



New Entrant Off-site Safety Audits: Comprehensive Training and Mentoring Provide Keys to Success

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The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has approved a total of 35 states to conduct off-site safety audits as part of the phased nationwide rollout of the off-site safety audit program. FMCSA is required to conduct a safety audit on new entrant motor carriers during their first 18 months of active operation to help them understand and comply with federal safety regulations.

Phase I of FMCSA's rollout of the off-site new entrant safety audit program began on June 29, 2015. Phase II commenced in February 2016, adding 16 more states to the list of states authorized to conduct off-site safety audits.

Video Tutorials Provide On-Demand Training

New entrant audit training has been provided through in-person workshops and webinars. FMCSA recently introduced a series of short video tutorials that showcase key features and processes within the new entrant web system (NEWS), which will be used by auditors and managers to conduct off-site safety audits. Video topics were developed based on field input, and primarily demonstrate effective IT system use, while also relaying important

policy and procedural information. The videos are narrated by fellow managers and safety auditors to provide relatable, peer-to-peer education, as well as lessons learned and tips for workload management. Because the videos are available online, auditors and managers can view them at their convenience and can re-watch videos to refresh their knowledge on a particular topic.

Mentoring Ensures Best Practices Are Leveraged by New States

As part of the program's commitment to ongoing education and support, last year FMCSA launched a mentoring program for onboarding states. States recently approved to conduct off-site safety audits are paired with an experienced mentor from another state, who will provide support and guidance on questions and issues that may arise. FMCSA hosts regular phone calls with all onboarding states and their mentors, fostering a collaborative learning environment where participants openly share best practices.

New Guide Helps All Carriers Better Prepare for Safety Audits

As part of the off-site safety audit rollout, FMCSA prepared a web-based guide to walk

carriers through the process of submitting documentation through NEWS. The guide summarizes federal safety regulations and provides examples of the documents safety auditors generally review to determine if a carrier has demonstrated compliance.

Auditors quickly recognized this guide as a valuable resource in educating all carriers, regardless of whether they are assigned for an on-site or off-site safety audit. As a result, a public version of the "Carrier's Guide to Preparing for a Safety Audit" is now available to all carriers at <https://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/NewEntrant>.

More information about the new entrant program and the off-site safety audit can be found at <https://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/NewEntrant>.

An updated list of states participating in the off-site process can be found at <https://cms.fmcsa.dot.gov/safety/carrier-safety/new-entrant-site-safety-audits-national-implementation-schedule>.

For questions, contact newentrant@dot.gov. ■