DRIVER’S HOURS OF SERVICE RULE REMAINS

In the final hours, the Bush administration emphatically denied a request to overturn its controversial driver hours-of-service rule, leaving the twice-rejected measure in place.

John Hill, outgoing head of the FMCSA, stated that in the five years since the new rule went into effect, “the significant increase in truck crashes and fatalities that one would have anticipated, based on petitioners’ criticisms, has simply failed to occur.”

The coalition opposing the HOS rule said they were disappointed, but expected the new administration might reconsider the regulation.

FMCSA Issues Medical Rule Requiring Proof of Certification

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has issued a final rule requiring all interstate truck drivers to prove they have passed medical examinations and proposed a separate rule setting up a national registry of qualified examiners. The rule would require proof of an exam to obtain and keep a commercial driver license.

The new rule also will require states to merge commercial driver license records and truck drivers’ medical examination certificates into a single electronic record that law enforcement officials could check at any time.

The proposed medical examiner registry would create certification standards and train and test medical personnel to ensure the examiners are qualified to conduct medical exams of truck and bus drivers.

The rule covers only interstate drivers, but drivers operating within a state still would be required to certify by checking a box on a CDL application that they are not subject to the federal medical standards and medical certification requirement.

After the rule is implemented, drivers no longer will be required to carry a medical certification card in their wallets.

The Vote is in. SMA’s Summer Meeting will be in San Marcos, at the new Embassy Suites Hotel, July 12-14, and the Annual Conference will be in Kerrville.

Staff also made site visits to two Kerrville hotels this week and a contract is expected in the next few days. We will announce the exact dates and hotel for the annual meeting in September in the next MoveFax. We are pleased with the group pricing, amenities offered and look forward to introducing a true Texas flavor to this year’s meetings and believe the members will be delighted with our choices.

Join SMA for Moving Day at the Texas Capitol

Moving Day at the Texas State Capitol is Feb. 11 & 12. All SMA members are invited and encouraged to attend the Committee & Board meetings as well. A schedule of events can be found on SMA’s Web site. Remember on Wednesday, February 11, TMTA and SMA will have a TruckPAC/MovePAC Dinner at Carmelo’s hosted by UPS. Special guest Deirdre Delisi, Texas Transportation Commission Chair, will join members at the dinner. For registration information, visit: www.tmta.com.

New MOVE-U Safety, Mover and Loader Certification Classes

Classes will be February 17, 18 & 19, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the SMA headquarters, 700 E. 11th St., in Austin. Lunch is provided. Registration form is attached.

Safety – is Tuesday, February 17
Mover – is Wednesday, February 18
Loader – is Thursday, February 19

Special price breaks apply when attending all three days of classes.

Mark Your Calendars - 2009

February 3-5, 2009 – AMSA Training: Dallas, TX
February 8-11 – AMSA Conference & Expo – Dallas
February 11-13 – SMA/TMTA Moving & Trucking Day at the Capitol – Austin
February 17-19 – Move U Training Classes
February 25-26 – Basic Leadership Class – Bill Webb
February 25-27 – TMTA/SMA visit Washington, D.C.
June 2-4 – NCMA meeting – St. Louis, MO
July 12-14 – SMA Summer Board & Committee meetings – San Marcos, TX
September – Annual Conference – Kerrville, TX – Dates to be announced as soon as contract is signed.