

Data Quality (DataQs)



Request a review of FMCSA-Issued Data

For most companies in the commercial trucking industry, managing safety and managing costs are two key priorities. Managing safety and costs helps ensure compliance with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), another top priority. Not only can FMCSA violations create significant safety and liability risks for truck drivers and trucking companies, they can also lead to fines, increased insurance rates, and other unwanted expenditures that can raise the cost of doing business.

Due to these concerns, when a driver or company receives a roadside violation or citation from a state enforcement agency or the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), the company should promptly consider its options for challenging the violation or citation and, if necessary, submit a request for review through FMCSA DataQs system.

Successfully challenging a violation can also ensure the company maintains an accurate and favorable company snapshot and company safety profile (CSP) which can be critical to avoiding unnecessary operational costs.

Do you have a roadside inspection that's incorrect?

Whether you're a driver or a motor carrier, you can challenge the incorrect inspection report to have it removed from your record. When you want to challenge an incorrect violation, a crash that meets the challenge guidelines, or an inspection assigned to you in error, you can achieve this through the DataQ process.

What is Data Quality (DataQs)?

DataQs is an online system created specifically for commercial drivers and motor carriers. It's a place where they can submit their concerns about publicly-available state and federal data, which is commonly found in the FMCSA data system.

Where do I start?

Start by creating an account on the DataQs website at: dataqs.fmcsa.dot.gov. If you already have an FMCSA portal account, you can log in to the portal (portal.fmcsa.dot.gov) and access DataQs from there. You'll need your DOT number and PIN to get full functionality. If you lost your DOT-assigned PIN, the website has instructions for requesting it.

It's important to provide detailed information in the system that pertains to the carrier, driver, vehicle, or data that's being disputed. The supporting documentation that's required ranges from state to state and is determined case by case. The determination should be based on all evidence presented by the requestor and/or documentation provided by the inspector or officer who recorded the crash or inspection data.

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Tips for success for DataQs

Homework and being able to support your argument are the keys to being successful. Doing your homework involves:

- Checking your facts. Make sure you know what actually happened. This means interviewing everyone involved and investigating, not just “taking someone’s word for it.”
- Checking the regulations and official interpretations and comparing them to the situation. If you don’t have the regulatory and enforcement expertise, use an outside source to help you.
- Putting together a well-thought-out argument to be used in the narrative.
- Making sure you’re clear about what you’re challenging.
- Being specific, not general.
- Referencing the correct regulation and interpretations.
- Stating facts, not opinions.
- Being clear, concise, and accurate.
- Providing supporting documents through an upload. Driver rosters, vehicle lists, a copy of the regulations involved, statements from the driver or a mechanic, and the report involved (crash or inspection) are all examples of supporting documents.
- Providing any pictures that support your argument. A picture is worth a thousand words! Remember, drivers have Smartphones. Don’t forget to ask the driver if he/she has any pictures.

Are you holding annual reviews with employees to review citations that were reduced via a successful DataQ challenge?

Reviewing your DOT inspection data each month helps keep your fleet moving and not involved with frequent inspections based on your last two years of inspection data. Inspections result in down time for the driver and unit. Poor ongoing results can negatively impact company revenues. With the rolling results of FMCSA and SMS, it takes time to correct the past.

DataQ questions contact:

<https://dataqs.fmcsa.dot.gov/ContactUs/Default.aspx>

DataQs Technical Support at (877) 688-2984