

Landstar System, Carrier Group, The Nations 4th largest Truckload Carrier and the Number one Motor Carrier supporting the Department of Defense, supports this initiative. We are continually running into delays, while moving critical Arms, Ammunition and Explosives in support of our Nations fighting forces. This petition, to amend 23 CFR 658.13 to include as "specialized equipment", dromedary equiped truck-tractor-semitrailer combination vehicles, when transporting Class 1 explosives for the DoD, is the right move. This change would increase capacity for the DoD, and give us better utilization of our equipment. We would strongly recommend that you remove the overall length as stated in the change, and include the following, " The combination of vehicles is not subject to overall length limit , but the semitrailer may not exceed 53' in length." The new rule as written would still exclude at least 50% of our fleet(Landstar moves approximatly 20% of the DoD's requirement). The 53'trailer has become the Industry standard. This recommendation would be consistant with the State of Maryland House Bill 294, Part 173.50 and intended for the use by the US DoD enacted in 1999, that states,"Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (J) of this section when a semitrailer is being operated in combination with a power unit that is equipped with a dromedary box being used to transport explosives and munitions classified under 49 CFR part 173.50 that are intended for use by the United States Department of Defense. The combinaion of vehicles is not subject to an overall length limit but the semitrailer may not exceed 48' in length."(As mentioned previous, 53'is Industry standard) Your consideration of our proposal would be appreciated by close to 300 Landstar Carrier Group Driver Teams that support our Nations Defense on a daily basis.