



Issue No. 1 | January 2012

Simplex Launches New “Safety Compliance Portal”

The Simplex Group proudly announces the launching of the “**Simplex Compliance Portal.**” This innovative product is now available to all of our existing clients, thus providing you the opportunity to access your DOT Compliance program 24/7 via our website.

The Simplex Compliance Portal allows our clients to manage their personal DOT compliance program by having direct web access to our operating system. The portal provides firsthand management information in core compliance areas such as:

- Substance Abuse Management
- Driver Qualifications
- Vehicle Qualifications
- Hours of Service Reporting
- Online Driver Informative Safety Videos
- Request and Submit DOT Related Mandated Documentation
- Web Access to Industry Related Work Platforms

Contact your account representative today to gain immediate access to this new management system.

Annual DOT Vehicle Inspections

The Simplex Group can assist you with all your vehicle inspection needs. We can help with your regularly scheduled mandatory truck and trailer inspection, whether it is a DOT annual or BIT. Our certified inspector can inspect your equipment at Simplex or at your site for your convenience.

Truck Permitting & Tax Services

We are currently offering special discounts on all permits and tax filings for new customers. Now is the time to utilize Simplex for all of your TPTS needs. Call a TPTS representative today for more information at 888.568.4995.

FMCSA Penalties for the Use of Cellular Phones by Drivers

FMCSA and PHMSA issued a final rule that will take effect on **January 3rd, 2012** which restricts the use of hand-held mobile telephones by interstate commercial motor vehicle drivers (CMV) and intrastate hazmat drivers. **The rule, however, does not restrict or prohibit the use of hands-free devices.**

- The final rule prohibits CMV drivers from **holding, dialing, or reaching for** a hand-held cellular phone.
- **Driver and Motor Carrier Penalties** – CMV drivers who are convicted of a hand-held device violation twice within a three year period will be disqualified for 60 days. If convicted for a third violation within three years, the driver will be disqualified for 120 days. Drivers will be subject to federal civil penalties of up to **\$2,750** for each offense. Motor carriers that allow their drivers to use hand-held cellular phones while operating a commercial motor vehicle face a maximum civil penalty of **\$11,000** per violation.
- **Employer Liability** – FMCSA states that “no motor carrier shall allow or require its drivers to use a hand-held mobile telephone while driving a CMV.” In the preamble, FMCSA interprets the regulatory language to mean that motor carriers are responsible for the actions of their drivers, regardless of whether or not such actions are sanctioned by the motor carrier. FMCSA will hold employers accountable if the employee was performing the job at hand, carrying out company business, or otherwise acting on the employer’s behalf when a violation occurs.

FMCSA Issues New Hours of Service HOS Rules – Effective Feb/12

FMCSA issues a new “Hours of Service” Regulation with immediate changes to be effective as early as February 2012. This new regulation will be adopted in two parts, with the first part launching on **February 27, 2012**, and the second on **July 1, 2013**.

How can Simplex assist you to better comply with the “Hours of Service Regulation”?

1. Send your driver to a Simplex office for training.
2. Log into the “Simplex Compliance Portal” 24/7, click on training videos (bottom of page), click on “Hours of Service” video, play video.
3. For better turn around results on Simplex Drivers’ Logs Auditing Reports, call Simplex to obtain a **Drivers’ Logs High Speed Scanner**. This scanner provides you the opportunity to immediately scan your drivers’ logs upon their return to the terminal directly into the Simplex system. When scanned, you will receive a detailed violation report on each of your drivers within 48-72 hours from Simplex. With the “Simplex Compliance Portal” you can access your drivers’ logs auditing reports at any time since they will be directly uploaded into your portal. You will be allowed to review all reports on-line, as well as have printing capabilities for further discussion with your drivers if necessary.
4. Self-Auditing Tips – Please always have your drivers provide correct log entries such as:
 - City and State - Totaling the hours and the end of the day - Total Mileage/Driven Mileage.
 - Post Trip Inspection – Identified Fuel Entry – Written Driver’s Name next to Signature.

FMCSA New Hours of Service HOS Rules

Print this page, provide a copy to your drivers, have them sign it, and retain a signed copy.

SUMMARY OF 2011 HOS FINAL RULE PROVISIONS Changes Compared to Current Rule PROVISION	CURRENT RULE	FINAL RULE COMPLIANCE DATE JULY 1, 2013
Limitations on minimum “34-hour restarts”	None.	(1) Must include two periods between 1 a.m. – 5 a.m. home terminal time. (2) May only be used once per week.
Rest breaks	None except as limited by other rule provisions.	May drive only if 8 hours or less have passed since end of driver’s last off-duty period of at least 30 minutes. [HM 397.5 mandatory “in attendance” time may be included in break if no other duties performed]
PROVISION	CURRENT RULE	FINAL RULE COMPLIANCE DATE FEBRUARY 27, 2012
On-duty time	Includes any time in CMV except sleeper-berth.	Does not include any time resting in a parked CMV. In a moving property-carrying CMV, does not include up to 2 hours in passenger seat immediately before or after 8 consecutive hours in sleeper-berth. Also applies to passenger-carrying drivers.
Penalties	“Egregious” hours of service violations not specifically defined.	Driving (or allowing a driver to drive) 3 or more hours beyond the driving-time limit may be considered an egregious violation and subject to the maximum civil penalties. Also applies to passenger-carrying drivers.
Drivers Name:		Drivers Signature: