

# FMCSA PREVIEW

*page 1 of 2*

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On August 16, 2010, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) began providing carriers with a preview of the Safety Measurement System (SMS) data base as a part of the Comprehensive Safety Analysis (CSA) initiative. Carriers were able to see where they stand in each of the new Behavior Analysis and Safety Improvement Categories (BASICS) based on roadside inspection data and investigation findings.

**Based on feedback and analysis from the Data Preview period, the FMCSA will roll out the new SMS to the nation in December with the following revisions.**

**The agency will modify the presentation of SMS BASIC results by:**

- Changing the term “Deficient” to “Alert” when a motor carrier’s score in one or more BASICS is above the FMCSA threshold for intervention.
- Changing the highlight color from red to orange.
- Improving the language to clarify that BASIC results signify the carrier is prioritized for an FMCSA intervention.

Feedback during the Data Preview indicated that the display of SMS results needs to clarify that BASIC percentiles above the FMCSA threshold signify the carrier is prioritized for an FMCSA intervention and do not signify or otherwise imply a “safety rating” or safety fitness determination.

**The Cargo-Related BASIC will be modified to:**

- Recalibrate the Cargo-Related BASIC by adjusting the cargo securement violation severity weightings based on input from subject matter experts (SMEs).
- Modify the public display to show the SMS Cargo-Related BASIC violations only. The percentiles and intervention status will not be on public display.

continued on page 2

Feedback during the Data Preview period identified a concern that the BASIC was over-representing certain industry segments and potentially creating a misleading safety alert warning. The agency conducted additional analysis and concluded that the Cargo-Related BASIC be recalibrated with SMEs providing input on the cargo securement severity weights. The agency received SME input and will now adjust the severity weights and run the algorithm accordingly.

Also, the agency is conducting additional analysis to further understand the impact on the different industry segments of a carrier's exposure in this BASIC. During this analysis period, the BASIC results will continue to be an effective intervention prioritization tool for enforcement personnel based on sound safety principles. Accordingly, the percentiles and intervention status will be accessible to the FMCSA enforcement community and motor carriers only.