



Ruhl Forensic's Commercial Vehicle Team

Ruhl Forensic's Commercial Vehicle Team works closely with other engineers and accident reconstructionists. The team's specialized knowledge of governmental regulations/guidelines, mechanical systems and custom and practice within the industry enables us to provide a complete analysis of all aspects of the crash. The Commercial Vehicle Team is complemented by other staff with expertise in fields as diverse as tire failure, roadway design, fire cause and origin, and biomechanics.

To assist you in obtaining the pertinent documentation needed to successfully resolve your case, Ruhl Forensic has created a list of materials that will typically be generated which can be found on the reverse side.

Peter A. Philbrick, Sr., CDS, CDT *Commercial Vehicle Safety Management Specialist* *Certified Director of Safety*



Peter A. Philbrick, Sr. is an experienced testifier, professional commercial vehicle driver and a Certified Director of Safety with hands-on experience in the recruitment, training, monitoring and control of drivers; FMCSR compliance and compliance reviews; and truck company management policies and procedures. Mr. Philbrick was the transportation manager at the Performance Food Group where he managed a 100+ driver transportation department. As a risk manager and loss prevention specialist for a major transportation insurance company, he evaluated trucking companies prior to underwriting then provided safety services and DOT compliance assistance to insure compliance. Mr. Philbrick is also a Certified Driver Trainer and a professional commercial vehicle driver with over 3,000,000 accident free miles. He is also experienced in the use of several types of forklifts in a wide range of loading and unloading environments and is a certified forklift operator trainer.

Gregory M. Wright *Heavy Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Specialist* *ASE Certified Master Medium/Heavy Truck Technician*



Mr. Wright works as a retained consultant in the areas of heavy vehicle maintenance and repair. He holds an ASE Certified Master Medium/Heavy Truck Technician certification. Mr. Wright brings 34 years of experience in the maintenance and

repair of medium and heavy duty vehicles to the firm. From technician to Department Manager to formerly owning a heavy equipment repair facility, Mr. Wright has a thorough understanding of all aspects of maintenance, repair and management of heavy vehicles. Mr. Wright has attended numerous training seminars conducted by industry, including several offered by Allison Transmission and Detroit Diesel. He is also a former member of the Allison Transmission Technician's Guild. Mr. Wright is a contributing editor to *Truck Accident Litigation, Second Edition* published by the American Bar Association.

Roland A. Ruhl, B.S. *Bachelor of Science in General Engineering* *ACTAR Accredited Traffic Accident Reconstructionist*



Mr. Ruhl is a graduate of the Department of General Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and an ACTAR accredited traffic accident reconstructionist. He trained in accident reconstruction at Northwestern University's Traffic Institute and in safety principles and safety training methods with the National Safety Council. Mr. Ruhl is co-author of the book, *Vehicle Accident Reconstruction: A Guide for Risk Managers and Claims Personnel*, a contributing author to *Truck Accident Litigation, Second Edition* published by the American Bar Association, and has co-authored numerous papers on the dynamics of truck rollovers, among other topics. He is a graduate of the SOS Big Rig Driving School and has also been trained at the Bondurant School of High Performance Driving. Mr. Ruhl has extensive experience with accident reconstruction/simulation software including HVE and PC-Crash and with computer aided drafting (CAD) software.



Records Pertinent to Commercial Vehicle Crash Investigations

The forensic consultant must be able to investigate, analyze and interpret all facets of a commercial vehicle crash to arrive at a full understanding of the crash scenario. This requires knowledge of DOT, CVSA and other governmental regulations/guidelines, mechanical systems, custom and practice and the safety management culture of the parties involved.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations require motor carriers to obtain and preserve certain records on the driver and vehicle for predetermined amounts of time. On-board electronics and fleet management systems generate voluminous amounts of data.

To assist you in obtaining the pertinent documentation needed, Ruhl Forensic has created a list of materials that will typically be generated. Not all documents will be available or applicable in every situation.

FROM THE DRIVER:

- Registration if owner/operator
- Commercial Driver License
- Log Book
- Personal Expenses
- Trip Records
- Road Expenses
- Medical Certificate
- Bills of Lading

FROM THE COMPANY AND VEHICLE:

Driver Qualification File which includes:

- Driver's Application for Employment
- Response from State Agencies and Past Employers Concerning Driver's Record
- Road Test Certificates or Equivalent
- Medical Examiner's Certificates
- List of Driver's Violations
- Letter of Waiver of Physical Disqualification
- Annual Review of Driving Records

Additional Records:

- Pre-employment Drug Screen
- Maintenance Records & Reports
- Trip Reports
- Equipment Specifications
- Road Expenses
- Bills of Lading
- Driver's Record of Duty Status
- Fuel Receipts
- State Permits Purchased
- Dispatch Records
- Repair Orders
- Equipment List
- Log Book Information
- Checkpoint Records
- Driver Vehicle Condition Reports (DVIR)
- Toll Tickets
- Company Regulatory Compliance
- Phone and Pager Logs and Bills
- Check Call History of the Driver
- Registration and Title Information

Other Information to Request:

- All company and/or consortium drug and alcohol information for the past two years
- Position Reports/Status Updates from In-cab Communication System
- Download of ECM information including engine parameters, vehicle and trip information, event recorder data, last stop and hard braking events

OTHER AVAILABLE RECORDS:

- Traffic Accident/Police Reconstruction Report
- Police Photographs
- Tow Vehicle Reports
- Ambulance Run Sheets
- Coroner's Report
- Photos from news photographers
- Police Field Notes/Measurements
- Witness Statements
- Hospital Emergency Room Records
- Autopsy Report
- Raw videotape footage from TV news crews

Lists of questions to help you prepare for depositions involving trucking company personnel are available upon request.