

**State of Connecticut**  
**Department of Motor Vehicles**  
**Office of Safety and Enforcement**  
*Commercial Vehicle Safety Division*

**COMMERCIAL CARRIER REVIEW FOR STATE CONTRACT AWARDS**  
**- PROCESS AND QUALIFYING REQUIREMENTS -**

The motor carrier review conducted by the Department of Motor Vehicles, Commercial Vehicle Safety Division (DMV/CVSD) is performed in order to make an evaluation of the current safety fitness of any firm that operates commercial motor vehicles and that is seeking to perform contractual services for any agency of the state of Connecticut. The review is limited to those firms that may be hired in the capacity of a prime contractor. Under the standard bid and contract terms of the state of Connecticut, each prime contractor is responsible for all of its agents and subcontractors with regard to compliance with all applicable legal requirements. This responsibility extends to the qualifications of all drivers. The DMV/CVSD will perform a review at the request of any state agency. Each such request should be made in writing by the appropriate official of the agency, and must include the name of the trucking firm and its official USDOT number. Upon completion of the review the requesting agency will be notified by DMV/CVSD as to whether or not the firm meets requirements for eligibility for a state contract.

The primary factor in the DMV/CVSD review is the current SafeStat score, if there is such a score available. SafeStat was developed at the John A. Volpe National Transportation Center (The Volpe Center) for the United States Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). SafeStat is a data driven system that determines the current relative safety status of individual motor carriers and is explained on the web at [www.ai.volpe.dot.gov/](http://www.ai.volpe.dot.gov/). DMV/CVSD will make an unfavorable evaluation of any motor carrier that has a current SafeStat ranking as an A, B or C motor carrier. Any such firm must obtain removal from such ranking in order to be eligible for consideration of a state contract.

When there is insufficient data available to state and federal authorities for the creation of a SafeStat score, DMV/CVSD will make its evaluation with reference to vehicle and/or driver out-of-service percentage rates, obtained from all inspection reports that are on file that identify the motor carrier.

Motor carriers for which DMV/CVSD has insufficient inspection report data will be evaluated as conditionally “qualified”. In some instances, the evaluation of these firms will be made only after an on-site visit and audit of company files, as required to be maintained by applicable federal regulations and/or terminal or roadside inspections conducted by Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) certified Motor Vehicle Inspectors, State Police Troopers or local police officers. A satisfactory result of these checks will be required in order to obtain qualified status.

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In certain instances, DMV/CVSD may make qualified status expressly conditional on the motor carrier taking action steps to rectify problems with its vehicles, drivers or record keeping that have been identified by DMV/CVSD personnel. Consideration will be given to whether or not the vehicle and driver violations noted at roadside exceed an established threshold relative to the rate of out-of-service violations. If the motor carrier fails to comply with the conditions that have been stipulated in a timely manner, DMV/CVSD will notify the contracting agency and will recommend termination of services unless the situation is fully resolved.

DMV/CVSD will maintain and make available to the public and to all state agencies a list containing the name(s) of all firms that have achieved a favorable evaluation and have been deemed qualified. The list will be arranged in alphabetical order, by company/carrier name and shall also reflect the respective USDOT number and the date of qualification for state contract. The list of qualified carriers will be adjusted and maintained continuously and will remain valid indefinitely, until further notice by DMV/CVSD. DMV/CVSD will monitor the date of qualification for each motor carrier, and will conduct a status review at least once a year.

If a motor carrier that has previously been listed as qualified is determined, as a result of the annual review or otherwise, to be no longer entitled to qualified status, the name of such firm will be removed from the list and each agency that may be affected will be notified. It is recommended that each such agency contact DMV/CVSD for further information and for the results of subsequent audit and inspection activity. In any case, each agency that is affected by the removal of a motor carrier that it has hired should consult with DMV/CVSD to determine if and when the motor carrier once again achieves qualified status.

In addition to its annual review, DMV/CVSD inspectors assigned to the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) will periodically and randomly inspect commercial motor vehicles and the records of motor carriers. Any results of any such activity which give indication that a motor carrier is no longer entitled to its previously attained, qualified status will be communicated to the state agency or agencies which may be affected. In some cases, depending upon the severity of the violations which become known, DMV/CVSD may recommend to an agency the termination of existing contract services, consistent with the state regulations and contract provisions that govern taking of any such action.

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