



## State Top Industry Issues Report 2024 Louisiana

### 1. Insurance Cost / Availability

- Educate the public on the role of lawsuit abuse in increasing consumer prices and insurance costs.
- Research trends in carrier safety management practices and their impact on insurance premium costs.
- Develop framework for potential upfront insurance premium reductions when drivers and carriers adopt proven safety technologies.

### 2. Lawsuit Abuse Reform

- Promote state-level reform to cap damages paid to plaintiffs in truck-involved crashes.
- Advocate for elimination of “phantom” medical damages.
- Quantify the impact of third-party litigation funding on trial outcomes.

### 3. Economy

- Identify and promote reforming / repealing ineffective and burdensome regulations that increase industry costs without providing benefits.
- Push for renewing the 2017 Federal income and corporate tax cuts that are set to expire in 2025.
- Advocate for reshoring and near-shoring of truck equipment and parts manufacturing to reduce the reliance on international supply chains.

### 4. Driver Shortage

- Support an industry-funded outreach program to improve the trucking industry’s image.
- Examine potential new pathways into truck driving careers for under-represented populations including military veterans, inner city youth, young adults aging out of foster care, and formerly incarcerated individuals, among others.
- Advocate for expanding interstate CDL eligibility to 18-20-year old drivers.

### 5. Fuel Prices

- Advocate for federal policies and actions that help stabilize the supply of fuel and minimize price increases.
- Research potential factors that may be affecting fuel availability and pricing volatility.

### 6. Driver Distraction

- Encourage harsher penalties and more aggressive enforcement of distracted driving laws for all motorists.
- Advocate for national standards for distracted driving laws for all motorists.
- Research and quantify the role of car driver distraction in car-truck crashes.

Issues and strategies are listed in order as ranked by Louisiana-based respondents.

## **7. Compliance, Safety, Accountability (CSA)**

- Work with FMCSA to update its carrier prioritization methodology, improve its accuracy, continuously review and evaluate crash preventability factors, and enhance transparency in CSA.
- Advocate for FMCSA to speed up the DataQ process by improving internal processes for reviewing Request for Data Reviews (RDRs).
- Encourage FMCSA to review and address enforcement disparities / geographic variations in enforcement between states and local jurisdictions that impact CSA scores, which may unfairly penalize carriers based solely on where they operate.

## **8. Driver Training Standards**

- Work with driver training schools to develop and / or update “best practices” and model curricula.
- Evaluate the role of FMCSA’s Training Provider Registry in improving driver training.
- Research the impact of Entry-Level Driver Training regulations on highway safety.

## **9. Transportation Infrastructure / Congestion / Funding**

- Advocate for a new funding program to focus federal resources on truck bottlenecks along major freight corridors.
- Support legislation that would limit the expansion of congestion-pricing programs in metropolitan areas.
- Develop national guidance for a potential mileage-based user fee system to ensure that collection costs are minimized, policies are consistent between states, and rates do not discriminate against trucking operations.

## **10. Autonomous Trucks**

- Assess the legal liabilities and insurance implications of fully and semi-autonomous trucks.
- Work with state and federal agencies to develop interstate requirements, standards and policies for seamless use of automated trucks.
- Identify new and remaining truck driver responsibilities needed for fully and semi-autonomous trucks.