

Consultants Update

COVID-19

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Discussion Topics

- Extension of Validity for Expired CDLs, CLPs and Driver Medical Cards, HMEs, TWICs, Periodic Retesting of Cylinders
- DOT Pilot Programs on Split Break Time, 18-20 year old drivers in interstate commerce
- Possibility of new COVID response bill, additional PPP funding

CDLs, CLPs and Medical Cards

- CDLs, CLPs and Driver Medical Cards that were scheduled to expire on or after March 1 are now valid through September 30, 2020
- This applies in every state without any state action
- Extension does not apply if driver's privileges are suspended or withdrawn for traffic offenses
- Also does not apply if driver diagnosed with a disqualifying medical condition or one that requires an exemption or skills test, or to a driver with a medical card issued for less than 90 days
- Further extension under consideration at DOT

HME, TWIC Validity

- TSA has granted States the ability to extend for up to 180 days any Hazmat Endorsement to a CDL that expired or will expire between March 1, 2020 and October 29, 2020; all States are granting the extensions
- TSA has also granted an exemption extending the validity of any TWIC that expired between March 1, 2020 and July 31, 2020

DOT Periodic Retesting

- DOT allowing “enforcement discretion” for cylinders and other hazmat packagings that are out of periodic retest for not more than 90 days
- The enforcement discretion runs through October 31, 2020
- Does not apply to Packing Group I commodities

DOT Pilot Program on Split Breaks

- DOT proposing a pilot program to allow certain drivers to split their 14-hour daily driving window with one break of 30 minutes to 3 hours
- Time would be logged off duty
- Pilot will involved 200-400 drivers over 3-year period to collect data on safety implications of split breaks
- This approach was proposed by FMCSA in driver hours of service rulemaking but not included in final rule

DOT Pilot Program on 18-20 YO Drivers

- DOT also proposing a pilot program to allow 18-20 year old drivers to operate CMVs in interstate commerce
- Some 46 States currently allow under-21 drivers to operate CMVs in intrastate commerce
- Program would allow 18-20 year olds to drive after completing probationary hours, or 19-20 year olds after completing one year and 25,000 miles intrastate
- Would not apply to hazmat shipments, however

Status of Pandemic Relief Legislation

- Congressional Democrats and Republicans remain far apart
- D's want \$3.4 trillion in COVID relief package
- Senate R's unwilling to go higher than \$1 trillion
- Improving economic conditions and staggering debt figures may discourage GOP support, but election-related politics still in play
- President signed Executive Orders August 8 to allow temporary deferral of payroll taxes, help prevent evictions for non-payment of rent or mortgage, and deferral of student loans with 0% interest

Pandemic Relief Bill?

- White House and Senate Republicans seek stop-gap spending bill as opportunity for passage of new COVID relief package
- Agreement there will be no government shut down October 1; must pass spending bill by September 30
- New COVID relief bill will likely have new round of PPP funding; extension of federal unemployment benefits; another round of economic stimulus checks; liability protection for businesses, non-profits, schools, etc.; and financial support for state and local governments

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