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## SAFETY BULLETIN



### The Challenges of a Driver Shortage

As we look into the future, the continued challenge of a driver shortage looms as a "perfect storm". [Click Here](#) to view a recent story in USA Today on April 28th covered this important issue in our industry.

There are many variables that have an impact on the shortage. The unemployment rate in the US last week dipped below 4% for the first time in 20 years. In a 2015 study showed that individuals between the age of 21-24 who held a drivers license was 75% compared to 95% in 1983. Another element of the driver shortage is an aging workforce combined with a decline in the primary demographic group that comprises the bulk of the driver pool.

As we see freight volumes increase many fleets are experiencing difficulty in attracting qualified drivers and may be unable to fill seats in trucks or add capacity at a time when freight volumes are growing. If current demographic trends continue, that shortage of truck drivers could increase to 111,000 by the end of the year.

Over the next decade, the trucking industry will need to hire a total of 890,000 new drivers, or an average of 89,000 per year. Replacing retiring truck drivers will be by far the largest factor, accounting for nearly half of new driver hires (45%). The second largest factor will be industry growth, accounting for 33% of new driver hires.

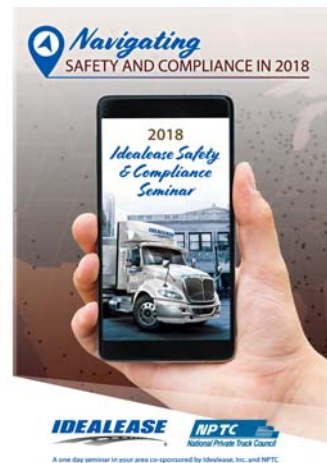


As transportation managers we are seeing our driver work force continue to age. The average age of a truck driver in the United States is over 50 years.



May 18, 2018

### Navigating Safety and Compliance in 2018



Idealease and the National Private Truck Council NPTC will again be hosting safety seminars in 2018. The one day seminar this year will focus on the new Electronic Logging Device (ELD) regulation, basic safety and compliance, regulation changes and CSA. The seminars will be provided to all Idealease customers, potential customers and NPTC members at no charge. The seminar provides important information applicable for both the novice and experienced transportation professionals. To register for an upcoming seminar in 2018 [Click Here](#).



Since, 2000, the number of truck drivers 55 or older has surged 19%, to about 616,000 according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. Truck companies with baby boomer drivers insist their safety record is at least as good as that of younger drivers. This is absolutely a segment of our driving force that we need and depend on. As all of us age, we do not physically or mentally age at the same rate.

The FMCSA does not have a maximum age limit for drivers of commercial motor vehicles unlike that of the FAA concerning pilots. All drivers are subject to the medical qualifications of medical certification requirements of CFR 391.

**BUT**, the question remains, how do we as transportation managers know when it is time to ask for the keys of a driver that is no longer able to operate safely?

Here are a few suggestions:

1. Develop a proactive safety and loss control program with policies and procedures that are not bias to age.
2. Require all drivers to have physical examinations completed by an FMCSA registered medical examiner who has a relationship with your company.
3. Develop job descriptions and job requirements for all positions based on actual requirements of the job activity.
4. Implement a defensive driver training program with updated training annually for all drivers.
5. Administer structured check rides at least annually to all drivers to assess the driver's skills and abilities.
6. Develop a continuing relationship with all drivers to keep an open line of communication regarding the driver's ability to complete their driving responsibility safely.
7. Be vigilant and observant of the actions of all drivers.

## Are Your Drivers Wearing the Correct Sunglasses?

As a professional driver subject to the sun's rays constantly you need to make sure you are wearing the proper sunglasses to protect your eyes. In addition, proper sunglasses allow you as a driver to operate safely at an increased level of visibility.

### Tips for Choosing the Right Sunglasses

Sunglasses aren't just a fashion accessory. They are an important protection for your eyes against the damaging rays of the sun. It's important for you to know what kind of light you need to protect your eyes from and what type of light is not necessarily harmful. Here are some tips for picking the right pair of nonprescription sunglasses.

#### Choose Glasses that Block 99% of Ultraviolet (UV) Rays

This is the most important feature of your sunglasses, and you should always choose sunglasses that provide this protection. Long-term exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation in sunlight is linked to eye disease, including cataracts. Some manufacturers' labels say UV absorption up to 400nm. This is the same thing as 100 percent UV absorption.



### Spring Seminars (March-May)

5/22/2018	San Leandro, CA
5/22/2018	Wausau, WI

### Fall Seminars (Sept-Oct)

8/9/2018	Santa Rosa, CA
9/25/2018	Dallas, TX
9/26/2018	Houston, TX
10/10/2018	Nashville, TN
10/16/18	Kansas City, MO
10/24/2018	Turlock, CA
10/25/18	Oklahoma City, OK
11/7/2018	San Leandro, CA
TBD	Moncton, NB
TBD	Fort Wayne, IN



Some glasses make additional claims for blocking infrared rays, but research has not shown a close connection between infrared rays and eye disease.

### **Don't Rely on the Price**

Budget conscious? Many types of affordable sunglasses offer 99 to 100 percent UV protection, so you don't need to spend a lot of money on a pair of sunglasses.

### **Check the Quality of the Sunglasses**

In addition to UV protection, you also want to check the optical quality of the lenses. You can easily test the quality of sunglasses by looking at something with a rectangular pattern, such as a floor tile. Hold the glasses at a comfortable distance and cover one eye. Move the glasses slowly from side to side, then up and down. If the lines stay straight, the lenses are fine. If the lines wiggle, especially in the center of the lens, try another pair.

### **Look for Impact-Resistant Lenses.**

All sunglasses must meet impact standards set by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for safety. No lens is truly unbreakable, but plastic lenses are less likely to shatter when hit by a ball or stone. Polycarbonate plastics, used in many sports sunglasses, are especially strong, but scratch easily. If you buy polycarbonate lenses, choose one with a scratch-resistant coating.

### **Use Protective Eyewear Instead of Sunglasses for Hazardous Activities.**

If you are going to be engaged in outdoor activities like water or snow skiing that put your eye at risk for injury, don't count on your eyeglasses for protection. Protective eyewear is available with UV protection to shield your eyes from sunburn and glare.



### **Lens Color Tinting and Polarization are Personal Preferences**

There's no medical reason to recommend one tint of lens over another. Likewise, while polarized lenses work better at deflecting glare, they're not blocking any more harmful UV light than non-polarized lenses.

### **Once You have the Right Sunglasses, Make sure You Wear Them**

Especially in the summer when UV levels are at least three times higher than in the winter. Also be sure to wear them when participating in winter sports, particularly at high elevations.

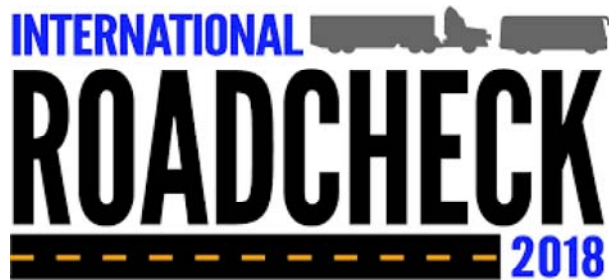
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## Schools Out! Summer is Here! Remember, Safety First!

With the arrival of summer, many of us are looking forward to spending more time outdoors. School is out, so there are many children going to and from, and participating in, outdoor activities throughout the day. Adults, too, are taking advantage of the longer daylight hours, so let's all commit ourselves to staying alert and staying safe. Here are some safety tips for drivers I urge you to follow:

- The last week of school is an exciting time for children and they may become preoccupied and forget the rules of the road. Use extra caution when driving through school zones.
- During those last few days of school, be aware that kids may be arriving or leaving school at different times throughout the day.
- Remember that playground speed limits remain in effect year round. Observe carefully when driving around playgrounds and parks. Small children are less predictable and harder to see than adults.
- Watch for clues, a hockey net or a ball in the road or on the sidewalk can mean kids are playing nearby. Pay attention and always anticipate the unexpected.
- Always watch for small children as you're backing up. Walk around your vehicle to make sure no kids or pets are behind it.



## International Roadcheck Set for June 5-7 with Focus on Hours-of- Service Compliance

The Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance's (CVSA) International Roadcheck will take place June 5-7, 2018. Over that 72-hour period, commercial motor vehicle inspectors in jurisdictions throughout North American will conduct inspections of commercial motor vehicles and drivers. This year's focus is on hours-of-service compliance. For more information, [Click Here](#).

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