

Trucking Industry Asked to Rank Top Concerns GMATA Members Needed!

The American Transportation Research Institute, the trucking industry's not-for-profit research organization, launched the 2019 Top Industry Issues Survey today. The annual survey asks trucking industry stakeholders to rank the top issues of concern for the industry along with appropriate strategies for addressing each issue.

Now in its 15th year, ATRI's annual analysis not only ranks the issues overall but also provides details on where critical topics are ranked differently by motor carriers and professional drivers.

"This survey gives everyone in trucking, from drivers to executives, a chance to weigh in on the industry's most pressing issues and strategies for addressing each. By participating you are helping our industry speak with a collective voice on what is most important to us," said ATA Chairman Barry Pottle, president of Pottle Transportation, LLC, Bangor, Maine.

The results of the 2019 survey will be released at the ATA Management Conference and Exhibition, to be held October 5-9 in San Diego, California.

Industry stakeholders are encouraged to complete by [clicking here](#). The survey will remain open through September 20, 2019.

ATRI is the trucking industry's 501(c)(3) not-for-profit research organization. It is engaged in critical research relating to freight transportation's essential role in maintaining a safe, secure and efficient transportation system

National Truck Driver Appreciation Week is September 8-14, 2019

National Truck Driver Appreciation Week is a week in which we thank the 3.5 million professional truck drivers that are the heart of this economy. Every day these dedicated professional men and women keep our economy moving, transporting our goods and services efficiently, while most importantly keeping our highways safe!

To assist you with celebrating your drivers, the ATA has launched their online merchandise store which includes a variety of items to buy for your drivers to honor all of their hard work!

[National Truck Driver Appreciation Week Website](#)



FMCSA Moves to Allow Drivers to Take CDL Test Outside of Home State

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration is proposing another rule to make changes to how drivers can obtain a commercial driver's license. The agency announced Wednesday, July 24, a notice of proposed rulemaking that will allow CDL applicants to take general and specialized knowledge tests in states other than the driver's state of residence.

FMCSA says the proposal "will increase flexibility for driver applicants by reducing time and travel expenditures, while having no detrimental impact on safety." The rule, if eventually made final, would not require states to offer CDL knowledge tests to out-of-state drivers, but it would give states the option to offer the tests, then transmit the results to the driver's home state, which would be required to accept the results.

The NPRM applies to the general knowledge test, as well as specialized knowledge tests for the passenger (P), school bus (S), tank vehicle (N), double/triple trailer (T) and hazmat (H) endorsements. Additionally, CDL holders who wish to add an endorsement can take the applicable knowledge test outside their home state under the proposal.

FMCSA says the proposal will make the knowledge testing process more consistent with the skills testing process, which can already be conducted outside the driver's home state with the results transmitted back to their home state and the home state issuing the license.

"Reducing burdens and expenses on CDL applicants has the potential to increase the number of available drivers," said FMCSA Administrator Ray Martinez. "With the American economy continuing to grow at record pace, the need for more commercial drivers is critical. This proposal offers commonsense regulatory changes that will help CDL applicants, without compromising safety."

The proposal has not yet been published in the Federal Register, but it will be open for comments for 60 days when it is published in the coming days.

This is the third step the agency has taken this year to ease the path to obtaining a CDL. In March, FMCSA published a final rule to streamline the process to upgrade from a Class B to a Class A CDL. Then, earlier this month, the agency published a deregulatory proposal to allow third-party CDL trainers to administer the skills test to their own students.

Truck Driver Shortage is on Course to Double in a Decade

This week, ATA Chief Economist Bob Costello released his latest examination of the driver shortage, finding the industry needed 60,800 more drivers at the end of 2018 to meet the country's freight demand.

"Over the past 15 years, we've watched the shortage rise and fall with economic trends, but it ballooned last year to the highest level we've seen to date," Costello said. "The combination of a surging freight economy and carriers' need for qualified drivers could severely disrupt the supply chain. The increase in the driver shortage should be a warning to carriers, shippers and policymakers because if conditions don't change substantively, our industry could be short just over 100,000 drivers in five years and 160,000 drivers in 2028."

In order to meet the nation's freight demand, the report says the trucking industry will need to hire 1.1 million new drivers over the next decade – an average of 110,000 per year to replace retiring drivers and keep up with growth in the economy.

[Download the full report here.](#)



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