

“(a) TECHNOLOGIES TO REDUCE FATIGUE OF COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATORS.—

“(1) DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGIES.—As part of the activities of the Secretary [of Transportation] relating to the fatigue of commercial motor vehicle operators, the Secretary shall encourage the research, development, and demonstration of technologies that may aid in reducing such fatigue.

“(2) MATTERS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall take into account—

“(A) the degree to which the technology will be cost efficient;

“(B) the degree to which the technology can be effectively used in diverse climatic regions of the Nation; and

“(C) the degree to which the application of the technology will further emissions reductions, energy conservation, and other transportation goals.

“(3) FUNDING.—The Secretary may use amounts made available under section 5001(a)(2) of this Act [112 Stat. 419].

“(b) NONSEDATING MEDICATIONS.—The Secretary shall review available information on the effects of medications (including antihistamines) on driver fatigue, awareness, and performance and shall consider encouraging, if appropriate, the use of nonsedating medications (including nonsedating antihistamines) as a means of reducing the adverse effects of the use of other medications by drivers.”

§ 31306. Alcohol and controlled substances testing

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, “controlled substance” means any substance under section 102 of the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970 (21 U.S.C. 802) specified by the Secretary of Transportation.

(b) TESTING PROGRAM FOR OPERATORS OF COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLES.—(1)(A) In the interest of commercial motor vehicle safety, the Secretary of Transportation shall prescribe regulations that establish a program requiring motor carriers to conduct preemployment, reasonable suspicion, random, and post-accident testing of operators of commercial motor vehicles for the use of a controlled substance in violation of law or a United States Government regulation and to conduct reasonable suspicion, random, and post-accident testing of such operators for the use of alcohol in violation of law or a United States Government regulation. The regulations shall permit such motor carriers to conduct pre-employment testing of such employees for the use of alcohol.

(B) When the Secretary of Transportation considers it appropriate in the interest of safety, the Secretary may prescribe regulations for conducting periodic recurring testing of operators of commercial motor vehicles for the use of alcohol or a controlled substance in violation of law or a Government regulation.

(2) In prescribing regulations under this subsection, the Secretary of Transportation—

(A) shall require that post-accident testing of an operator of a commercial motor vehicle be conducted when loss of human life occurs in an accident involving a commercial motor vehicle; and

(B) may require that post-accident testing of such an operator be conducted when bodily injury or significant property damage occurs in any other serious accident involving a commercial motor vehicle.

(c) TESTING AND LABORATORY REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out subsection (b) of this section, the Secretary of Transportation shall develop requirements that shall—

(1) promote, to the maximum extent practicable, individual privacy in the collection of specimens;

(2) for laboratories and testing procedures for controlled substances, incorporate the Department of Health and Human Services scientific and technical guidelines dated April 11, 1988, and any amendments to those guidelines, including mandatory guidelines establishing—

(A) comprehensive standards for every aspect of laboratory controlled substances testing and laboratory procedures to be applied in carrying out this section, including standards requiring the use of the best available technology to ensure the complete reliability and accuracy of controlled substances tests and strict procedures governing the chain of custody of specimens collected for controlled substances testing;

(B) the minimum list of controlled substances for which individuals may be tested; and

(C) appropriate standards and procedures for periodic review of laboratories and criteria for certification and revocation of certification of laboratories to perform controlled substances testing in carrying out this section;

(3) require that a laboratory involved in testing under this section have the capability and facility, at the laboratory, of performing screening and confirmation tests;

(4) provide that any test indicating the use of alcohol or a controlled substance in violation of law or a Government regulation be confirmed by a scientifically recognized method of testing capable of providing quantitative information about alcohol or a controlled substance;

(5) provide that each specimen be subdivided, secured, and labeled in the presence of the tested individual and that a part of the specimen be retained in a secure manner to prevent the possibility of tampering, so that if the individual’s confirmation test results are positive the individual has an opportunity to have the retained part tested by a 2d confirmation test done independently at another certified laboratory if the individual requests the 2d confirmation test not later than 3 days after being advised of the results of the first confirmation test;

(6) ensure appropriate safeguards for testing to detect and quantify alcohol in breath and body fluid samples, including urine and blood, through the development of regulations that may be necessary and in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services;

(7) provide for the confidentiality of test results and medical information (except information about alcohol or a controlled substance) of employees, except that this clause does not prevent the use of test results for the orderly imposition of appropriate sanctions under this section; and

(8) ensure that employees are selected for tests by nondiscriminatory and impartial

methods, so that no employee is harassed by being treated differently from other employees in similar circumstances.

(d) TESTING AS PART OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.—The Secretary of Transportation may provide that testing under subsection (a) of this section for operators subject to subpart E of part 391 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, be conducted as part of the medical examination required under that subpart.

(e) REHABILITATION.—The Secretary of Transportation shall prescribe regulations establishing requirements for rehabilitation programs that provide for the identification and opportunity for treatment of operators of commercial motor vehicles who are found to have used alcohol or a controlled substance in violation of law or a Government regulation. The Secretary shall decide on the circumstances under which those operators shall be required to participate in a program. This section does not prevent a motor carrier from establishing a program under this section in cooperation with another motor carrier.

(f) SANCTIONS.—The Secretary of Transportation shall decide on appropriate sanctions for a commercial motor vehicle operator who is found, based on tests conducted and confirmed under this section, to have used alcohol or a controlled substance in violation of law or a Government regulation but who is not under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance as provided in this chapter.

(g) EFFECT ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS.—A State or local government may not prescribe or continue in effect a law, regulation, standard, or order that is inconsistent with regulations prescribed under this section. However, a regulation prescribed under this section may not be construed to preempt a State criminal law that imposes sanctions for reckless conduct leading to loss of life, injury, or damage to property.

(h) INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND FOREIGN LAWS.—In prescribing regulations under this section, the Secretary of Transportation—

(1) shall establish only requirements that are consistent with international obligations of the United States; and

(2) shall consider applicable laws and regulations of foreign countries.

(i) OTHER REGULATIONS ALLOWED.—This section does not prevent the Secretary of Transportation from continuing in effect, amending, or further supplementing a regulation prescribed before October 28, 1991, governing the use of alcohol or a controlled substance by commercial motor vehicle employees.

(j) APPLICATION OF PENALTIES.—This section does not supersede a penalty applicable to an operator of a commercial motor vehicle under this chapter or another law.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1017; Pub. L. 104-59, title III, §342(c), Nov. 28, 1995, 109 Stat. 609.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
31306(a)	49 App.:2717(g).	Oct. 27, 1986, Pub. L. 99-570, 100 Stat. 3207-170, §12020; added Oct. 28, 1991, Pub. L. 102-143, §5(a)(1), 105 Stat. 959.
31306(b)(1) ..	49 App.:2717(a).	
31306(b)(2) ..	49 App.:2717(b)(1).	
31306(c)	49 App.:2717(d).	
31306(d)	49 App.:2717(b)(2).	
31306(e)	49 App.:2717(c).	
31306(f)	49 App.:2717(f)(2).	
31306(g)	49 App.:2717(e)(1).	
31306(h)	49 App.:2717(e)(3).	
31306(i)	49 App.:2717(e)(2).	
31306(j)	49 App.:2717(f)(1).	

In subsection (b)(2)(B), the words “may require” are substituted for “as determined by the Secretary” for clarity and to eliminate unnecessary words.

In subsection (c)(2), before subclause (A), the word “subsequent” is omitted as surplus.

In subsection (c)(3), the words “of any individual” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (c)(4), the words “by any individual” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (c)(5), the word “tested” is substituted for “assayed” for consistency. The words “2d confirmation test” are substituted for “independent test” for clarity and consistency.

In subsection (c)(6), the word “Secretary” is substituted for “Department” for consistency in the revised title and with other titles of the Code.

In subsection (d), the words “The Secretary of Transportation may provide” are substituted for “Nothing in subsection (a) of this section shall preclude the Secretary from providing” for clarity and to eliminate unnecessary words.

In subsection (g), the words “rule” and “ordinance” are omitted as being included in “law, regulation, standard, or order”. The words “whether the provisions apply specifically to commercial motor vehicle employees, or to the general public” are omitted as surplus.

AMENDMENTS

1995—Subsec. (b)(1)(A). Pub. L. 104-59 added subpar. (A) and struck out former subpar. (A) which read as follows: “In the interest of commercial motor vehicle safety, the Secretary of Transportation shall prescribe regulations not later than October 28, 1992, that establish a program requiring motor carriers to conduct pre-employment, reasonable suspicion, random, and post-accident testing of operators of commercial motor vehicles for the use of alcohol or a controlled substance in violation of law or a United States Government regulation.”

DRUG TEST RESULTS STUDY

Pub. L. 106-159, title II, §226, Dec. 9, 1999, 113 Stat. 1771, provided that:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a study of the feasibility and merits of—

“(1) requiring medical review officers or employers to report all verified positive controlled substances test results on any driver subject to controlled substances testing under part 382 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, including the identity of each person tested and each controlled substance found, to the State that issued the driver’s commercial driver’s license; and

“(2) requiring all prospective employers, before hiring any driver, to query the State that issued the driver’s commercial driver’s license on whether the State has on record any verified positive controlled substances test on such driver.

“(b) STUDY FACTORS.—In carrying out the study under this section, the Secretary shall assess—

“(1) methods for safeguarding the confidentiality of verified positive controlled substances test results;

“(2) the costs, benefits, and safety impacts of requiring States to maintain records of verified positive controlled substances test results; and

“(3) whether a process should be established to allow drivers—

“(A) to correct errors in their records; and

“(B) to expunge information from their records after a reasonable period of time.

“(c) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 9, 1999], the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the study carried out under this section, together with such recommendations as the Secretary determines appropriate.”

POST-ACCIDENT ALCOHOL TESTING

Pub. L. 105-178, title IV, §4020, June 9, 1998, 112 Stat. 414, provided that:

“(a) STUDY.—The Secretary [of Transportation] shall conduct a study of the feasibility of utilizing law enforcement officers for conducting post-accident alcohol testing of commercial motor vehicle operators under section 31306 of title 49, United States Code, as a method of obtaining more timely information. The study shall also assess the impact of the current post-accident alcohol testing requirements on motor carrier employers, including any burden that employers may encounter in meeting the testing requirements of such section 31306.

“(b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act [June 9, 1998], the Secretary shall transmit to Congress a report on the study, together with such recommendations as the Secretary determines appropriate.”

§ 31307. Minimum training requirements for operators of longer combination vehicles

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, “longer combination vehicle” means a vehicle consisting of a truck tractor and more than one trailer or semitrailer that operates on the Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways with a gross vehicle weight of more than 80,000 pounds.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than December 18, 1994, the Secretary of Transportation shall prescribe regulations establishing minimum training requirements for operators of longer combination vehicles. The training shall include certification of an operator’s proficiency by an instructor who has met the requirements established by the Secretary.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1020.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
31307(a)	49 App.:2302 (note).	Dec. 18, 1991, Pub. L. 102-240, § 4007(f), 105 Stat. 2153.
31307(b)	49 App.:2302 (note).	Dec. 18, 1991, Pub. L. 102-240, § 4007(b), 105 Stat. 2152.

In subsection (a), the words “a vehicle consisting” are substituted for “any combination” for clarity. The words “Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways” are substituted for “National System of Interstate and Defense Highways” because of the Act of October 15, 1990 (Public Law 101-427, 104 Stat. 927).

In subsection (b), the words “Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall initiate a rulemaking proceeding” are omitted as executed.

§ 31308. Commercial driver’s license

After consultation with the States, the Secretary of Transportation shall prescribe regulations on minimum uniform standards for the issuance of commercial drivers’ licenses and learner’s permits by the States and for information to be contained on each of the licenses and permits. The standards shall require at a minimum that—

(1) an individual issued a commercial driver’s license pass written and driving tests for the operation of a commercial motor vehicle that comply with the minimum standards prescribed by the Secretary under section 31305(a) of this title;

(2) before a commercial driver’s license learner’s permit may be issued to an individual, the individual must pass a written test, that complies with the minimum standards prescribed by the Secretary under section 31305(a), on the operation of the commercial motor vehicle that the individual will be operating under the permit;

(3) the license or learner’s permit be tamperproof to the maximum extent practicable and each license or learner’s permit issued after January 1, 2001, include unique identifiers (which may include biometric identifiers) to minimize fraud and duplication; and

(4) the license or learner’s permit contain—

(A) the name and address of the individual issued the license or learner’s permit and a physical description of the individual;

(B) the social security account number or other number or information the Secretary decides is appropriate to identify the individual;

(C) the class or type of commercial motor vehicle the individual is authorized to operate under the license or learner’s permit;

(D) the name of the State that issued the license or learner’s permit; and

(E) the dates between which the license or learner’s permit is valid.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1020; Pub. L. 105-178, title IV, §4011(c)(1), June 9, 1998, 112 Stat. 407; Pub. L. 109-59, title IV, §4122(2), Aug. 10, 2005, 119 Stat. 1734; Pub. L. 110-244, title III, §301(g), June 6, 2008, 122 Stat. 1616.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
31308	49 App.:2705.	Oct. 27, 1986, Pub. L. 99-570, §12006, 100 Stat. 3207-175.

The words “Not later than July 15, 1988” are omitted as obsolete.

AMENDMENTS

2008—Pub. L. 110-244 amended Pub. L. 109-59, §4122(2)(A). See 2005 Amendment note below.

2005—Pub. L. 109-59, §4122(2)(B), substituted “the licenses and permits” for “the licenses” in introductory provisions.

Pub. L. 109-59, §4122(2)(A), as amended by Pub. L. 110-244, inserted “and learner’s permits” after “licenses” in introductory provisions.

Par. (2). Pub. L. 109-59, §4122(2)(D), added par. (2). Former par. (2) redesignated (3).

Pars. (3), (4). Pub. L. 109-59, §4122(2)(C), (E), redesignated pars. (2) and (3) as (3) and (4), respectively, and inserted “or learner’s permit” after “license” wherever appearing.

1998—Par. (2). Pub. L. 105-178 inserted before semicolon “and each license issued after January 1, 2001, include unique identifiers (which may include biometric identifiers) to minimize fraud and duplication”.