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.