# ATA Regulatory and Advocacy Update

November 5, 2025

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Chief Operating Officer
American Trucking Associations





#### AN IMAGE CAMPAIGN TO FLANK ADVOCAY

**Nothing Without Trucking** aims to shape narratives and public perception around the trucking industry, enhancing its image and elevating its importance in the eyes of key stakeholders, including:

- Consumers Motorists
- Lawmakers
   Media

Leveraging the stories of ATA member companies and other industry partners and supporters, this campaign aims to grow appreciation and support for the trucking industry nationwide.







#### Welcome to the Brave New World....











#### January 20th



January 31st

FACT SHEET: PRESIDENT
DONALD J. TRUMP
LAUNCHES MASSIVE 10TO-1 DEREGULATION
INITIATIVE



#### \_\_\_\_\_

# **Executive Order Aimed at Reducing Federal Regulations**

**But Action Could Block Truck Safety Initiatives** 



The White House and Eisenhower Executive Office Building, which houses OMB. (Kiyoshi Tanno/Getty Images)

[Stay on top of transportation news: Get TTNews in your inbox.]

President Donald Trump has issued an executive order requiring that for every new rule, regulation or piece of guidance a government agency creates, it must in turn eliminate 10 of its existing regulations.



# **De-Regulatory Initiates at DOT/FMCSA**

- June 2025: DOT published 19 proposed rulemakings to reduce compliance burdens on fleets without affecting safety:
  - Driver Vehicle Inspection Reports
  - Definition of "Medical Treatment"
  - ELD Operators Manual
  - Rear Impact Guard Labeling
  - License Plate Lamps on Tractors with Trailers
  - CDL Violation Self-Reporting
  - Rail-Grade Crossing Requirements for Bus and Hazmat
- ATA comments submitted in support in addition to prior comments recommending deregulatory priorities.



#### **Administrator Barrs Confirmed**

- October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025: The Senate confirmed Mr. Derek Barrs as FMCSA Administrator.
- October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025: Mr. Derek Barrs sworn in as FMCSA Administrator.





# What to Expect (or not expect) on the Rulemaking Front





# Marijuana Reclassification & DOT Drug Testing

- August 2025: President Trump announces Administration is exploring marijuana rescheduling.
- ATA directed letter to Secretary Duffy urging DOT to clarify if/how it will maintain the authority and ability to test commercial drivers for marijuana if the drug is federally rescheduled, warning that losing this testing capacity would undermine highway safety and trucking industry integrity.





# **Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse**

Drug Violations (as of 9/1/25)				
Actual knowledge of a drug violation	5,034			
Drug test refusal	51,384			
Positive drug test	285,986			
TOTAL	342,517			

Alcohol Violations (as of 7/1/25)				
Actual knowledge of an alcohol violation	1,339			
Alcohol test refusal	1,753			
Concentration of 0.04 or greater	5,263			
TOTAL	8,355			

Positive drug tests account for 81% of the total violations reported. The chart below represents the breakdown of results reported to the Clearinghouse, by year, since January 6, 2020, of the number of times a driver tested positive for each substance.

Number	Number of Positive Tests with Substances Identified						
Substance	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
Marijuana Metabolite (Δ9-THCA)	29,197	32,269	39,390	37,800	34,936	22,324	195,916
Cocaine Metabolite (BZE)	7,923	9,106	10,545	10,388	10,078	6,116	54,156
Methamphetamine (MET/MAMP)	5,199	5,213	5,381	4,522	4,588	2799	27,702
Amphetamine (AMP)	4,906	4,951	5,165	4,251	3,875	2401	25,549
Oxymorphone (OXYM)	1,333	1,292	1,359	1,097	973	678	6,732
Oxycodone (OXYC)	1,067	1,068	1,093	924	801	561	5,514
Hydrocodone (HYC)	957	931	909	807	715	499	4,818
Hydromorphone (HYM)	1,030	1041	994	829	701	451	5,046
Morphine (MOP)	429	376	415	369	388	276	2,253
Codeine (COD)	371	348	411	356	318	226	2,030
6-Acetylmorphine (6-AM)	300	192	176	117	100	59	944
Phencyclidine (PCP)	62	63	65	77	85	58	410
Ecstasy (MDMA)	135	122	132	92	77	43	601
Methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDA)	28	35	43	50	54	30	240
All substances	52,937	57,007	66,078	61,679	57,689	36,521	331,911



Source: <a href="https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov">https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov</a>

## **DAC Return to Duty**

- A driver is considered "notprohibited" once they have a negative RTD test.
- Driver violation records will remain in the Clearinghouse for 5 years from the date of the violation determination, or until the violation is resolved through the completion of the RTD and follow-up testing, whichever is later.

#### CDL/CLP Holders in the Return-to-Duty (RTD) Process as of Sep 2, 2025

RTD STATUS # DRIVERS		
All Drivers (with at least 1 violation)	312,641	
CDL/CLP holders in Prohibited Status	194,276	
RTD Process Not Started	152,014	
Substance Abuse Professional (SAP) Request Sent	2,030	
SAP Designation Confirmed	5,793	
SAP Request Declined	1,230	
Initial SAP Assessment Complete	9,692	
Determined Eligible for RTD Testing	23,517	
CDL/CLP Holders in Not-Prohibited Status*	118,365	
RTD Test with Negative Results	82,341	
Follow-Up Testing Plan Complete	36,024	

<sup>\*</sup>A driver is no longer prohibited from performing safety-sensitive functions once they have a negative RTD test result



# The Latest Drug and Alcohol Testing Updates...

- DOT Panel Changes Last year, HHS added fentanyl to the federal testing panel.
  - October 17<sup>th</sup>: ATA commented in support of DOT adding fentanyl to drug testing panels, noting added cost and recommendation to review ongoing need to test for fentanyl given low positivity rates in workplace settings.
- Oral Fluids Testing The latest: Awaiting laboratory certification!
  - Final Rule Published May 2023 and effective June 2023.
  - ATA exploring opportunities to ease regulatory hurdles for labs to certify at FDA.
  - October 1<sup>st</sup>: DOT published revised rule on oral fluids testing procedures to align with EO on gender issues.
- Hair Testing With new Administration, ATA will continue to advocate for this essential issue. Indication that HHS is actively working on rule.
  - ATA advocacy with FDA would help speed hair testing implementation barriers.





PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP

#### The WHITE HOUSE



**F PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS** 

# ENFORCING COMMONSENSE RULES OF THE ROAD FOR AMERICA'S TRUCK DRIVERS

**Executive Orders** 

April 28, 2025



# **English Language Proficiency**

- ATA April 10<sup>th</sup> letter to DOT
  - Asking for clarification of the 2016 "Quade" Memo
  - Crack-down on ELDT
  - Crack-down on Cabotage
- Follow-up ATA letter committing to assistance of EO.
- CVSA OOS Enforcement of ELP began June 25.
- 5,175 ELP OOS violations so far in 2025.
  - Additional 13,500+ non-OOS ELP violations in commercial border zones.



80 M St. SE, Ste. 800, Washington, DC 20003 ★ www.trucking.org

April 10, 2025

The Honorable Sean Duffy Secretary of Transportation U.S. Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE Washington, D.C. 20590–0001

Re: Commercial Vehicle Safety and Licensing Standards

Dear Secretary Duffy:

On behalf of the American Trucking Associations (ATA), we congratulate you on your recent confirmation to lead the United States Department of Transportation and the recent nomination of Derek Barrs to lead the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). ATA is committed to working with you and your team to increase highway safety among all road users and to address the top transportation challenges facing the trucking industry. We are already in the process of obtaining feedback from our membership in support of President Trump's deregulatory initiative, and we look forward to submitting our contributions.

In addition to our forthcoming deregulatory comments, and in the context of recent concerns raised about highway safety, ATA has also identified several key areas where we believe that enhanced enforcement and resource prioritization can make a big difference, forgoing the need for additional regulatory change. As such, we would like to take this opportunity to highlight three key areas the Agency should prioritize.

First, safety concerns have been raised relating to Commercial Driver's License (CDL) issuance, particularly involving training and qualifications of new CDL holders. ATA has long supported the Entry Level Driver Training (ELDT) program that took effect on February 7, 2022. While we believe ELDT has made a significant, beneficial impact, more work can be done to ensure the integrity of the program.

ATA is concerned that the Training Provider Registry (TPR) is still insufficiently robust to shield prospective drivers and the motoring public from fraudulent and non-compliant training entities that fast-



# Revised English Language Proficiency Policy



- 2-Part Roadside Assessment
  - Verbal interview in English only, testing driver's ability to respond to official inquiries
  - Highway traffic sign recognition
- Applies to CDL and non-CDL commercial drivers excluding U.S. territories.
- In U.S.-Mexico border commercial zones, citations may be issued but drivers won't be placed OOS.
- FMCSA published suggested ELP assessment criteria for hiring and pre-employment.



# **DOT Trucking Policy Package**

- June 27, 2025: DOT & FMCSA announced package of initiatives, pilot programs, and regulatory actions aimed at addressing issues facing the trucking industry in response to the President's April EO.
- Highlights:
  - Truck Parking Investment of more than \$275 million + additional discretionary grant funding.
  - Modernized Systems and Tools including the DataQ system and National Consumer Complaint Database (NCCDB).
  - Focus on Unlawful Brokering
  - Hours of Service Pilot Programs
    - Split Duty Period Pilot Program: allow a temporarily pause their 14-hour on-duty "driving window" for 30 minutes to 3 hours
    - Flexible Sleeper Berth Pilot Program: test alternative configurations for the 10-hour offduty period, such as 6/4 and 5/5 splits, instead of the current 8/2 or 7/3 options.
  - Regulatory Relief for Trucking Industry



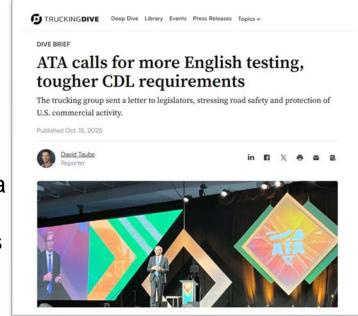
#### Non-Domicile CDL Interim Final Rule

- September 26<sup>th -</sup> USDOT IFR made immediate, sweeping changes to the non-domiciled CDL program, supported by ATA.
- Triggered by recent fatal crashes and compliance failures by SDLAs.
- Key requirements: In-person presentation of valid Form I-94/94A (H-2A, H-2B, or E-2 classification only).
- Explicit exclusion of asylees, refugees, asylum seekers, and DACA recipients.
- States must pause issuance until aligned with new requirements; asked to initiate voluntary audits; noncompliant CDLs may be invalidated.
- Existing non-domiciled CDLs may be revoked at any time by SDLAs/Federal notice.
- FMCSA FAQ forthcoming.
- Comments due to FMCSA by Nov. 28.
  - ATA Supportive!



# ATA Focus on Ensuring a Qualified, Safe Driving Workforce

- In light of recent DOT action and high-profile crashes, ATA has focused advocacy efforts on...
  - Codifying and integrating ELP into the CDL issuance process
  - Strengthening oversight of state CDL issuance
  - Bolstering requirements for individuals to obtain a CDL including requiring at least one year with a standard DL
  - Strengthening oversight and removal procedures for non-compliant ELDT training providers
  - Strengthening enforcement against illegal cabotage







#### And More!!

# ATA continued advocacy efforts through legislative and regulatory efforts to address...

- Cargo Theft
- FMCSA Registration System Enhancement
- Crack down on CDL Mills/Entry Level Driver Training
- ELD Fraud
  - ATA Updated Policy supporting ELD Third Party Certification
- Distracted Driving
  - ATA Updated Policy related to Distracted Driving



# Energy and Environment



#### **EPA Continues Reforms...**

- March 12, 2025: EPA announced termination of "EV Mandate", including actions to reconsider/reevaluate rulemaking related to:
  - Greenhouse Gas Phase 3 (GHG3)
  - Heavy-duty NOx standards
- Formal rulemaking process regarding GHG3/endangerment finding was then initiated from EPA.
- Complimentary to Legislative efforts as well.



#### EPA Announces Action to Implement POTUS's Termination of Biden-Harris Electric Vehicle Mandate

**WASHINGTON** – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin announced the agency will reconsider the Model Year 2027 and Later Light-Duty and Medium-Duty Vehicles regulation and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for Heavy-Duty Vehicles. In addition to imposing over \$700 billion in regulatory and compliance costs, these rules provided the foundation for the Biden-Harris electric vehicle mandate that takes away Americans' ability to choose a safe and affordable car for their family and increases the cost of living on all products that trucks deliver.

"The American auto industry has been hamstrung by the crushing regulatory regime of the last administration. As we reconsider nearly one trillion dollars of regulatory costs, we will abide by the rule of law to protect consumer choice and the environment," said EPA Administrator Zeldin.



#### **EPA Continues Reforms...**

**June 12, 2025:** President Trump signed two congressional resolutions revoking EPA waivers for:

- Advanced Clean Trucks (zero emission vehicle sales requirement)
- Omnibus NOx Emissions Reduction Waiver
- Advanced Clean Cars II







### **Electrifying Trucking: \$1 Trillion Needed for Infrastructure**

**Clean Freight Coalition Commissioned Study to Assess What a Switch Would Cost** 



Roland Berger's electrification report showed that a \$620 Billion investment would be needed for charging infrastructure. (Clean Energy Fuels Corp.)

TTNews.com

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# Department of Labor...

- May 1, 2025: DOL announced they are no longer enforcing the Biden/Su IC rule
  - Biden/Su 2024 Independent Contractor Rule currently under review by USDOL
  - DOL's "Spring" Regulatory Agenda indicated the department intends to rescind the 2024 IC rule (expected soon)



Eric Miller I Senior Reporter May 6, 2025 4:46 PM, EDT

#### **Labor Department Reviewing Independent Contractor Rule**

Agency Won't Enforce 2024 Regulation While Assessing **Contractor Status** 



**Preserve Vital Pathways to Entrepreneurship** 



#### **Protect Independent Contractors' Freedom to Choose**







## Your Powerful Trucking Industry Partner



Scan for more information!

- ATA is the voice of the industry America depends on most to move our nation's freight.
- ATA leverages the strength and size of our membership to develop, advocate, and advance innovative research-based policies that promote highway safety, security, environmental sustainability and profitability.





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