

Iowa agrees procedural rules should be established to certify and maintain certification for auditors, investigators and safety inspectors.

The interim final rule establishes standards for state or local government employees participating in MCSAP safety audits, compliance reviews and driver/vehicle roadside inspections. The minimum federal training, experience and proficiency standards (49 CFR 350.211(17)) are only applicable to Level I and V FMCSA Driver/Vehicle Inspections. We do not see this same requirement for Level II and III inspections and believe it should be included.

Inspectors conducting Level II and III inspections should be held to the same certification and maintenance of certification standards nationwide as inspectors conducting Level I and V inspections. Uniformity in inspection procedures and enforcement is critical to thorough, accurate enforcement of and compliance with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety and Hazardous Materials Regulations. Moreover, it is vital to credibility of the program with industry.

The interim final rule covers certification and maintenance of certification, but does not cover inspections by non-certified inspectors. Currently the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration allows inspections conducted by non-certified inspectors to be entered into the Motor Carrier Management Information System (MCMIS). Results of the inspection activity impact the motor carrier's safety rating. Inspections conducted by non-certified inspectors should not be entered into MCMIS because the reliability of the data by non-certified inspectors is questionable.

The interim final rule needs to be expanded to cover all levels of inspection and to specify that only certified inspections will become a part of the carrier's record.

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