Driver selection is the foundation for a good fleet safety program. One of the most important selection criteria is the driving record of the candidate. Hiring a driver with a poor driving record can expose the company to severe liability and punitive damage costs. Court awards can exceed the limits of liability on an insurance policy, thus causing financial distress to some businesses. Therefore, every effort should be made to select only those candidates who meet specified safe driving standards.

An MVR evaluation program can assist you in screening new drivers and, in part, provide a basis for evaluating the driving practices of your current drivers on a continuing basis. The requirements for an objective, unbiased program include developing objective standards for MVR acceptability and then applying these standards consistently.

To be most effective, the MVR screening should be used in conjunction with the regulations of the Department of Transportation Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSR) that require a CDL driver to:

- Notify the CDL-issuing state of violations occurring in another state within 30 days of such occurrence – FMCSR 383.31(a)
- Notify the employer of any violation occurring in a state other than the state issuing the CDL of any violations within 30 days of such occurrence – FMCSR 383.31(b)
- In addition, FMCSR 391.25 requires that an MVR must be received on each driver annually. The MVR is a part of the required annual review documentation.

The MVR program should be applied to all drivers of company vehicles regardless of vehicle size and type, regardless of the nature of vehicle operations, and whether the vehicles are leased or owned. It should also be required for employees who use personal vehicles on company business.

The most reliable and convenient source of this information is the motor vehicle department in each state.