



**American Trucking Associations Summary of  
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)  
Emergency Declaration Conference Call – Questions and Answers**  
*Wednesday, March 25, 2020, as of 3:00 p.m. ET*



The following questions and answers are based on a FMCSA conference call on Wednesday, March 25. These responses are subject to further interpretation and change, especially as the public health situation with regard to COVID-19 evolves. **Motor carriers are responsible for reviewing the Emergency Declaration and working with the appropriate Department of Transportation (DOT) authorities to determine how they should best comply with the federal rules and regulations.** As always, ATA staff are also available to help answer or direct questions to FMCSA. Regular updates are posted to [www.trucking.org/COVID19](http://www.trucking.org/COVID19).

**Introduction by Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao**

- FMCSA has extended CDL/CLP expirations through June 30.
- FMCSA is working to ensure that critical infrastructure remains open, including rest stops. FMCSA is working with state departments of transportation.
- DOT is a crucial component of the White House COVID-19 task force, and feeds important information directly to the President and Vice President.

**Does the agency's CDL/CLP waiver cover hazmat endorsements as well?**

No. That is a TSA issue.

**Is fertilizer included in the expanded list of hours-of-service (HOS) exemptions?**

Yes, they will be included in Q&As on the DOT website.

**Will FMCSA take any further action to suspend the random drug test rate?**

FMCSA understands the exposure risk to drivers and refers to the existing guidance on the website. Random testing is performed on an annual basis, and motor carriers can make up any deficits in their current random test rate later in the year.

**With state driver's license agencies (SDLAs) closed, what can the agency do for temporary agricultural commercial driver's license (CDL) holders?**

FMCSA is currently working with states on that issue.

**Is the agency planning for the thousands of nonqualified drivers once the declaration period ends?**

Yes, FMCSA is planning for that period and is sensitive to when the DMVs may open relative to the June 30 date.

**Can you clarify whether all trucking is exempt from state and local shelter-in-place orders?**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has identified truck drivers, through Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) guidelines, as essential. FMCSA is in communication

with nearly all areas that have shelter-in-place orders. If drivers or motor carriers have information on disruptions to truck deliveries, please contact FMCSA.

**Do you have more information about drivers who refuse to get physicals because of exposure risk?**

Expiration of medical certification requirements under the waivers are now in effect. Those requirements have been automatically extended until June 30.

**Can truck washes be deemed essential business?**

No, services that support the transportation industry under CISA guidelines are not included.

**Will there be a grace period beyond June 30 on self-certification of motor vehicle records?**

FMCSA is monitoring and will return to that issue at a later time.

**Does the HOS exemption apply to services that support rail?**

Yes, supports for emergency and relief services are covered, although you are encouraged to contact DOT because cases can vary.

**Are honeybees (apiarian industries) covered under the exemption?**

Yes.

**Is there any liability or cargo loss guidance for drivers and motor carriers operating under the HOS exemption?**

No.

**Are all CDLs extended to June 30, or does it allow state DOTs to extend?**

The extension of the CDLs is up to the states.

**Do mixed loads qualified for the exceptions?**

Yes, mixed loads are covered under the emergency declaration.

**Are there any joint coordination efforts with FMCSA and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) on protocols and processes on protecting drivers as they navigate COVID-19?**

That is an ongoing collaboration and FMCSA defers to CDC on COVID-specific issues.

**Will FMCSA extend HOS relief to ensure the viability of the food system?**

FMCSA refers to future FAQs that will be published.

**Will FMCSA have the authority to deal with size and weight limits?**

That is an FHWA issue.

**Is pet food covered under the declaration?**

No.

**Has FMCSA reached out to SDLAs to encourage extensions of CDL and commercial learners permit (CLP) renewals?**

Yes, and dialogue with state DOTs is ongoing.

**Is FMCSA considering suspending HOS rules for all freight?**

No.

**Are input materials needed to produce animal feed and equipment included in the emergency declaration?**

No. Declaration considers immediate need and precursor materials.

**What is considered good practice for labeling emergency supplies?**

Label these items as emergency relief supplies on the bill of lading.

**Will FMCSA play a role in harmonizing truck size and weight limits for the benefit of interstate commerce?**

That is not a FMCSA issue.

**Will FMCSA provide a card or letter that drivers can give law enforcement who are not aware of the emergency declaration?**

FMCSA is not aware of any incidents that are problematic like that.

**Are railroad CMV drivers covered under the emergency declaration?**

FMCSA is currently reaching out to the rail industry to gather more information.