



U.S. Department
of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

**Federal Motor Carrier
Safety Administration**

APR 17 2013

Refer to: MC-RRR

Mr. Robert Abbott
Vice President
American Trucking Associations
950 North Glebe Road
Arlington, VA 22203

Dear Mr. Abbott:

Thank you for your comments concerning the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) Information Collection Activities; New Information Collection Request: Driver and Carrier Surveys Related to Electronic Onboard Recorders (EOBRs) and Potential Harassment Deriving From EOBR Use [Docket No. FMCSA-2012-0309].

This survey collection will aid FMCSA by broadly examining, through the collection of survey data, the issue of driver harassment. Specifically, it will help us determine the extent to which EOBRs used to document drivers' hours of service could also be used by motor carriers or enforcement personnel to harass drivers and/or monitor driver productivity. The survey will also collect information on the extent to which respondents believe that the use of EOBRs may result in coercion of drivers by motor carriers, shippers, receivers, and transportation intermediaries. FMCSA will publish a supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking on EOBRs and will consider survey results concerning EOBR use by motor carriers, including countermeasures or best practices to ensure that EOBRs are not used by carriers to harass or coerce drivers, prior to the issuance of a final rule.

FMCSA believes that this study has the potential to identify information that could greatly improve highway safety. It is noted that ATA supports the survey study and are "ardent advocates of ELD adoption," and "urges FMCSA to conduct this research quickly." FMCSA will make every attempt to ensure that the study is completed on schedule. FMCSA also agrees with ATA on the need for the survey, the findings, and the survey's potential importance to the trucking industry. FMCSA appreciates ATA's comments and will take them into consideration as we evaluate the survey findings.

Once again, thank you for your comments. If you would like a copy of the survey and associated documents call Albert Alvarez at (202) 385 2387. If FMCSA receives a request for these instruments or documents, FMCSA will post them in the docket for this ICR.

Sincerely,

Dr. Martin Walker
Chief, Research Division