CMV Awareness Program

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) have partnered to develop the Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) Awareness Training for officers from state, local and county law enforcement agencies. The purpose of the CMV Awareness Training is to inform patrol officers of potential safety and enforcement issues involving foreign-based CMVs and drivers operating outside the border commercial zones. Presented in 5-20 minute modules, the training has been designed for flexible delivery methods. Future delivery methods will include web based training and a DVD.

This training will provide the basic operating requirements for foreign-based CMVs and drivers that will be useful during a routine traffic stop or in response to a crash. The training will be conducted by a Certified CMV Officer from your jurisdiction. This same Certified CMV Officer might be your point-of-contact should a traffic stop result in a more comprehensive vehicle and/or driver investigation.

Please remember that your traffic stop and careful examination of the foreign-based CMV, its driver and cargo, may prevent a fatal crash or injury on our nation's highway.

For additional information on these classes, please contact:

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
North American Borders Division
Washington, DC

(202) 366-0318

FMCSA-ESO-06-0017 **October 2006**

Foreign Commercial Motor Vehicle Awareness Training Program

Understanding the Basic Operating Requirements of Foreign-Based Motor Carriers, CMVs, and Drivers

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

CMV Awareness Program

DID YOU KNOW?

- Currently there is an acceptable old and new version of the Mexican commercial drivers license (CDL) for operating a CMV in the U.S. and Canada.
- Canada does not issue a separate commercial license. Canada does not issue a CDL like the U.S., but rather issues a "classified" driver license which defines what classes of commercial vehicle a driver may operate.
- Drivers from Mexico and Canada do not have to possess a separate medical certificate, like U.S. drivers, as it is a condition they must meet for their drivers license.

- Officers may see different license plate configurations and documents verifying registration for each state and country.
- Operating Authority is required for most For-Hire, U.S., Canadian, and Mexican motor carriers. Even some private Mexican motor carriers are required to have Operating Authority.
- The International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) is an agreement among all 50 states, 10 Canadian provinces, and Mexico to simplify the permitting of and reporting of fuel use tax by interstate motor carriers.
- The CVSA issues Inspection Decals when a CMV passes a rigorous safety inspection. Decal criteria apply only to the condition of the vehicle.
- Cabotage is point to point transportation of goods and passengers in the same country.

The Curriculum

Module 1: Officer Safety

Focus on Safety, Plan Ahead When Stopping a CMV, Initiating an Enforcement Contact with a CMV, Approaching the CMV, Contact with the Driver, CMV Awareness

Module 2: Mexican CDL

Mexican CDL: Old Document, Mexican CDL: New Document, Mexican CDL Guidance

Module 3: Canadian Driver's License

Canadian Jurisdictions, Medical Certificate, Transportation of Dangerous Goods, License Class/Canada, Summary Scenario

Module 4: Vehicle Safety and Security

Vehicle Registration, International Fuel Tax Agreement, Carrier Identification, Vehicle Markings, Load Safety and Security, Cargo Locks/Seals, CVSA Inspection Decal, Location of CVSA Inspection Decal

Module 5: Operating Authority

Applicability: U.S. and Canada, Applicability: Mexico, Commercial Zones, Operating Within the Commercial Zone, Operating Beyond the Commercial Zone, Docket Number Designation, Verification, Cabotage, Violations