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## SPECIAL BULLETIN 2020 – 12

April 9, 2020

### **FMCSA EXTENDS EMERGENCY HOURS OF SERVICE DECLARATION**

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has extended and expanded Emergency Declaration No. 2020-002, which applies to motor carriers and drivers providing direct assistance in support of relief efforts related to the COVID-19 situation. RIPA members, including most suppliers, have been determined to be “essential businesses” under the federal DHS/CISA “Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce,” which is now accepted or formally referenced by nearly every state. (Go [here](#) for a copy of the CISA guidance.)

The relief primarily provides hours-of-service relief to commercial vehicle drivers transporting essential products and materials. The list of materials includes a long list of items commonly transported in drums and IBCs, such as hand sanitizer, soaps, food, fuels, and so forth.

In summary, the emergency declaration states that once a driver has completed his or her delivery in a timeframe that meets or exceeds an allowable on-duty period, the driver must receive a minimum of 10 hours of off duty if transporting property. In addition, the FMCSA has stated that a driver does not need to carry any documentation in the vehicle to verify using this exemption.

**NOTE: RIPA recommends that all your drivers carry a letter or memorandum printed on company letterhead stating that they are operating on behalf of a business that is considered part of the critical infrastructure workforce according the DHS/CISA guidance noted above. A sample letter can be found [here](#) (scroll down).**

The original FMCSA Declaration was set to expire on April 12, 2020. The revised Declaration extends the regulatory relief until May 15, 2020.

A copy of the revised FMCSA Declaration can be found [here](#).

Stay safe.