

# **Notice to Commercial Vehicle Owners**

## **State of Alaska, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Division of Measurement Standards and Commercial Vehicle Enforcement**

January 22, 2009

The Department of Administration, Division of Motor Vehicles and the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), Division of Measurement Standards and Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (MS&CVE), is utilizing the commercial vehicle registration process to improve motor carrier safety.

The Performance and Registration Information Systems Management (PRISM) program includes two major processes—the Commercial Vehicle Registration Process, and the Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Process (MCSIP)—which work in parallel to identify motor carriers and hold them responsible for the safety of their operation. The performance of unsafe carriers is improved through a comprehensive system of identification, education, awareness, safety monitoring and treatment.

The commercial vehicle registration process provides the framework for the PRISM program and serves two vital functions. First, it establishes a system of accountability by insuring that no vehicle is plated without identifying the carrier responsible for the safety of the vehicle during the registration year. Second, the use of registration sanctions serves as a powerful incentive for unsafe carriers to improve their safety performance.

The vehicle registration process ensures that all carriers engaged in interstate and intrastate commerce are uniquely identified through a USDOT number when they register their vehicles. The safety fitness of each carrier can then be checked prior to issuing vehicle registrations. Thus, motor carriers that have been prohibited from operating in interstate and intrastate commerce may then have their ability to register vehicles denied.

The Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Process (MCSIP) - MCSIP is the means by which a motor carrier's safety is systematically tracked and improved. The process is designed to improve the safety performance of motor carriers with demonstrated poor safety performance through accurate identification, performance monitoring and treatment. MCSIP carriers that do not improve their safety performance face progressively more stringent penalties that may result in a Federal "unfit" or "imminent hazard" determination and the possible suspension of vehicle registrations by the State.

Together a more accurate process for targeting the highest risk motor carriers, which allows for a more efficient allocation of scarce Compliance Review (CR) and roadside inspection resources. The deployment of the PRISM program will contribute to improved highway safety by making safe performance a requirement for obtaining and keeping commercial vehicle license plates.

If a commercial motor vehicle is being operated by a commercial motor carrier that has been prohibited to operate in interstate commerce by a Federal agency with authority to do so under Federal law, or the carrier has been prohibited to operate in intrastate commerce, the Division of Motor Vehicles is authorized to suspend or revoke the registration of a commercial motor vehicle if the commercial motor carrier responsible for its safety has been prohibited from operating by a Federal agency.

We look forward to our continued partnership with industry to improve highway safety in Alaska, if you have any questions or concerns please contact Laura Edwards at 907-365-1210.

For additional information please see: <http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/ADMIN/dmv/prism/prism.htm>