



Intelligent Transportation Systems Standards Fact Sheet

ANSI TS285

March 1999

Commercial Vehicle Safety and Credentials Information Exchange

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 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be widely disseminated, is often not available at roadside sites, is difficult to process and handle, and is frequently out of date.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

Commercial Vehicle Safety and Credentials Information Exchange (this standard)

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 and Credentials Information Exchange Transaction Set (TS 285)** for use within the context of an Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) environment. This bi-directional standard can be used by enforcement officials, government administrators, and other authorized parties to ask electronically for information on the safety performance, regulatory compliance, and credentials status of commercial motor vehicles, carriers, and drivers. It can also be used by sources that maintain such data to respond to such requests. It can also be used to submit updates to a central repository whenever new safety or credentials information is received.

Who uses it?

The primary users of the **Commercial Vehicle Safety and Credentials Information Exchange Transaction Set (TS 285)** are the Safety and Fitness Electronic Records (SAFER) system, systems that get information from SAFER, and systems that provide data to SAFER. SAFER assembles and forwards summaries of safety and credentials information, known as "snapshots," to authorized parties. This transaction set is used for those interchanges.

To obtain a copy of this standard, please contact:

Data Interchange Standards Association, Inc.

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Alexandria, VA 22314

Tel: (703) 548-7005

FAX: (703) 548-5738

Web site: www.disa.org

E-mail: publications@disa.org

Publication Date: December 1996

SAFER assembles data for snapshots from a variety of existing data sources and passes the compilations on to users. The data sources may be the original owners of the data, or they may be secondary sources that have compiled data of interest for other purposes. The 285 Transaction Set can be used to both carry partial data from sources and to carry compiled snapshots or summaries to users. Users include state systems, insurance companies, and carrier systems.

How is it used?

Within the CVO community, several functions have been identified that require users to have regular access to such summaries. The **Commercial Vehicle Safety and Credentials Information Exchange Transaction Set (TS 285)** supports these functions:

1. *Mainline screening of vehicles at roadside sites.* Commercial vehicles are subject to being stopped, checked, and inspected at roadside sites. In some states, vehicles that have acceptable safety and inspection histories, and whose credentials are in order, are allowed to pass roadside sites without being stopped. Screening sorts the oncoming vehicles into two groups: those that will be pulled in, and those that will be allowed to bypass the check site. Snapshots provide information to support screening in computer processable form, so the “pull in/bypass” decision can be made by automated systems.
2. *Evaluation of Credentials Applications.* Currently, applications for commercial vehicle credentials (e.g., to obtain vehicle registration) are rarely evaluated to see if the applicant’s safety and operating records are deficient, mostly because the data are not readily available. Snapshots can be used to transmit appropriate information to administrative offices. Having such data in computer processable form permits automatic detection of potential problems.
3. *Insurance Checks.* Similarly, insurers of commercial vehicles and carriers can use the 285 to request, and get, data that helps detect potential problems with clients.
4. *Industry Self Checks.* It is not unusual for operators themselves to have a poor sense of their own safety and credential status. Review of summary data on themselves, and their vehicles and drivers can provide an efficient mechanism for checking that status and becoming aware of persistent problem areas.

Scope

The **Commercial Vehicle Safety and Credentials Information Exchange Transaction Set (TS 285)** covers the electronic exchange of safety and credentials summaries, primarily between different jurisdictions, and between private and public computer systems. This standard addresses the format, contents, and codes used to exchange selected information. It does not 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 and Credentials Information Exchange Transaction Set 285, Draft Version, The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, JHU/APL POR-96-6995 D.3, August 1998.

There is also a directory of EDI data element field codes for commercial vehicle transactions. This directory, 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.