

# DRIVER SHORTAGE IS REAL AND SOON TO GET WORSE

**A**s reported in the major trucking trade magazines this summer, CDL drivers—especially those with tank and hazmat endorsements—will be in short supply as the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration unveils its new program for evaluating the safety performance of all motor carriers.

We usually see a spike in the 'driver shortage' when the economy gets stronger, but 2011 will be even worse. Known as the Comprehensive Safety Analysis (CSA), this new system will replace the current carrier evaluation program that establishes motor-carrier safety ratings, with a new and heightened focus on driver behaviors and vehicle violations. As currently configured, drivers will receive 'points' for violations for everything from having an invalid CDL to operating an out-of-compliance motor vehicle (bald tires, no brake lights).

We have heard in various forums that trucking employers are considering taking disciplinary action against drivers for receiving 'points,' which is especially troubling for companies

whose drivers regularly report that their employers pressure them to expedite the pre-trip inspection process or driver vehicles that have minor maintenance violations.

It is critical that drivers have an organized voice to clearly understand how and when motor carriers plan to implement the requirements of CSA. The Teamsters have developed several fact sheets on CSA and they are posted on the Teamsters Safety and Health web page for all to see.

Drivers are already becoming in short supply and the pay increases given out by 20 percent of the truckload industry in the 2nd Quarter of 2010 (according to the National Transportation Institute, TT 7/26/10) reflect that reality. When CSA hits in earnest this November, America's truck driver population will be even more targeted and employers even more demanding.

***VOTE YES FOR THE BEST REPRESENTATION AROUND!***



For more information about our campaign to form a union with the Teamsters, call Charlie Stephenson at **(202) 528-5788** or John Palmer at **(202) 439-7370**.

Also, visit [www.teamster.org/kagwest](http://www.teamster.org/kagwest) for updates.

To sign up for text messages, text "**KAGWEST**" to **86466** today!

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