



December 29, 2020

The Honorable David P. Pekoske
Administrator
Transportation Security Administration
601 12th Street South
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Mr. Pekoske:

Our national associations¹ represent thousands of CDL drivers with hazardous material endorsements (HME) nationwide. These drivers transport motor fuels and heating fuels to wholesale, commercial and retail end users and are recognized as essential employees under Department of Homeland Security COVID-19 emergency guidelines.

The Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) COVID-19 related waiver of security background checks and fingerprinting required for HME renewal ends on December 31, 2020. The TSA has no plans to extend the waiver despite the fact that lengthy COVID-19 related CDL and HME processing delays continue at state licensing agencies (SLA) nationwide. Currently, the majority of SLA's continue to require appointments for CDL/HME renewals. Often, these appointments require drivers to wait several months until their scheduled appointment date arrives.

If left unaddressed, these delays will leave thousands of drivers unable to renew their HMEs by the December 31, 2020 waiver deadline. Without valid HMEs, drivers will be unable to deliver the fuel that drives our economy. Moreover, residential deliveries of heating fuels will suffer significant delays at the height of the winter heating season.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) recognizes that SLA processing delays remain a significant barrier to CDL driver credential renewal. In response, the FMCSA extended its CDL renewal waiver, set to expire on December 31, 2020, to February 28, 2021.

Given the continuing processing delays at SLAs for both CDL and HME credentials, we urge TSA to extend the waiver for driver security background checks and fingerprinting to February 28, 2021 so that HMEs due to expire after December 31, 2020 remain valid and a disruption to the energy distribution chain is averted.

Sincerely,

Energy Marketers of America
National Association of Convenience Stores
National Association of Truckstop Operators
Society of Independent Gasoline Marketers of America

¹ EMA member associations represent wholesalers and retailers of gasoline, diesel, heating oil, lubricants and renewable fuels. Additionally, these companies supply motor fuels to 40,000 independently owned retail outlets. NACS is an international trade association representing the convenience store industry with more than 2,200 retail and 1,600 supplier companies as members, the majority of whom are based in the United States. NATSO currently represents approximately more than 3,000 travel plazas and truck stops nationwide, comprised of both national chains and small, independent locations. SIGMA represents a diverse membership of approximately 260 independent chain retailers and marketers of motor fuel.