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# Compliance, Safety, Accountability (CSA)

## Loss Control Bulletin

Compliance, Safety, Accountability Program (CSA) is a comprehensive program, administered by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), that aims to improve commercial truck and bus safety by reducing crashes, injuries, and fatalities related to commercial motor vehicles. The program establishes a three-part model for compliance and enforcement: measurement, safety evaluation, and intervention (see page three for image).

### Measurement

CSA uses the Safety Measurement System (SMS) to collect and report on-road safety performance data of carriers and drivers to the public online each month. The SMS uses data from roadside inspections, including all safety-based violations, state-reported crashes, and the federal motor carrier census to quantify performance into categories called Behavior Analysis and Safety Improvement Categories (BASICS). Safety violations are weighted for ratings based on their statistical likelihood to cause an accident. Ratings range from 1-10, with least serious violations rated at a 1. The BASICS include:



A carrier's measurement for each BASIC depends on the following:

- Number of adverse safety events
- Severity of violations or crashes
- When the adverse safety events occurred (more recent events are weighted more heavily)

After determining a measurement, CSA rates carriers in percentiles from 0 to 100 by comparing their measurements with their peers. Lower numbers are better, with percentile 0 being the best. A percentile of 100 indicates the worst performance.

### Safety Evaluation

Safety evaluation determines how to address carriers with poor safety performance. The SMS allows the FMCSA to more effectively evaluate safety performance using new measures for:

- Identifying which carriers require what type of intervention using a policy-driven process called intervention selection
- Determining which carriers should be deemed "unfit" to operate using a regulatory process called Safety Fitness Determination (SFD)

SFD expands the use of on-road safety performance by including the results of all investigations. It allows FMCSA to determine the safety fitness of a larger segment of the industry.



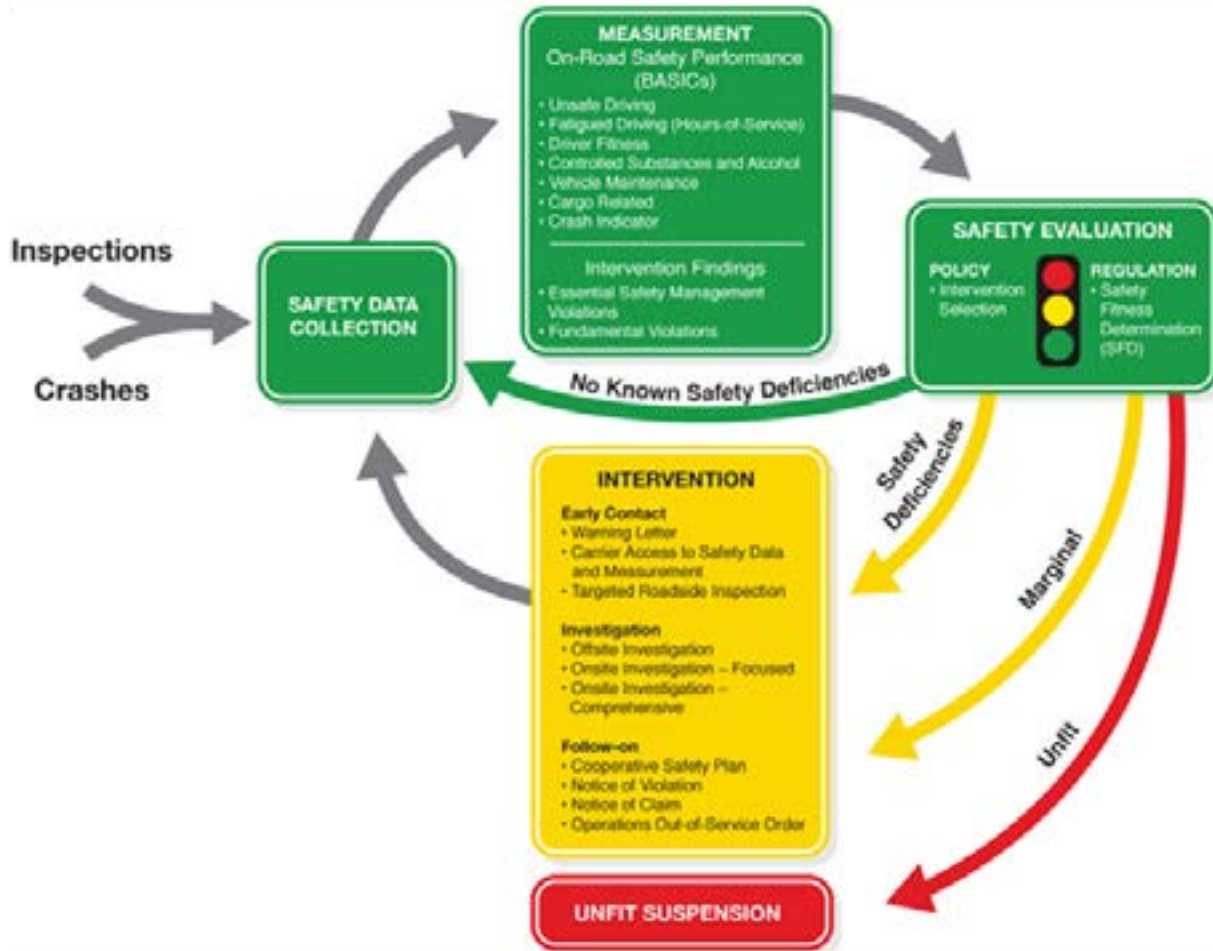
## Intervention Process

Early Contact	
Warning Letter	A letter sent to a carrier's place of business that specifically identifies an alerted BASIC and outlines the possible consequences of continued safety problems.
Carrier Access to Safety Data & Measurement	Carriers have access to BASICs scores as well as past inspection reports and violations that went into those results. Carriers can chart a course of self-improvement and monitor data for accuracy.
Targeted Roadside Inspection	Inspectors are provided with data that identifies a carrier's specific safety problems by BASIC. Inspections occur at locations where connectivity to the SMS information is available.
Investigation	
Offsite Investigation	The carrier is required to submit documents that are to be used to evaluate the safety problems identified through the SMS and to determine the root causes.
Onsite Focused Investigation	This type of investigation may be selected when alerts in one or two BASICs exist and target specific problem areas.
Onsite Comprehensive Investigation	This is used when a carrier exhibits broad and complex safety problems through continually alerted BASICs, worsening multiple BASICs (3+), or a fatal crash or complaint.
Follow-on	
Cooperative Safety Plan (CSP)	This plan is implemented by the carrier and it is voluntary. The carrier and FMCSA collaborate to create a plan to address the underlying problems.
Notice of Violation (NOV)	A formal notice of safety alerts that requires a response from the carrier. This is used when regulatory violations discovered are severe enough to warrant formal action but not a fine. It is also used when a violation is immediately correctable and the level of cooperation is high.
Notice of Claim (NOC)	This is issued where regulatory violations are severe enough to warrant assessment and issuance of civil penalties.
Operations Out-of-Service Order (OOS)	An order requiring the carrier to cease all motor vehicle operations.



### CSA Operations Model

The model features continuous monitoring and tracking of entities' safety performance.



### Resources

<https://csa.fmcsa.dot.gov/about/>

<http://www.whatiscsa.com/overview/>

<https://csa.fmcsa.dot.gov/YourRole/FMCSA.aspx>

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