

DATA SHARING SPOTLIGHT

ROADSIDE CDL QUICK REFERENCE

WHAT

In the lifecycle of a citation or criminal complaint, accurate identification of commercial drivers and vehicles begins at roadside. Officers, especially those without specialized training in CMV/CDL enforcement, don't always know what constitutes a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) or when a commercial driver license (CDL) is required.

Commercial Driving License Quick Reference (CDLQR) is a web-based application to provide law enforcement with immediate access to the tools needed to quickly and accurately identify commercial vehicles and licensing requirements for those drivers. The beta-version of the application was developed through a Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) grant for New Hampshire law enforcement, but designed for easy adaptation by other states.

PROJECT EXPERTISE

The project team included representatives from the University of Cincinnati, University of California Los Angeles, North Dakota State University, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, and eScience & Technology Solutions, Inc. The states of New Hampshire and Vermont were chosen to support the pilot project and serve as subject matter experts.

HOW

CDLQR involves a series of questions and prompts to assist law enforcement officers in identifying and capturing driver and vehicle information during commercial driving incidents. Key areas addressed through the application include: licensing information for the driver, purpose of the vehicle, vehicle ownership, hazardous materials, and vehicle licensing requirements.

The application is designed to capture and store this information for easy access by law enforcement, prosecutors and court personnel. Commercial driver and vehicle information can be used by court personnel to correctly classify and file these cases.

WHY

Other tools have been used to assist officers with identification of vehicles and licensing requirements such as "visor cards" and "cheat sheets" but these become outdated or easily misplaced. Cell phones and laptop computers can use the web-based application to access real-time information and request driver and vehicle verification information. The information within the application is easily updatable when laws and regulations are changed.

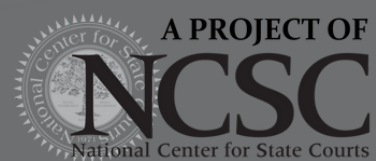
STATS

Troopers and their supervisors who participated in the test period overwhelmingly supported the continued use of CDLQR with 88% of survey respondents finding CDLQR extremely or very useful. With use of the online tool, an 8% increase in the number of citations resulted during the test period.

Several states have shown a strong interest in CDLQR. Capturing baseline data and measuring effectiveness of this tool will be instrumental in adapting and implementing the application in other states.

RELATED PROJECTS

A common issue noted among some states involves the inconsistency in commercial data elements on the criminal complaint and citation forms. In New Hampshire the criminal complaint (form NH-JB-2962-D) is being reviewed and changes recommended to provide more uniformity with the Uniform Traffic Citation (form DSMV 428), as well as clarify the wording of the questions to be more understandable and intuitive. Improvements to the complaint, along with the added QR resource, will help officers identify and collect the information needed to identify and track criminal CDL cases.



This project is supported by Department of Transportation - Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration under Grant FM-CDL-0463-21-01-00

Suggested Citation: Data Sharing Spotlight: CDLQR. [Williamsburg, VA: National Center for State Courts, 2024]