

CTBSSP 2008 Quarterly Report
10/1/08-12/31/08

The Commercial Truck and Bus Safety Synthesis Program (CTBSSP) is a cooperative research effort sponsored by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and administered by the Transportation Research Board (TRB) that initiates three to four synthesis topic studies annually. For each topic the project objectives are: (1) to locate and assemble documented information; (2) to learn what practice has been used for solving or alleviating the problem; (3) to identify all ongoing research; (4) to learn what problems remain largely unsolved; and (5) to organize, evaluate, and document the useful information that is acquired.

Following the program Oversight Committee's selection of topics, an agreement is negotiated with a consultant to gather information on the topic, synthesize it, and draft a report. Typically, the agreement covers a period of 10 months. Information gathering and preparation of the first draft of the synthesis report usually is then reviewed by the program oversight panel. A revised final synthesis report is subsequently submitted. This revised final report is then reviewed, edited, and published in the CTBSSP synthesis series.

Sixteen CTBSSP Syntheses have been published thus far:

1. Effective Commercial Truck and Bus Safety Management Techniques (2003)
2. Security Measures in the Commercial Trucking and Bus Industries (2003)
3. Highway/Heavy Vehicle Interaction (2003)
4. Individual Differences and the "High-Risk" Commercial Driver (2004)
5. Training of Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers (2004)
6. Operational Differences and Similarities among the Motorcoach, School Bus, and Trucking Industries (2005)
7. Motorcoach Industry Hours of Service and Fatigue Management Techniques (2005)
8. Commercial Motor Vehicle Driver Safety Belt Usage (2005)
9. Literature Review on Health and Fatigue Issues Associated with Commercial Motor Vehicle Driver Hours of Work (2005)
10. Alternative Truck and Bus Inspection Strategies (2006)
11. Impact of Behavior-Based Safety Techniques on Commercial Motor Vehicle Drivers (2007)
12. Commercial Motor Vehicle Carrier Safety Management Certification (2007)
13. Effectiveness of Commercial Motor Vehicle Driver Training Curricula and Delivery Methods (2007)
14. The Role of Safety Culture in Preventing Commercial Motor Vehicle Crashes (2007)

15. Health and Wellness Programs for Commercial Drivers (2007)
16. Safety Impacts of Speed Limiter Device Installations on Commercial Trucks and Buses (2009)

Four new Synthesis topic contracts have been executed and efforts initiated for scheduled publication in Summer 2009. First deliverables were reviewed and accepted. Project work is proceeding along as follows:

1. CTBSSP MC-18 -- Older Drivers: Do they Pose a Safety Risk

A Literature Review is complete, as well as an update on previous older commercial driver research performed by the authors. The web-based survey is under way. Due to personal and family health issues affecting the Team lead, the Draft Final Report will be submitted by January 15, 2009.

2. CTBSSP MC-19 -- Chemical Substance Effects on Driving/Performance: Stimulants, Hypnotics, and Nutritional Aids

Research reports from numerous scientific data bases and other resources, as well as from several U.S. military medical research labs, overseas research sources and others have been received. The Team is still pursuing a few additional hard-to-get articles for the literature review. Over a dozen surveys and interviews of occupational health personnel has been accomplished; results are being tallied; the plan is to obtain additional data from occupational health personnel who do commercial driver-qualification exams in this current month of October-perhaps stretching into November due to access at planned professional medical conferences.

As expected, the Team experienced difficulty in obtaining drug policy answers from commercial carriers and other industry representatives; so the response rate is relatively low. The Team has been successful in obtaining significant input through structured interviews with a number of health practitioners. A Draft Final Report will be completed by January 15, with the delay due to a death in the family of the principal author.

3. CTBSSP MC-20 -- Operator Drug and Alcohol Testing Across Modes

The Draft Final Report was submitted on December 22, 2008, and distributed for oversight committee review/comment.

4. CTBSSP MC-21 -- Special Safety Concerns of School Bus Drivers

The Draft Final Report was submitted on November 1, 2008, and distributed for oversight committee review/comment.

The following *Milestones Chart* summarizes program status:

**Commercial Truck and Bus Safety Synthesis Program
Milestones 12/08**

			MC-17(16)	MC-18	MC-19	MC-20	MC-21
1	Notice to Proceed	Due	04/16/2007	02/29/2008	02/29/2008	02/29/2008	02/29/2008
		Complete	04/16/2007	02/29/2008	02/29/2008	02/29/2008	02/29/2008
2	Work Plan & Outline	Due	05/15/2007	03/31/2008	03/31/2008	03/31/2008	03/31/2008
		Complete	05/16/2007	03/31/2008	03/31/2008	03/31/2008	03/31/2008
3	OC Review of #2	Due	06/15/2007	04/30/2008	04/30/2008	04/30/2008	04/30/2008
		Complete	06/16/2007	04/30/2008	04/30/2008	04/30/2008	04/30/2008
4	Report 1 st Draft	Due	12/15/2007	1/15/2009	1/15/2009	10/31/2008	10/31/2008
		Complete	12/17/2007			12/22/2008	11/01/2008
5	OC Review	Due	02/15/2008	02/15/2009	02/15/2009	01/30/2009	01/30/2009
		Complete	03/05/2008				
6	Report Final Draft	Due	03/15/2008	03/15/2009	03/15/2009	02/27/2009	2/27/2009
		Complete	03/15/2008				
7	Published Report	Due	01/15/2009	08/15/2009	08/15/2009	07/27/2009	07/27/2009
		Complete	01/07/2009				