



When the Data Is Wrong

DataQs and Crash Preventability Determinations

Your fleet's safety record deserves a regular review. Errors in inspection and crash data can affect how your business is evaluated. FMCSA provides tools to request corrections and seek a preventability review for eligible crashes.

Use DataQs to challenge inaccurate records

FMCSA's DataQs system lets carriers, drivers and their representatives request a review of federal or state safety data they believe is incomplete or incorrect. Submit a Request for Data Review at dataqs.fmcsa.dot.gov, identify the disputed record and provide a clear explanation with supporting evidence. The agency responsible for the data reviews the request.

Common reasons to request a review include:

- A violation or inspection assigned to the wrong carrier or driver.
- Factual errors in the inspection report.
- An incorrect or duplicate violation code.
- Evidence that the cited safety standard was misapplied.

A successful review may correct or remove an inaccurate violation. That can affect SMS calculations, but a lower BASIC percentile is not guaranteed; other data and the scoring methodology also matter.

Build a clear evidence file

Keep the inspection report, driver and vehicle records, dated photos, relevant maintenance documents and any applicable court disposition. Explain the exact error and connect each supporting document to the correction requested. Monitor your request and answer follow-up questions promptly.

BASIC means Behavior Analysis and Safety Improvement Category. FMCSA uses these categories in its Safety Measurement System, or SMS, to help prioritize carriers for safety interventions.

Request a crash preventability review

The Crash Preventability Determination Program, or CPDP, reviews eligible crash types. Submit the request through DataQs with the required police accident report and supporting evidence, such as photos or video. Eligibility depends on the crash date and circumstances.

An FMCSA determination of Not Preventable excludes that crash from the Crash Indicator BASIC calculation. The crash remains visible in SMS, and the determination is also noted in the driver's Pre Employment Screening Program record.

Examples of eligible scenarios include a commercial motor vehicle struck by a wrong-way or impaired motorist, a motorist whose medical issue contributed to the crash, or a motorist who failed to stop at a traffic control device. Check FMCSA's full eligibility list before submitting. A belief that your driver was not at fault does not automatically establish eligibility or a Not Preventable determination.

Five steps to take this month

Review your SMS profile monthly. Check your BASIC measures and underlying inspection and crash records. Do not wait for an intervention notice.

Audit every inspection. Compare reported violations with your driver, vehicle and operational records. Flag discrepancies early.

Submit supported requests promptly. Gather evidence while it is fresh. Check current DataQs instructions and the responsible agency's requirements rather than relying on a blanket two-year filing deadline.

Maintain a separate crash file. Keep a log of DOT-recordable crashes, police reports, photos, video and your internal contributing-factor review. Use it to support eligible CPDP requests.

Train drivers on inspection outcomes. Explain how violations affect the fleet's safety profile and may influence insurance underwriting and business opportunities. Reinforce accurate documentation and safe operation.

Talk with Karen and King

Preparing for renewal or exploring trucking insurance options? Contact Karen & King to discuss your operation and coverage needs. Bring an updated safety profile and documentation of completed data corrections or crash reviews.

CALL 844-818-6255 | VISIT www.KarenandKing.com

FMCSA resources • Verified October 1, 2026

DataQs and Help Center: <https://dataqs.fmcsa.dot.gov/HelpCenter/Faqs>

CPDP eligibility and submission guidance: <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/crash-preventability-determination-program>

Safety Measurement System: <https://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/SMS/>