

Delays Are Hurting Highway Safety, DOT Says

Delays by state motor vehicle departments in posting convictions to driver history records is impeding the ability of states and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to keep potentially unsafe commercial drivers off the nation's highways, according to a report by the Department of Transportation Office of Inspector General.

The report, released earlier this month, said although measures have been taken to strengthen the Commercial Driver License program and database, neither FMCSA nor the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, which administers the database under an agreement with the agency, have completely lived up to their responsibility of securing the conviction data.

The delay in posting driver history records on the federal CDL program database "continues to impede DMV's ability to suspend or revoke problem drivers' commercial driving privileges in a timely manner," the report said.

"Congress found that one of the leading factors operating against commercial motor vehicle safety was the possession of multiple licenses by commercial drivers," the report said. "Drivers with multiple licenses spread their traffic violations over a number of state licenses to maintain a good-driver rating, regardless of the number of violations they acquire in one or more states."