

CSA2010 Implementation DELAYED



IMPORTANT INDUSTRY NEWS - 4/12/10

***CSA2010 implementation has been delayed until November 30, 2010.
Full implementation in all 50 states will not happen until 2011 or maybe even later.***

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) confirmed last week that which had been widely speculated across the industry and the Internet. CSA2010 is going to be delayed. In a Federal Register post published on Friday, FMCSA announced that the CSA 2010 system would start to go into effect on November 30 instead of the previously announced date of July 15.

On November 30, two things will happen. One: SafeStat will be replaced by the Carrier Safety Measurement System (CSMS). Two: The CSA2010 'Interventions' (methods of punishment) will be implemented for the states currently in pilot programs. With this delay in implementation, for the majority of states, the CSA2010 Interventions will not come into effect until some time in 2011 - maybe even later.

This delay will not come as a surprise to anyone who has been following the progress of implementation in the last year. While FMCSA claimed that they would be ready in the summer, as time progressed it seemed more and more unlikely (or even possible) that FMCSA would be able to keep to their timetable. The doubtful nature of FMCSA's agenda was underlined by the pointed - and public - criticism leveled at the agency by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) during a Congressional hearing in February.

That criticism was leveled by NTSB Chairperson Deborah Hersman. "I don't even know what to say," Hersman said. "When I came to the Board in 2004, they started talking about 2010 - 2010 was going to be the solution to everything. And I really didn't think that I was going to be here in 2010. But I am here and CSA [2010] is not. They committed to being ready at the beginning of 2010 ... and now it's going to be the end

of 2010."

The delay seems to justify a grumbling that has been heard across the industry through the first few months of 2010, that FMCSA was being less than forthcoming about how the CSA2010 project was proceeding. However, despite finally giving an answer on the timeline FMCSA has left plenty of other questions unanswered. For example, the Federal Register entry makes no mention of the Driver Safety Measurement System (DSMS), which was supposed to monitor the safety compliance of individual drivers.

FMCSA has made some progress though; carriers can now view data - concerning their violations - that FMCSA has already collected for CSA2010. Carriers can log into the CSA2010 database (<http://csa2010.fmcsa.dot.gov/>) and gather the information that would be used to measure their compliance (if CSA2010 were active). This information was posted on April 12 and will be available until CSA2010 goes into effect, thereby giving carriers a chance to predict any future action against them and to amend problems before CSA2010 is active.