

**§ 31114. Access to the Interstate System**

(a) PROHIBITION ON DENYING ACCESS.—A State may not enact or enforce a law denying to a commercial motor vehicle subject to this subchapter or subchapter I of this chapter reasonable access between—

(1) the Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways (except a segment exempted under section 3111(f) or 3113(e) of this title) and other qualifying Federal-aid Primary System highways designated by the Secretary of Transportation; and

(2) terminals, facilities for food, fuel, repairs, and rest, and points of loading and unloading for household goods carriers, motor carriers of passengers, any towaway trailer transporter combination (as defined in section 3111(a)), or any truck tractor-semitrailer combination in which the semitrailer has a length of not more than 28.5 feet and that generally operates as part of a vehicle combination described in section 3111(c) of this title.

(b) EXCEPTION.—This section does not prevent a State or local government from imposing reasonable restrictions, based on safety considerations, on a truck tractor-semitrailer combination in which the semitrailer has a length of not more than 28.5 feet and that generally operates as part of a vehicle combination described in section 3111(c) of this title.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 999; Pub. L. 114-94, div. A, title V, §5523(c)(2), Dec. 4, 2015, 129 Stat. 1560.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
31114(a) .....	49 App.:2312(a).	Jan. 6, 1983, Pub. L. 97-424, §412, 96 Stat. 2160; Oct. 30, 1984, Pub. L. 98-554, §§104(c), 106, 98 Stat. 2831, 2832; Dec. 18, 1991, Pub. L. 102-240, §4006(b)(2), 105 Stat. 2151.
31114(b) .....	49 App.:2312(b).	

In subsection (a), the words “Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways” are substituted for “Interstate and Defense Highway System” for consistency in the revised chapter.

**Editorial Notes**

AMENDMENTS

2015—Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 114-94 inserted “any towaway trailer transporter combination (as defined in section 3111(a)),” after “passengers.”

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2015 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 114-94 effective Oct. 1, 2015, see section 1003 of Pub. L. 114-94, set out as a note under section 5313 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

**§ 31115. Enforcement**

On the request of the Secretary of Transportation, the Attorney General shall bring a civil action for appropriate injunctive relief to ensure compliance with this subchapter or subchapter I of this chapter. The action may be brought in a district court of the United States in any State

in which the relief is required. On a proper showing, the court shall issue a temporary restraining order or preliminary or permanent injunction. An injunction under this section may order a State or person to comply with this subchapter, subchapter I, or a regulation prescribed under this subchapter or subchapter I.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 999.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
31115 .....	49 App.:2313.	Jan. 6, 1983, Pub. L. 97-424, §413, 96 Stat. 2160; Oct. 30, 1984, Pub. L. 98-554, §214, 98 Stat. 2844.

The words “to assure compliance with the terms of this chapter” and “In any action under this section” are omitted as surplus. The last sentence is substituted for 49 App.:2313 (last sentence) for clarity and to eliminate unnecessary words.

SUBCHAPTER III—SAFETY REGULATION

**§ 31131. Purposes and findings**

(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this subchapter are—

(1) to promote the safe operation of commercial motor vehicles;

(2) to minimize dangers to the health of operators of commercial motor vehicles and other employees whose employment directly affects motor carrier safety; and

(3) to ensure increased compliance with traffic laws and with the commercial motor vehicle safety and health regulations and standards prescribed and orders issued under this chapter.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds—

(1) it is in the public interest to enhance commercial motor vehicle safety and thereby reduce highway fatalities, injuries, and property damage;

(2) improved, more uniform commercial motor vehicle safety measures and strengthened enforcement would reduce the number of fatalities and injuries and the level of property damage related to commercial motor vehicle operations;

(3) enhanced protection of the health of commercial motor vehicle operators is in the public interest; and

(4) interested State governments can provide valuable assistance to the United States Government in ensuring that commercial motor vehicle operations are conducted safely and healthfully.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 999.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
31131(a) .....	49 App.:2501.	Oct. 30, 1984, Pub. L. 98-554, §§202, 203, 98 Stat. 2832.
31131(b) .....	49 App.:2502.	

In subsection (a)(3), the words “this chapter” are substituted for “this Act” because title II of the Act of October 30, 1984 (Public Law 98-554, 98 Stat. 2832), amended and enacted provisions restated in this chapter.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

**EXEMPTIONS FROM REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBCHAPTER FOR CERTAIN FARM VEHICLES**

For provisions relating to exemptions from certain requirements of this subchapter with respect to certain farm vehicles and individuals operating those vehicles, see section 32934 of Pub. L. 112-141, set out as a note under section 31136 of this title.

**TRAFFIC LAW INITIATIVE**

Pub. L. 106-159, title II, §220, Dec. 9, 1999, 113 Stat. 1769, provided that:

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In cooperation with one or more States, the Secretary may carry out a program to develop innovative methods of improving motor carrier compliance with traffic laws. Such methods may include the use of photography and other imaging technologies.

“(b) **REPORT.**—The Secretary shall transmit to Congress a report on the results of any program conducted under this section, together with any recommendations as the Secretary determines appropriate.”

**§ 31132. Definitions**

In this subchapter—

(1) “commercial motor vehicle” means a self-propelled or towed vehicle used on the highways in interstate commerce to transport passengers or property, if the vehicle—

(A) has a gross vehicle weight rating or gross vehicle weight of at least 10,001 pounds, whichever is greater;

(B) is designed or used to transport more than 8 passengers (including the driver) for compensation;

(C) is designed or used to transport more than 15 passengers, including the driver, and is not used to transport passengers for compensation; or

(D) is used in transporting material found by the Secretary of Transportation to be hazardous under section 5103 of this title and transported in a quantity requiring placarding under regulations prescribed by the Secretary under section 5103.

(2) “employee” means an operator of a commercial motor vehicle (including an independent contractor when operating a commercial motor vehicle), a mechanic, a freight handler, or an individual not an employer, who—

(A) directly affects commercial motor vehicle safety in the course of employment; and

(B) is not an employee of the United States Government, a State, or a political subdivision of a State acting in the course of the employment by the Government, a State, or a political subdivision of a State.

(3) “employer”—

(A) means a person engaged in a business affecting interstate commerce that owns or leases a commercial motor vehicle in connection with that business, or assigns an employee to operate it; but

(B) does not include the Government, a State, or a political subdivision of a State.

(4) “interstate commerce” means trade, traffic, or transportation in the United States between a place in a State and—

(A) a place outside that State (including a place outside the United States); or

(B) another place in the same State through another State or through a place outside the United States.

(5) “intrastate commerce” means trade, traffic, or transportation in a State that is not interstate commerce.

(6) “medical examiner” means an individual licensed, certified, or registered in accordance with regulations issued by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration as a medical examiner.

(7) “regulation” includes a standard or order.

(8) “State” means a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, and, in sections 31136 and 31140-31142<sup>1</sup> of this title, a political subdivision of a State.

(9) “State law” includes a law enacted by a political subdivision of a State.

(10) “State regulation” includes a regulation prescribed by a political subdivision of a State.

(11) “United States” means the States of the United States and the District of Columbia.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1000; Pub. L. 104-88, title I, §104(f), Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 919; Pub. L. 105-178, title IV, §4008(a), June 9, 1998, 112 Stat. 404; Pub. L. 109-59, title IV, §4116(c), Aug. 10, 2005, 119 Stat. 1728.)

**HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES**

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
31132 .....	49 App.:2503.	Oct. 30, 1984, Pub. L. 98-554, §204, 98 Stat. 2833.

The text of 49 App.:2503(6) is omitted as unnecessary because of 1:1. The text of 49 App.:2503(8) is omitted as surplus because the complete name of the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Regulatory Review Panel is used the first time the term appears in a section. The text of 49 App.:2503(9) is omitted as surplus because the complete name of the Secretary of Transportation is used the first time the term appears in a section.

**Editorial Notes**

**REFERENCES IN TEXT**

Section 31140 of this title, referred to in par. (8), was repealed by Pub. L. 105-178, title IV, §4008(d), June 9, 1998, 112 Stat. 404.

**AMENDMENTS**

2005—Pars. (6) to (11). Pub. L. 109-59 added par. (6) and redesignated former pars. (6) to (10) as (7) to (11), respectively.

1998—Par. (1)(A). Pub. L. 105-178, §4008(a)(1), inserted “or gross vehicle weight” after “rating” and “, whichever is greater” after “pounds”.

Par. (1)(B). Pub. L. 105-178, §4008(a)(2), which directed substitution of “more than 8 passengers (including the driver) for compensation;” for “passengers” and all that follows through semicolon at end, was executed by making the substitution for “passengers for compensation, but excluding vehicles providing taxicab service and having a capacity of not more than 6 passengers and not operated on a regular route or between specified places;” to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

1995—Par. (1)(B) to (D). Pub. L. 104-88 added subpars. (B) and (C), redesignated former subpar. (C) as (D), and struck out former subpar. (B) which read as follows: “is designed to transport more than 15 passengers including the driver; or”.

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.