



Today (December 16, 2008), FMCSA published a new regulation raising the standard of compliance for passing the new entrant (motor carrier) safety audit. The good news is the agency incorporated a number of ATA's recommended improvements.

Overall, FMCSA has added teeth to the process and estimates that more than 40% of new motor carriers may fail their initial safety audit. Pass/fail will be determined by evaluating 16 regulatory violations with each capable of resulting in automatic failure. More details were also provided on how expedited actions will be undertaken as a result of deficiencies found at roadside. The agency is additionally increasing efforts to better identify motor carriers that have in the past sought to evade regulatory requirements by operating under a new name and DOT number (aka "chameleon carriers").

The final rule and Federal Register notice can be found by clicking the following link: [SafetyAssuranceDoc.pdf](#)