



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Deputy Administrator

1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Federal Motor Carrier
Safety Administration

Refer to: MC-ESS

Mr. Avelino A. Gutierrez
Chairman, Board of Directors
Unified Carrier Registration Plan
1120 Paseo de Peralta
Legal Division, Room 516
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Dear Mr. Gutierrez:

Thank you for your letter of March 5 on behalf of the Unified Carrier Registration (UCR) Agreement Board of Directors (Board).

Your letter included seven requests from the Board to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) for modifications to various database systems that provide information to the States; specifically the Safety and Fitness Electronic Records (SAFER) System and the Motor Carrier Management Information System (MCMIS). The Board requested these modifications to facilitate the States' processing of UCR applications, to provide adequate and easily accessible information to enforcement officials (for both roadside and audit purposes), and, to assist the affected industries become compliant with the UCR requirements.

Some of the requests require that FMCSA conduct additional research or make policy decisions. As a result, responses are deferred. We will provide the Board with an update on the remaining issues, at a later date.

1. Display the quantity of power units and of trailers (from the MCS-150) on www.safersys.org. This will allow motor carriers to review these numbers prior to registering under the UCR program and assist the States in processing UCR applications.

Response: The FMCSA must conduct additional research. As a result, we cannot provide the Board with a response at this time.

2. Modify SAFER to contain multiple years of UCR registration data. This will allow regulators/administrators to readily determine if an entity was registered for a previous year as well as a subsequent year. The UCR Board prefers to have three years of past history available.

Response: This was completed in February 2008 and is currently functioning. The system is now ready for input of data for the 2008, 2009, and 2010 registration years.

3. Create a location on the MCMIS database to log UCR undeliverable mail. About 22 percent of the 2007 UCR mailings were returned as undeliverable. That is approximately \$33,500 in lost revenue in postage alone. This field should be available to screen carriers for future mailings. Note: We also received several returned with "Deceased" marked on them. We would like to know how to process these (or to advise survivors accordingly).

Response: The FMCSA MCMIS database does include a data field to note undeliverable mail; however, only those with access granted by FMCSA are able to access this information. To gain this access, an entity must first have an agreement in place with FMCSA and the users must be registered. Currently, FMCSA Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program lead agencies in each State have been granted access to make changes to MCMIS, including undeliverable mail. Access has also been granted to the lead agency in each of the States that participate in the Performance and Registration Information Systems Management Program.

To alleviate the undeliverable mail issue, some States have a close working relationship with these agencies within their own State or with the FMCSA Division Office who often process the changes on behalf of the State. Other States use technical tools, such as special software packages to assist them in validating carrier addresses. Some States have relied on their own address lists that they maintain themselves.

At the January 14-15 Board meeting, it was recommended by the Board that a working group be established to discuss and work with the States participating in UCR Agreement regarding the issue of MCMIS access. However, FMCSA has not been contacted by this group.

To alleviate the undeliverable mail that occurred in the first year of the UCR Agreement, FMCSA worked closely with the Revenue and Fees Subcommittee and provided a list of invalid addresses from MCMIS. This list is to be used as a filter to separate out the undeliverable addresses from the SAFETYNET file used by the Fees Subcommittee to build the mailing lists for UCR Agreement participating States. It is anticipated that the result will be a significant decrease in undeliverable mail for the 2008 registration year.

Finally, returned mail marked with "Deceased" should be forwarded to the appropriate FMCSA Division Office for processing.

4. Currently, for a UCR search of www.safersys.org, a user must depress the SEARCH button. We request the ability to execute a search when the ENTER key is depressed.

Response: Due to other Agency priorities, FMCSA cannot accommodate this request at this time.

5. From the carrier's Snapshot display (<http://www.safersys.org/guery.asp>) in the upper right hand corner of the screen include a hyperlink to UCR data directly below the existing hyperlinks (SafeStat results, and L & I, etc.).

Response: See response for Question #4.

6. Display both Legal name and DBA name on the UCR results screen. This will assist in verifying the correct search was performed.

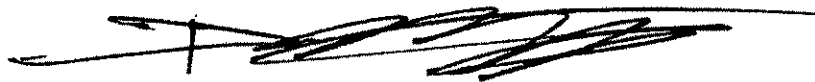
Response: The answer to this question is deferred in order for FMCSA to conduct additional research.

7. Add the entity type "Leasing Company" to the list available for entities applying for U.S. Department of Transportation numbers (current types are carrier; hazardous materials shipper, both a carrier and a shipper or a registrant). This will allow leasing companies to comply with the UCR registration requirement without unduly burdening State and national UCR systems as well as allow the data to be imported and displayed in FMCSA's systems.

Response: The answer to this question is deferred in order for FMCSA to conduct additional research.

If you have questions or concerns regarding these issues, please contact Julie Otto of my staff, at (202) 366-0710 or via e-mail at julie.otto@dot.gov.

Sincerely yours,



David H. Hugel

cc:

Mr. Robert Pitcher, Vice-Chair
Unified Carrier Registration Board of Directors