



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Motor Carrier
Safety Administration**

Administrator

May 5, 2016

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cochran:

The Senate Report 114-75 accompanying the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (H.R. 2577) requests the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to report on its ability to meet its requirement to conduct investigations on mandatory carriers. This letter fulfills that request for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015.

At the beginning of FY 2015, FMCSA carried a balance of 4,583 mandatory carriers, as seen on the table below. In this fiscal year, an additional 5,932 carriers were identified for investigations. However, 1,370 of these carriers went out of business or were determined to be operating outside of FMCSA's jurisdiction. During FY 2015, FMCSA increased the number of investigations completed on mandatory carriers significantly. As a result, only 3,930 motor carriers remained in the mandatory status at the end of FY 2015.

Quarter	Mandatory Carriers	Investigations on Mandatory Carriers	% Completed Within 12 Months	Average Number of Months	No Longer Interstate	Balance
FY14 Total	6,168	3,958	84%	7.02	1,012	4,583
FY15 - 1st Quarter	1,554	1,003	82%	7.80	339	4,795
FY15 - 2nd Quarter	1,494	1,212	78%	8.77	302	4,775
FY15 - 3rd Quarter	1,409	1,518	77%	8.93	372	4,294
FY15 - 4th Quarter	1,475	1,482	85%	7.11	357	3,930
FY15 Total	5,932	5,215	81%	8.16	1,370	3,930

Effective January 1, 2016, FMCSA is using a new methodology to identify mandatory high-risk carriers. This methodology was developed as a result of the recommendations received from the Independent Review Team convened to review FMCSA.

The new methodology will identify those carriers with the highest crash risk and work to significantly reduce the time it takes to initiate an investigation. In addition, the Agency will manage other carriers based on their current risk levels. FMCSA will conduct investigations on a similar number of motor carriers as in previous years, addressing the greatest safety concerns first. Starting FY 2017, although total investigations will be similar, the report will be based on a smaller population of carriers that meet FMCSA's new definition of high-risk.

I have sent a similar letter to the Vice Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations; the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies; the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Appropriations; and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies. Should you need additional information or assistance, please contact Ed Gilman, Director of External Affairs, at (202) 366-1927 or by email at ed.gilman@dot.gov.

Sincerely,



T.F. Scott Darling, III
Acting Administrator