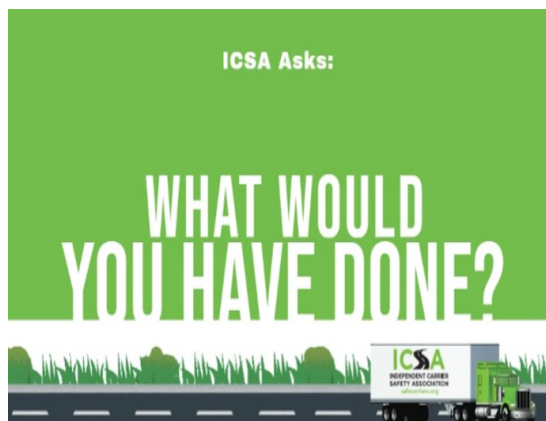
Wednesday, March 15, 11-12 noon, Eastern Time

ICSA Announces Crash Video Series

Event recorders are a requirement for ICSA Platinum Memberships for those carriers that wish to qualify for insurance coverage under ICSA’s group program. ICSA’s safety consultants review thousands of crash and incident videos each month. Where needed, our consultants reach out to members with coaching tips to help drivers avoid future crashes and reduce or eliminate claims that not only affect their safety rating but cause their insurance rates to increase.

Between their years of driving and safety management experience, our safety consultants will now be sharing their safety tips and experienced advice via our new YouTube series, “ICSA Asks: What Would You Have Done?”. This new series shares recordings of actual incidents and crashes experienced by ICSA members and is designed to help carriers respectfully learn from each other, improve driver safety scores, ultimately lower crash rates and keep insurance costs as low as possible. We have edited the videos to remove any identifying marks, logos or company names so that they are completely anonymous.

Starting March 1, you will find a link on ICSA’s website home page that will take you to our YouTube site. Take a moment to explore the series and ask yourself, “What would you have done?” in these drivers’ situations. Make sure to subscribe, so you don’t miss the next video series, and comment on the YouTube video letting us know what you would have done. (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCpvnz5aYxg0ChF-TLXc5JA>)



Ready for More Winter Driving?

Punxsutawney Phil Says Winter's Not Over!



ICSA safety consultants have been seeing far too many weather-related crashes this year! However, just because it's late February doesn't mean danger is over. After all, Punxsutawney Phil, the ever-reliable groundhog, predicted just a few days ago that we're in for another six weeks of winter!

In fact, snow, ice, wind, rain and other inclement weather conditions don't cause crashes. Rather, it's drivers not planning for these conditions and not adapting their driving habits that leads to crashes. We've seen dozens of crashes already this year because drivers were simply driving too fast for conditions and not paying attention.

If you are in your first or second year driving in winter conditions, you would do well to review the free winter weather training courses available to you at no cost on the FirstGear on our webpage. <https://www.safecarriers.org/dashboard/>

Driving in bad weather requires all your skills and attention. Begin by eliminating unnecessary distractions. You need to be up on the wheel and completely focused on the job at hand. Below are three more tips for driving in bad weather.

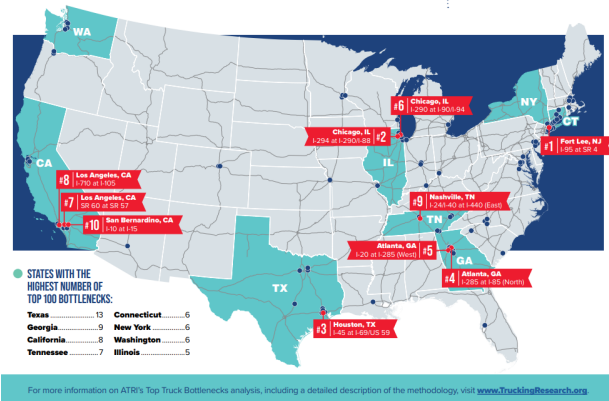
HINT: It's ok to chain up BEFORE being required to do so! Keep your brakes adjusted evenly. This will prevent one set of tires from locking up on you before another. Know how to adjust automatic slack adjusters. There are many myths about backing up to adjust them. It is not very effective. The best practice is to simply depress the brake pedal all the way to the floor and hold it there for 3 seconds. Do this a couple times a day and your brakes will stay evenly adjusted. This should also be the last thing you do as you stop for an inspection.

Keep your 5th wheel well-greased. In icy conditions, you won't be able to turn if your 5th wheel is dry. Find more Winter Driving Information in the Resources section of our website. <https://www.safecarriers.org/resources/>

- There are many times when you don't need to use all your chains but adding a couple can make a difference in traction.
- The time to chain up is right after you find yourself wondering if you should!
- Experience is what makes a professional driver - along with a habit of making smart decisions. Driving in bad weather is what truckers do. Learning how to do it safely – the right way – takes time but learn to do it.
- For snow, set a progressive goal for yourself. Learn how to drive in one inch of snow this year. How do you do that? When you find yourself in those conditions seek out another professional driver and ask them to show you how. The good ones will be glad too.
- DRIVE SLOWLY and never get overconfident. The difference between arriving safely and ending up in the ditch can be the difference of one mile per hour.
- One tip I've learned over the years is whenever you start to wonder if conditions are bad enough, get off the road.

TOP 10 Trucking Bottlenecks in the U.S.

The American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI) has released its annual report listing the worst traffic bottlenecks in the country. The difference between ATRI's analysis and that of other reports identifying congested corridors is that ATRI specifically identifies granular chokepoints in the nation's truck freight transportation system using GPS data from over one million trucks. We know carriers that use the report to better plan routes and times of travel to avoid highly congested areas. You can find an interactive map on the ATRI website or download the summary of truck chokepoints.



ATRI Asks Industry's Opinion on Marijuana Legalization

We want to encourage ICSA members to participate in a new ATRI survey on the impact of marijuana legalization on the trucking industry. ATRI leaders expect the survey will provide insight into the specific challenges motor carriers face as the use of recreational marijuana grows in the U.S., as well as potential approaches the industry can take to address these challenges. ATRI's confidential survey is available online and will remain open through March 17, 2023.

"Hats Off" to ICSA Members Completing TAT Training

Thank you to those ICSA members who logged in and took the Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) online training in January. As soon as we have verified mailing addresses, we'll be sending each of you a brand new ICSA hat with our new logo. Congratulations on becoming TAT trained!



<https://education.truckersagainsttrafficking.org/icsa/>