



*U.S. Department of Energy*

***National  
Transportation  
Program***



# DOE's Motor Carrier Evaluation Program

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Selecting a responsible and efficient motor carrier is a critical part of safely transporting radioactive and other hazardous materials and wastes. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), through its National Transportation Program (NTP), makes every effort to ensure the high quality of carriers, drivers and equipment transporting its commodities. The Motor Carrier Evaluation Program (MCEP) plays a vital role in maintaining DOE's transportation safety record by assisting DOE and contractor personnel with the selection of qualified carriers.

In 2000, DOE restructured the MCEP to allow for more efficient carrier evaluation without interfering with the carrier ability to transport DOE-owned materials. The revised program uses a statistical database that supplements information collected by DOE with key elements of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Motor Carrier Safety Status Measurement System (SafeStat)



Roadside inspections performed by Federal and State officials provide useful information for DOE's Motor Carrier Evaluation Program.

program. This includes information gathered during DOT compliance reviews, roadside inspections, and other Federal, State, and local statistical

information. The MCEP database utilizes both the information and methodology adopted by DOT in the SafeStat program to identify poorly performing motor carriers.

The new program uses a three-stage evaluation process:

### **Stage 1 – Initial Carrier Screening:**

Carriers must meet specific safety and operational requirements (safety record, financial stability, etc.) before they qualify for onsite evaluation. If a carrier fails to meet the requirements after two attempts, DOE drops them from further consideration for 2 years.

### **Stage 2 – Onsite Evaluation:**

After passing the initial screening phase, carriers are subjected to an in-depth onsite evaluation to validate both DOT and DOE requirements. Carriers must meet DOE requirements, which exceed the minimum standards established by DOT, including:

- verifiable years of experience transporting hazardous materials,
- ability to respond to hazardous material incidents occurring enroute,
- proof of adequate levels of insurance, and
- continued training of drivers and operations personnel in the handling and transporting of hazardous materials.

Additional onsite evaluations may be performed on carriers as a result of issues identified during the carrier monitoring process.

### **Stage 3 – Carrier Monitoring:**

Carriers that successfully complete stages 1 and 2 are "approved" for use by traffic managers throughout the DOE complex. Once approved, carriers are continuously monitored and will be graded on their operational performance for DOE. Each DOE installation will submit an annual End User Survey reflecting the performance of each carrier serving that facility. Carriers will be evaluated twice a year using updated DOT statistics, current corporate information supplied by the carrier, and data from recently completed DOE facility End User Surveys. Carriers who fail to provide updated information or whose DOT statistics or End User Survey results fall below DOE minimum requirements will be notified and given a specific timeframe in which to resolve discrepancies. Carriers who continue to operate below minimum requirements will be dropped from the program.

DOE traffic managers and contractor organizations can make their selection from the list of approved carriers, based on additional criteria such as the commodity to be transported, service area, types and availability of equipment, specialized services and rates.

Continual monitoring will greatly improve communication between the MCEP program, carriers, and Federal and contractor transportation personnel at DOE sites. In addition, the MCEP is now a proactive process that can identify carrier problems and

negative trends that can be addressed before they become serious enough to require removing a company from the list of approved carriers.

Additional information on DOE's National Transportation Program may be obtained from:

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U.S. Department of Energy  
Albuquerque Operations Office  
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Albuquerque, NM 87185-5400

Phone: 505-845-6134  
Fax: 505-845-5508

Website:  
<http://www.ntp.doe.gov/>

DOE Center for Environmental  
Management Information  
P.O. Box 23769  
Washington, DC 20026-3769

1-800-7EM-DATA  
1-800-736-3282

Website:  
<http://www.em.doe.gov/>

Transportation Resource Exchange Center  
ATR Institute  
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