Investigating CDL Disqualification Avoidance

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U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

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ANALYSIS, RESEARCH, & TECHNOLOGY FORUM

VIRTUAL EVENT

Project Goal

Assist FMCSA in preventing CDL disqualification avoidance by:

- Identifying actions and events which could circumvent the CDL disqualification process

- Documenting the frequency such actions and events result in disqualification avoidance

- Providing licensing agencies with data to help focus efforts in addressing vulnerabilities

Background: CDL Disqualification Process and Avoidance

Process

1. Inspection
2. Violation
3. Conviction
4. Disqualification

Any event preventing the conviction or the suspension of CDL driving privileges can result in **disqualification avoidance.**

Example: **Prevented Conviction**

A driver charged with operating under the influence does not appear in court, so is convicted only of failure to appear.

Without a conviction for operating under the influence, no disqualification action is initiated by the licensing agency.

Research Methodology

Select

1

- Identify drivers with disqualifying violations
- Filter data to licenses from sample states

Sample

2

- Get license history from licensing agencies
- Get conviction history from court systems

Identify

3

- Flag drivers with missing disqualifications
- Flag drivers with missing convictions

Record

4

- Document potential avoidance actions
- Document failure to appear convictions

Report

end

- Generate statistics on avoidance behavior
- Send data to sample states, publish report

Project Timeline

September **2022**

January **2023**

January **2024**

April **2024**

Award — **Recruit States** — **Collect Data** — **Analysis** — **Review**

September **2024** — **Project Ends Final Report Due**

Potential Outcomes and Benefits of the Project

CDL Program Quality: Provide licensing agencies with guidance on vulnerabilities in the disqualification process.

Inform Policy: Quantify how "failure to appear"-only convictions affect outcomes of disqualification process.

Agency Goals: Ensure only qualified drivers operate commercial motor vehicles. Prevent disqualification avoidance.

Contact Information

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