U.S. Department of Transportation

Intelligent Transportation Systems Standards Fact Sheet

March 1999

ANSI TS284 Commercial Vehicle Safety Reports

Overview

Operation of commercial vehicles (those engaged in the commercial carriage of goods and passengers) in North America is subject to government control and regulation. Federal, State, and local governments require carriers and drivers to have operating credentials and permits, to meet requirements for safe and legal operation, to pass regular inspections (at roadside sites and at industry facilities) of vehicles and operations, and to pay fees and taxes.

To obtain a copy of this standard, please contact:

Data Interchange Standards Association, Inc.
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To carry out these processes, a large amount of information must be collected, stored, and exchanged. State administrators and roadside enforcement officials need access to regulatory data on a regular basis to establish that vehicles operating in their jurisdictions are in conformance with safety and regulatory requirements. Carriers, insurance companies, and other industry representatives frequently have similar needs. However, such information is often held by the office that collects it and provided to other state agencies as paper reports. As a result, needed information cannot be widely disseminated, is often not available at roadside sites, is difficult to process and handle, and is frequently out of date. Providing the capability to request and send commercial vehicle information electronically makes it rapidly and universally available, and allows an easy interface with each user's own information processing system.

Three new transaction sets have been developed as part of the commercial vehicle operations segment of the intelligent transportation system. The three new standards are:

Commercial Vehicle Safety Reports (this standard)
Commercial Vehicle Safety and Credentials Information Exchange
Commercial Vehicle Credentials

This standard was developed and is maintained by Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) X-12, Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). Copies of this standard may be purchased from the Data Interchange Standards Association, Inc., as noted in the box above. Inquiries about the content and use of this standard should be directed to The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (www.jhuapl.edu/cvo/).

What is this standard for?

This standard contains the format and establishes the data contents of the **Commercial Vehicle Safety Reports Transaction Set (TS 284)** for use within the context of an electronic data interchange (EDI) environment. This bi-directional transaction set can be used by authorized parties to electronically request and send reports on information related to the safe operation of commercial road vehicles, such as inspection reports, crash data, safety and compliance review reports, and hazardous material incident reports.

Who uses it?

Users of the **Commercial Vehicle Safety Reports** may include:

1. *Data Repositories* (at both the state and federal levels) such as:
   - **SAFER** (Safety and Fitness Electronic Records) system, which assembles and forwards safety and credentials data to authorized parties.
   - **MCMIS** (Motor Carrier Management Information System), the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) repository of safety, safety review, and inspection data on interstate motor carriers.

- **SAFETYNET**, a distributed system that provides an automated method for States to transmit roadside inspection data, crash data, and census data to FHWA for integration with FHWA's Motor Carrier Management Information System (MCMIS).

2. *Insurance Agencies:* Insurers of commercial vehicles can use the 284 to request and receive data that helps detect potential problems with clients.

3. *Motor Carriers:* It is not unusual for industry carriers themselves to have a poor sense of their own safety status. Review of data on themselves and their vehicles and drivers can provide an efficient mechanism for checking that status and becoming aware of persistent problem areas.

4. *Commercial Vehicle Safety Reporting Entities:* Inspection sites, law enforcement agencies, etc.

How is it used?

Commercial vehicles are subject to government regulations that assure that they are maintained and operated in a manner that promotes public safety. Included are requirements for both regular and random inspection of vehicles and drivers, reviews of motor carrier operations to ensure compliance with standards for vehicle maintenance and other safety related provisions, and reporting of data on traffic accidents and hazardous material incidents. There is also an interest in assembling repositories of such data that allow widespread access to the information by authorized parties. The **Commercial Vehicle Safety Report Transaction Set (TS 284)** provides the capability to request and send such information electronically, making information rapidly and universally available.

Scope

The **Commercial Vehicle Safety Report Transaction Set (TS 284)** covers the electronic exchange of commercial vehicle safety reports, primarily between private and public computer systems. In some cases, the transaction set may also be used to exchange safety reports between government-controlled systems. This standard addresses the format, contents, and codes used to exchange textual reports. It does not, however, address communications protocols.

Related documents

The implementation guides for EDI contain both policy and procedural guidance for program administrators, as well as technical implementation conventions for EDI programmers:

- Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Implementation Guide for Commercial Vehicle Safety Reports (Transaction Set 284), Volume I, The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (under development).

The directory of EDI data element field codes for commercial vehicle transactions, approved for use by FHWA, joins the transaction sets, transaction set segments, and data elements for the other EDI standards developed for commercial vehicle operations:

- Federal Highway Administration Code Directory, The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, POR-98-7127 D.4, February 1999.

Users may also access the "Browse and Download Documentation—EDI Implementation Guides" section of the JHU/APL CVISN web site www.jhuapl.edu/cvo/ for the latest implementation guides and code directory.

For more information on ITS standards, contact the Federal Highway Administration, ITS Joint Program Office, Room 3401, HOIT, 400 7th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590, phone: 202-366-2180, fax: 202-366-3302, Web site: www.its-standards.net

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