

Driver Fatigue: Hours of Service Fact Sheet



65% of truck drivers reported that they often or sometimes felt drowsy while driving ¹



47.6% of truck drivers said they had fallen asleep while driving in the previous year²

Truck Driver Fatigue & Crash Risk

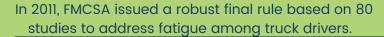
Truck drivers face a grueling work schedule that puts them at a high risk of chronic fatigue. A tired trucker has a diminished capacity to quickly assess situations and respond safely and appropriately.

The consequences of driving an 80,000lb CMV while fatigued is catastrophic.

The National Traffic Safety Board (NTSB) cites fatigue as a major contributor to truck crashes.³

What are Hours of Service Requirements?

Hours of Service (HoS) refers to the maximum amount of time drivers are permitted to be on duty including driving time, and specifies the number and length of rest periods. HOS are in place to help ensure that drivers stay awake and alert.





The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) recently made several unsupported and ill-advised relaxations to HOS

- Increased the distance and time a short-haul driver can drive, increasing their crash risk as much as 383%!
 - Effectively **ELIMINATED** the 30-minute break time by allowing non-driving, on-duty time to be included as a break.
- Extended the amount of time a driver can drive in inclement weather, when they need to be MORE alert, not LESS
- Decreased the likelihood of

 UNINTERRUPTED and restorative sleep
 by reducing the amount of time a
 driver has to rest in the berth to
 comply with HoS regulations.

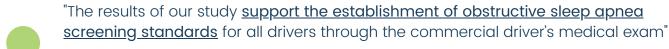


Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) is widely believed to be pervasive amongst truck drivers, placing them at even greater risk for fatigue-related crashes.⁵

FMCSA's Motor Carrier Safety Advisory Committee (MCSAC) and Medical Review Board (MRB) convened and UNANIMOUSLY recommended updated OSA truck driver evaluation guidance to that has gone <u>IGNORED</u>, despite its status in what the American Academy of Sleep Medicine calls a "public health risk."



FACTS & FIGURES



-Dr. Stephen V. Burks, PhD, principal investigator of the Truckers & Turnover Project at the University of Minnesota

For drivers Estimated to suffer 40% participating in from Schneider OSA Driver untreated and Schneider OSA Driver
OF TRUCK DRIVERS undiagnosed OSA. PREVENTABLE CRASHES Treatment Program. 8

"Truck drivers with untreated obstructive sleep apnea are at dramatically greater risk of serious, preventable truck crashes."

-Charles A. Czeisler, PhD, MD, FRCP, Professor of Sleep Medicine at Harvard Medical School in Boston

THE LIVES OF TRUCK DRIVERS AND ALL ROADWAY USERS DEMAND IT

References

- 1 Hours of Service of Drivers, NPRM (2010 NPRM), FMCSA, 75 FR 82170 (Dec. 29, 2010), citing Dinges, D.F. & Maislin, G., "Truck Driver Fatigue Management Survey," FMCSA (May 2006), FMCSA-2004-19608-3968.
- 3. National Transportation Safety Board, 2019-20 Most Wanted list, available at: https://www.ntsb.gov/safety/mwl/Pages/default.aspx
- 4 Teoh, Eric R. / Carter, Daniel L. / Smith, Sarah / McCartt, Anne T., Journal of Safety Research, September 2017
- 5 FMCSA Motor Carrier Safety Administration Committee & Medical Review Board Final Report available at:

https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/sites/fmcsa.dot.gov/files/2021-09/Final_Report_Task_11-05-508c.pdf

6 American Academy of Sleep Medicine Press Release, "Crash risk soars among truck drivers who fail to adhere to sleep apnea treatment," 03/21/2016 available at https://aasm.org/crash-risk-soars-among-truck-drivers-who-fail-to-adhere-to-sleep-apnea-treatment/

7 Riikka Huhta, Kari Hirvonen, Markku Partinen, Prevalence of sleep apnea and daytime sleepiness in professional truck drivers, Sleep Medicine, Volume 81, 2021, Pages 136-143, ISSN 1389-9457, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sleep.2021.02.023

8 Cristina Commendatore, C. (2022, July 5). Sleep disorders continue to plague professional drivers. Available at

https://www.fleetowner.com/safety/article/21245743/sleep-disorders-continue-to-plague-professional-truck-drivers