



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.