

# SOUTHWEST



## MOVERS ASSOCIATION

# MOVE-FAX

FOR MEMBERS ONLY

December 14, 2007

### FMCSA Retains 11- and 34- Hours HOS Rule

On Tuesday of this week, 12/11/07, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) released the Interim Final Rule on hours of service. It retains the 11-hour maximum driving limit and the 34-hour restart provision, along with the rest of the HOS rules that have been in place since October 2005. This rule will become effective on December 27. In essence, there will be no change to the HOS rules at this time.

### HOS Interim Rule Based on Latest Accident Data

The new Hours-of-Service interim rule reflects the scientific research which shows that the comprehensive regulations, in effect since 2004, promote driver alertness and enhance highway safety. The data collected by the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute shows there is no increase in crash risk in the 11th hour of driving. Government and industry safety data and metrics clearly indicate that the current HOS rules are an improvement in truck safety over the rules in place prior to 2004.

For example:

- *The number of truck-involved fatalities decreased 4.7 percent in 2006 – from 5,240 in 2005 to 4,995 in 2006 – the largest percentage drop in truck-involved fatalities since 1992;*
- *Projected truck-involved fatality rate for 2006 is at its lowest since record-keeping began in 1975;*
- *Number of truck-involved-crash injuries decreased by almost 2,000 in 2005 and dropped another 8,000 in 2006;*
- *Injury crash rate, another accepted metric, is at its lowest point since DOT recordkeeping began.*

Over the next 60 days, FMCSA will accept comments on the HOS interim final rule. The complete Interim Final Rule can be found at: [www.fmcsa.dot.gov/about/news-releases/2007/hos.pdf](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/about/news-releases/2007/hos.pdf).

### Military Table of Weights & Depreciation

SMA staff has had several requests lately for a chart or table of weights considered standard for individual pieces of household goods. We have now located that chart and can order for any one interested in having one. It will be \$20, plus postage and Texas sales tax. Members may email [info@southwestmovers.org](mailto:info@southwestmovers.org) for staff to order one and invoice them.

### Houston Permit Ordinance Put on Back

**Burner** During a December 10th meeting of the Houston City Council's Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security the proposed truck ordinance put forth by Councilman Adrian Garcia was tabled. The ordinance, which would have been extremely adverse to our industry, has been put on the back burner for at least six months. In his closing statement during yesterday's committee hearing, Councilman Garcia has seemingly shifted from his regulatory permitting posture and now is advocating for enhanced traffic law enforcement of overweight trucks. He indicated that he will push for increased penalties for repeat violators of overweight restrictions pursuant to commercial motor vehicles regulations. TMTA/SMA will continue to monitor this issue in its entirety.

### Inspector General Plans Audit of CDL System

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Office of Inspector General plans to initiate a performance audit of the Commercial Driver's License Information System (CDLIS). The objectives of this audit are to determine: (1) If convictions and other personal information recorded in CDLIS and state DMV systems are accurate, timely and complete; (2) If CDLIS and state DMV systems are adequately secured according to minimum security standards to prevent unauthorized access to privacy data; and (3) If an adequate contingency plan exists to ensure continual CDLIS service to state Department of Motor Vehicles in the event of a disaster.

### Move U – Mover Training Certification Classes

The next training classes are scheduled for January 16 and 17, at the SMA headquarters in Austin.

**One day** - Basic moving safety and equipment class - \$195

**Two days** - Basic moving safety and loader class - \$295.

A registration form is posted on the new SMA Web site [www.mytexasmover.com](http://www.mytexasmover.com). At the top of the screen, go to upcoming events. Call SMA 800/759-2305 with questions. Also, see Tom Herrick's (Move U Trainer and Speaker) Web site [@tom@professionalmovertraining.com](mailto:@tom@professionalmovertraining.com)

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