



REGULATORY ALERT

March 23, 2005

Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act (MCSIA) Update

The MCSIA (Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act) requires that by October 1, 2005 states adopt more stringent penalties for CDL drivers who commit serious traffic violations (see 49 CFR 383.51). The major change will only effect the CDL portion of your driving privileges.

Effective October 1, 2005 any conviction for a serious traffic violation, ***regardless of the type of vehicle operated*** at the time, will result in dual penalties for the holder of a CDL. The initial penalty will effect the basic driving privilege while the CDL privileges will be penalized under the terms of 383.51.

EXAMPLES

DWI Conviction

Currently, an initial DWI conviction while operating a private vehicle usually results in a six month suspension of the basic driving privilege. Effective October 1, 2005, there will be an additional suspension of the CDL privilege of one year, six months longer than the basic suspension.

Following Too Close

A conviction for following too close while operating a non-commercial vehicle may result in points against the basic driving privilege which will be removed over time. This same violation will follow the CDL portion of your driving privilege for 36 months. A second conviction for a serious traffic violation within the 36 month period will result in a 60 day suspension of the CDL privilege only.

No working or hardship CDL licenses will be authorized after October 1, 2005 under MCSIA.

NATC and its staff will keep you advised of the progress or lack thereof as this situation evolves. During the interim if you have questions concerning this issue or other compliance issues contact our main office at (609) 426-0555.

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