

**Motor Carrier Safety Advisory Committee (MCSAC)
Task Statement**

Task #07-03

I. Task Title

Safety Technologies

II. Background

As resources become scarce, FMCSA recognizes the importance of achieving safety gains through innovative technology, such as a: Lane Departure Warning System, which warns drivers if they are deviating from the lane; Forward Collision Warning System, which issues urgent warnings when a large truck or bus with the system approaches a slower moving vehicle; and Roll Stability Control and Electronic Stability Control Systems, which are two different types of automated control systems that reduce the vehicle's throttle and applies brakes without driver intervention to decelerate the vehicle if a high rollover risk is detected. An Electronic On-Board Recorder (EOBR) (electronic driver log), is another safety technology that may contribute to highway safety. In January 2007, the FMCSA Administrator held a news conference to announce a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on EOBRs. The proposed rule outlined the Agency's position on the use of this technology. In summary, the NPRM proposes that the use of EOBRs be mandatory by the worst offenders. At the same time, the NPRM encourages safe companies to improve further by voluntarily embracing this technology. The NPRM included incentives to promote the voluntary use of EOBRs by safe carriers. The proposed rule also sets realistic performance-based standards. The technical elements of the proposed rule will help standardize the technology for industry-wide use. The public comment period closed on April 18, 2007, and the Agency is currently analyzing the comments. The Administrator is very committed to encouraging the industry to embrace these types of technologies.

III. PROBLEM STATEMENT

FMCSA is working with its State and other partners in private industry to advance innovative safety technologies that have the potential to reduce serious injury and fatal crashes involving large trucks and buses and recently tested and evaluated a number of on-board safety systems. FMCSA would like recommendations on ways to promote the use of safety technologies throughout the industry.

IV. TASK

The Committee should:

- 1) examine incentives to promote the use of safety and futuristic technologies; and,
- 2) examine incentives to promote the voluntary use of EOBRs and any supplemental information on successful carrier deployment.

V. ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE TASK

The Committee should submit a report to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration outlining findings, progress, and recommendations at the next Committee meeting.

VI. FMCSA TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVE

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Attachment:

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on EOBRs