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Client Update

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Federal Court Eliminates Mandatory Rest-Break For Short-Haul Drivers

On July 1, 2013, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) put into place new Hours of Service Regulations affecting both long and short-haul truckers. The new regulations include a 30-minute off-duty break, which means truckers cannot drive more than 8 hours unless they have an off-duty break of at least 30 minutes.

If applied to short-haul truckers, as intended by FMCSA, the impact on short-haul operators, such as those with specified pick-up and delivery schedules could have been significant. The United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit recently issued a decision that provides good news for the trucking industry. The Court eliminated the 30-minute off-duty rest break requirement for short-haul drivers who are exempted from log keeping requirements. The elimination of this regulation benefits motor carriers that have drivers operating locally within a 100 air-mile radius (150 air-miles for non-CDL drivers) of their normal work reporting locations. The FMCSA's 30-minute off-duty rest break requirement for long-haul drivers remains in place, among other new Hours of Service regulations.

Please note that some states impose rest requirements independent of DOT regulations. If you have any questions regarding the DOT Hours of Service regulations, please contact:

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