

Compliance
Safety
Accountability

What is CSA?

Compliance Safety Accountability (CSA) is a Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration safety initiative that improves the effectiveness compliance and enforcement programs. CSA helps the FMCSA assess the safety performance of a greater segment of the motor carrier industry and allows earlier intervention to change unsafe behavior and practices before they result in tragedy. The ultimate goal of CSA is to achieve a greater reduction in large truck and bus crashes, injuries, and fatalities, while making efficient use of FMCSA and State resources.

CSA is characterized by two principal components:

- (1) A more comprehensive carrier safety measurement system;
- (2) A broader array of interventions that increase in severity. In addition to comprehensive on-site investigations, corrective steps include warning letters, off-site investigations and on-site investigations focused on areas of concern

Carrier Safety Measurement System (CSMS)

CSMS is designed to monitor and quantify the safety performance of commercial motor carriers using data available in FMCSA's motor carrier data- base.

Under CSA, this data includes violations found during roadside inspections, traffic enforcement and other types of interventions. CSMS groups the data into seven Behavioral Analysis Safety Improvement Categories (BASICS):

- Unsafe Driving*
- Hours-of-Service Compliance*
- Driver Fitness*
- Controlled Substances and Alcohol*
- Vehicle Maintenance*
- Hazardous Materials Compliance*
- Crash Indicator*

The carrier and driver behaviors tracked by the BASICS are tightly correlated to crash incidence. The CSMS is:

- 1. Is organized by seven specific behavioral areas (BASICS)*
- 2. Uses all safety-based inspection violations*
- 3. Uses risk-based violation weightings*

For further information on the CSMS see the Safety Measurement System methodology at <http://csa.fmcsa.dot.gov>.

Policies and Procedures provide the foundation for an effective safety management strategy. Policies are directly related to established safety regulations and identify actions that need to be taken. Procedures are those actions that must be performed to comply with policies.

Roles and Responsibilities is the “Who” will be responsible for implementing the policies and procedures within an organization.

Qualification and Hiring is the process of carefully evaluating potential employees and ultimately selecting the best qualified candidate for every position.

Training and Communication is the education component that ensures all employees are knowledgeable of the organization’s policies and procedures and understand the expectations of their role in supporting safe practices.

Monitoring and Tracking is the act of “looking and collecting”. Observing how established safety practices are being performed and then recording the data that is collected from those observations.

Meaningful Action is the process of evaluating the data collected to determine if there are any breakdowns in the safety system. It also assists in identifying where in the process a breakdown may have occurred and should suggest some level of corrective action to minimize the risk of recurrence. If the breakdown is determined to be central to a core practice of the safety management system, a reevaluation of the organization’s policies and procedures may be necessary.



The most critical breakdowns your organization may face cannot simply be repaired with a service call.

Minimize your risks by adopting strong safety practices that reinforce the Safety Management Cycle and ensure the continued success of your organization.