



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Federal Motor Carrier
Safety Administration

400 - Seventh St., SW
Washington, DC 20590

MAY 29 2001

Refer to: MC-ESB

Mr. Greg Ellis
9480 S. 4230 RD
Chelsea, OK 74016

FMCSA-98-3297-45
FMCSA-98-3298-38
FMCSA-98-3299-39

Dear Mr. Ellis:

Thank you for your February 19, 2001 letter to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, regarding Mexican commercial vehicles operating in the U. S. Your letter was forwarded to the Office of Safety Programs for response.

We have not yet decided how we will carry out our North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) obligations regarding truck and bus access into the United States. Let me assure you that as we move forward, we will not allow any compromise in highway safety. Over the past five years we have worked with Mexico and the border States to address the safety concerns that exists along the border and have made substantial improvements on both sides of the border. In Mexico, our coordinated efforts have resulted in the training of Mexican inspectors and instructors on U.S. safety inspection techniques, development of electronic safety databases to help monitor the safety compliance of carriers and drivers and facilitate the exchange of safety information between Mexico and the United States, and publication of regulations that establish safety and operating standards for carriers and drivers. We also have taken steps to increase enforcement activities on the U.S. side of the border. To augment the state enforcement presence along the border, we have stationed federal safety inspectors at key border locations to inspect vehicles and perform other enforcement activities. This will provide greater assurance that commercial motor vehicles entering the country from Mexico have undergone screening for compliance with U.S. laws and regulations. All truck drivers and vehicles, regardless of country of origin, must comply with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations.

Thank you for taking the time to communicate your concerns about this important highway safety issue. Reducing the incidence and severity of crashes involving large trucks and commercial passenger carriers is our number one priority, and we appreciate hearing from citizens who share this goal.

Sincerely yours,

John F. Grimm
Director, Safety Programs