

# TRUCKING TIPS

May 1, 2007

## SUMMER APPROACHES

As we get closer to the summer months where more vehicles are on the highways, this newsletter will provide a few reminders of things to consider during the approaching months:

**PHYSICAL EXAMS AND LICENSES:** Have a sure system that catches all expiration dates for physical examinations and drivers' licenses, and assures that annual reviews of driving records and driver certification forms are completed on time. Regulations require these to be completed **ON OR BEFORE** the due date, and delays are considered violations that can be cited.

**DRIVER APPLICATIONS:** Be sure the driver application form you are using meets the current DOT requirements. It should include language that addresses a driver's rights to review and rebut reference check information - see part 391.23 (i).

**EXEMPT DRIVERS:** The 100 air mile radius may exempt drivers from maintaining logs, but time records are still required. In order to use this exemption, however, the driver must also not be on duty or driving for more than 12 consecutive hours. The driver's day may be extended by using a log **BUT**, bear in mind that the regulations also require that the log be maintained throughout the day, up to the last change of duty status.

**CONSTRUCTION ZONES PRESENT DRIVING CHALLENGES:** Highway construction zones are on the increase as the road building season gets fully underway. Travel in construction zones requires special attention as lane markings and barriers make the road unfamiliar to everyone traveling through the area. Alert your drivers to **SLOW DOWN** and increase safety by maintaining their lane, watching for errant drivers, moving away from roadside workers and driving with courtesy and care.

**PENDING REGULATION:** Electronic On Board Recorders (EOBRs)- The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has proposed a limited implementation of devices which would monitor driver hours of service; mandatory installation would be limited to serious offenders.

**PENDING REGULATION:** Speed Governors- Responding to a petition filed by the American Trucking Association (ATA), FMCSA is requesting opinions on whether heavy trucks should be governed to not exceed 68 mph. Opposing views suggest that numerous studies have shown that speeding by adverse vehicles, not the truck, is the problem and while slowing traffic could have a safety benefit, it is essential that **ALL** traffic be slowed.

**PENDING REGULATION:** CDL-Medical Merger- This proposal would merge the record keeping and administration of the medical qualification program with the commercial drivers license program. State motor vehicle departments would maintain records of driver medicals, allowing enforcement personnel to reliably confirm driver status.

## Fenley & Bate, LLP

**Lufkin Office**  
224 E. Lufkin Avenue  
Lufkin, Texas 75902-0450  
TPN: (936) 634-3346  
FAX: (936) 639-5874

**ATTORNEYS AT LAW**  
cfenley@fenley-bate.com  
www.fenley-bate.net

**Livingston Office**  
415 N. Washington, Suite B  
Livingston, Texas 77351  
TPN: (936) 327-1100  
FAX: (936) 327-1107