



Idealease Safety Bulletin

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Question of the Week?

What is the latest information on the stay of the Hours of Service regulation ruling from the US Court of Appeals that goes into effect on December 27, 2007?

Senate Subcommittee to Hold Hearings on Hours of Service

The Senate Commerce Committee's Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security Subcommittee will hold a hearing on December 6, 2007 on truck drivers' hours of service. The subcommittee will hear testimony from John Hill, FMCSA Administrator, who is expected to provide some indication of the agency's response to the court of appeals decision striking down the 11-hour daily driving limit and the 34-hour weekly reset rules. The FMCSA has a stay until December 27, 2007 to respond to the court's decision.

FMCSA Files Interim HOS Rule with the OMB

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) website shows that an Interim Final Rule (IFR) on Hours of Service of Drivers was received for OMB review on November 27, 2007, from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).

As you will recall, FMCSA had until December 27, 2007, to respond to the September 28, 2007, stay by the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia which kept the current hours-of-service (HOS) regulations in place until that date, to give FMCSA time to consider possible changes in the rules in light of the court's earlier July 24, 2007, decision. In that July opinion, the court had voided the 11 hours of driving time and the 34-hour restart provisions of the HOS regulations on procedural grounds.

FMCSA Solicits Comments on Supporting Documentation for HOS Regulations.

According to a Notice published in the November 26, 2007, Federal Register (72 FR 66019), the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) invites comments on an issue involved in the overall supporting documents debate. FMCSA has updated its calculation of the paperwork burden of the hours of service (HOS) rules to reflect changes in the number of commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers, and to clarify the burden associated with supporting documents information collection requirements.

Comments must be submitted on or before January 25, 2008. You may submit comments, identified by DOT Docket ID Number 0030. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> to submit comments. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

Interesting Holiday Facts

Largest Shopping Malls in the United States

1. South Coast Plaza, Orange County, CA
2. King of Prussia Mall, Philadelphia, PA
3. Sawgrass Mills, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
4. Del Amo Fashion Center, Los Angeles, CA
5. Mall of America, Minneapolis-St Paul, MN
6. Grand Canyon Parkway, Las Vegas, NV
7. The Galleria, Houston, TX
8. Woodfield Mall, Chicago, IL
9. Plaza Las Americas, San Juan, PR
10. Roosevelt Field Mall, New York, NY

Where is the world's largest shopping mall?

The world's largest indoor shopping mall is West Edmonton Mall in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. It includes over 800 stores and a hotel.

The Holiday Season is now in Full Swing and here are some driving tips for the increased Holiday Traffic.

Over the next few weeks, increased traffic from last-minute shopping trips and social visits to family and friends will impact road travel safety. Holiday traffic and unpredictable weather conditions make it more important than ever to tune-up on winter driving skills.

- Arrive safely – If you drink alcoholic beverages at holiday social events or parties make sure that you plan ahead to have a designated driver or utilize a taxi.
- Be aware of distracted drivers - Actions such as cell phone usage, eating/drinking, personal grooming or reading maps can take a driver's attention off the road. Always expect the unexpected and leave yourself a way out.
- Develop a driving emergency kit -Carry a blanket, flashlight, candles, matches, jumper cables and a shovel in your trunk. Kitty litter or sand is also useful to gain traction if you happen to get stuck.
- Keep headlights and tail lights clean - Dark winter days make it more difficult to see other motorists and pedestrians.
- Turn headlights on at least a half hour before sunset to increase your visibility and keep windshields and mirrors clean to avoid glare. Don't look directly at oncoming headlights; instead avert your eyes to the right side of the road.
- Buckle up - Wear your safety belt properly every time you get behind the wheel, even for short distances.
- Be especially careful of parking lots and malls as you make your deliveries. Do not cross through lanes. Drive slowly and be prepared for the unexpected.