



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ANNOUNCES HOS FINAL RULE

On December 22, the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) announced the final rule for commercial truck drivers Hours of Service (HOS). N.G.A. has been working with the American Trucking Association opposing changes to the 11-hour driving time as well as the 34-hour restart. Please [click here](#) to read the American Trucking Association analysis of the final rule.

As has been shown through many studies, the current regulations have kept roadways safe while also ensuring efficient transportation of goods to grocery stores. For an analysis of the DOT's analysis to the HOS rule, please [click here](#).

In summary, the new rule includes:

- Under the current rule, commercial truck drivers can drive a maximum of 82 hours each work week now that has been lowered by 12 hours to a maximum of 70-hours,
- Truck drivers cannot drive after working eight hours without first taking a break of 30 minutes,
- The current 11-hour driving time limit continues, but FMCSA will conduct data analysis and research to further examine any risks associated with the 11-hour driving time limit,
- A requirement that drivers who maximize their weekly work hours of 70 hours must take at least two nights' rest when their 24-hour body clock demands sleep the most from 1:00 A.M. to 5:00 A.M. That is part of the "34-hour restart" provision that allows drivers to restart the clock on their work week by taking at least 34-consecutive-hours off-duty. The final rule allows drivers to use the restart provision only once during a seven-day period,
- Fines for trucking companies that allow drivers to exceed the 11-hour driving limit by 3 or more hours of up to \$11,000 per offense, and drivers themselves could face civil penalties of up to \$2,750 for each offense.

If you have any questions regarding this final rule please call N.G.A. at (703) 516-0700.