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Motor Carrier Licenses May be Issued 67% Faster Under MPSC Proposal

Due to outdated regulations and processes, companies possessing an operating license have historically faced delays in the delivery of their products, costing them revenue and negatively impacting supply chains across industries. To address this bureaucratic lag, the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) Motor Carrier Division is currently undergoing an RPM process improvement. Upon its completion in early 2014, it is expected to fully automate the licensing process for both new licenses and renewals, after a statute that has largely been unchanged for 50 years is updated and a request for proposals is issued to replace the antiquated computer system.

Faster Response: Motor carrier licenses may be issued 67% faster, after elimination of 64 burdensome work steps.

Customers Impacted: A customer-friendly approach will affect 24,300 customers annually. These customers transport 90% of Michigan manufacturers' tonnage.

This will impact companies with operating licenses, which includes all the employees driving trucks under that license.

By eliminating paper and providing the customer with an online application, it is expected that applications will be processed 67% faster and eliminate 64 work steps.

This enhancement will impact approximately 24,300 customers and give them back 30 days to conduct business. Additionally, it is expected to save the state an estimated \$32,819 annually on supply costs.

So, how will these changes affect motor carriers in Michigan?

John Zevalkink, CEO of Columbian Logistics Network says his company operates approximately 60 heavy duty commercial trucks in Michigan. Each year in December, Columbian must renew licensing with the state.

"In the past, it has been difficult to obtain the forms which must be filled out manually," said Zevalkink. "Many times, we have driven to Lansing to obtain forms or driven the completed forms back to Lansing in order to speed up the process. The actual licenses usually do not arrive until right before the end of the year. At that time, we must arrange to bring each truck back to its home base to get the license in place. Often, this means trucks making unnecessary trips. This process improvement will most certainly save Columbian administrative time and help improve our efficiency."

Update: As of 2015, the Motor Carrier Division was transferred to the Michigan State Police.



For Walt Heinritzi, executive director of the Michigan Trucking Association, these improvements will benefit both the trucking industry and the communities it serves.

According to Heinritzi, there are more than 30,000 trucking companies in Michigan, most of them small, locally owned businesses. Collectively, these companies transport 90% of total manufactured tonnage in Michigan. More than 80% of Michigan communities depend exclusively on trucks to move their goods.

"The Michigan Trucking Association applauds the MPSC's efforts to automate the licensing process for commercial motor carriers," Heinritzi said. "The resulting efficiencies derived from this enhancement will allow the trucking industry to provide superior service to Michigan's shipping community."

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