



APRIL 2020

By Gary Petty, president and CEO of the National Private Truck Council. His column appears monthly in *Fleet Owner*. The council's website is [www.nptc.org](http://www.nptc.org).



## NPTC 2020 HAS BEEN CANCELED

Upon recommendation and approval of NPTC's treasurer and general counsel, the Executive Committee of the NPTC Board of Directors has canceled the NPTC 2020 Annual Conference and Exhibition due to the COVID-19 virus.

This decision is made in the best interest of the safety and welfare of all parties involved. It is also in response to the Governor of Ohio's State of Emergency orders recommending then prohibiting

that mass meetings scheduled in the state be canceled. The World Health Organization has declared the COVID-19 crisis officially a pandemic, and the U.S. government has banned travel from European Union countries into the United States. Many local and state jurisdictions around the country have issued orders recommending or requiring cancellations or limits on participation in all non-essential mass meetings.

## NPTC MEETS WITH FMCSA OFFICIALS

Several weeks ago, NPTC President and CEO Gary Petty, Executive VP Tom Moore, and General Counsel Rick Schweitzer met with the entire senior staff of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, including Acting Administrator Jim Mullen, Chief Counsel Alan Hansen, Chief Safety Officer Jack Van Steenburg, Director of the Office of Policy Larry Minor, and Director of the Office of Enforcement Joe DeLorenzo.

FMCSA noted the website for its Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse now includes information on how carriers must respond when they are unable to access the database due to technical issues:

On January 6, FMCSA posted a notice on the Clearinghouse home page that the system was experiencing technical issues, which made it difficult for employers to conduct pre-employment queries. These technical issues have been addressed. For those drivers who were hired without a pre-employment query, employers must now access the Clearinghouse to conduct pre-employment queries as required by §

382.701(1).

If the Clearinghouse experiences a recurrence of this issue, a notification will be placed on the home page informing employers that you may hire a driver using solely the procedures set forth in 49 CFR 391.23(e). If no such notification is on the home page, the requirement to conduct pre-employment queries prior to engaging a driver in safety-sensitive functions are in effect.

In addition, the agency indicated it was working on a final rule on driver hours of service, and discussed the difficulties in implementing an Item Response Theory system to replace the methodology in the Safety Management System of CRS. The officials were unable to provide any anticipated date for either the HOS rule or the IRT model going into effect, however.

NPTC provided information on the latest private fleet benchmarking survey and discussed adoption of vehicle safety technology, including speed limiters, as one means of addressing crash risk and higher liability insurance costs.

## NPTC/J.J. KELLER FREE WEBCASTS

NPTC and J.J. Keller & Associates teamed up once again to host a series of safety compliance webcasts. The webcasts, which are free to all NPTC members, will begin next month and will focus on the following topics:

**May 20: Using DataQs to challenge accident determination**—In this webcast we will review what the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) considers an accident, how carriers are to record them, and the process of challenging the DOT classification of the accident via FMCSA's DataQs website.

**May 21: Accident protocols**—What do you need to do in the first critical hours after an accident, or in the weeks, months, and even years that follow?

**July 15: Roadside inspections**—This webcast will help reduce the stress and the mysteries when it comes to roadside inspections and help improve the outcomes when it comes to them.

**July 16: How to survive a DOT safety audit**—Discussed will be the different types of investigations conducted by FMCSA; how to prevent an audit; top violations discovered during audits; and steps necessary to be prepared for an audit.

**October 14: Driver fatigue and hours of service**—Hours-of-service regulations as they stand today and any official action that might be underway to change them will be discussed.

**October 15: Medical qualifications for drivers**—Driver qualification file requirements and updates to background materials used by medical examiners will be discussed.

## 2020 BENCHMARKING SURVEY REPORT

NPTC has launched the data collection for the 2020 NPTC Private Fleet Benchmarking Survey Report, which is sponsored by Trimble Transportation. This survey is designed for the benefit of our fleet members as they seek to compare their operation to other best-in-class performers, thereby validating performance and identifying areas of opportunity.

The case for private fleet justification has never been stronger, and the value of participating in NPTC's Benchmarking Survey Report has never been greater. Last year, 120 NPTC private fleet member companies representing a broad cross-section of industries, markets, and customers contributed data to last year's Benchmarking Survey Report—the largest number in NPTC history. We hope to meet and exceed this target for 2020. We greatly welcome and appreciate your participation.

The Benchmarking Survey helps "sell" the private fleet to owners and upper management. Top decision-makers often do not realize, or underestimate, the significant differentiated value and essential core importance that

the fleet contributes to the company's overall success.

In addition, the survey provides the fleet management team with comparative metrics to quantify the superior customer service, driver dependability, cost, and safety which the fleet provides versus outside carriers.

Upon request, NPTC provides participating companies with a customized data analysis showing how their individual data compares with the aggregate data of comparable companies in their field as well as a comparison with the overall national data collected for all private fleet respondents to the survey. Dozens of companies contributing to last year's survey report took advantage of this value-added service.

All responses to the survey are kept completely confidential. Your company's name, individual data, and responses will remain anonymous and will not be disclosed in any way or shared with other companies. Rather, they will be combined with the results of other fleet members to produce "a state of the industry" report based on aggregated data and analysis.

## NPTC/IDEALEASE 2020 SAFETY SEMINAR SCHEDULE

NPTC and Idealease Inc. have announced the dates and locations for their 2020 Safety Compliance Seminar Series. These seminars, which attracted more than 3,000 attendees last year, will give you the strategies and information you need to comply with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) regulations and navigate safety and compliance in 2020.

Co-sponsored by Idealease and NPTC, the seminars provide a source of information and training that fleet managers need to comply with regulations, understand the carrier analysis process and prepare for FMCSA intervention and compliance reviews.

Using the regulations as an outline for the entire seminar, topics are presented in a logical sequence beginning with definitions, an overview of enforcement activities, and guidelines to develop your own safety program. Topics include: review of safety technologies; electronic logging devices; review of new and proposed regulations; update on FMCSA's CSA program; applicability of federal and state safety regulations; driver qualifications; drug and alcohol testing; and vehicle maintenance.

To register for any of these seminars, go to [www.idealease.com/safety-seminar-registration](http://www.idealease.com/safety-seminar-registration) or contact Dave Helge, CTP, at 847-304-3190.

## coming events...

Mark your calendars now for the following upcoming events:

- **August 1**—Release of the NPTC Benchmarking Survey Report, which is sponsored by Trimble Transportation
- **September 9-11**—National Safety Conference, Orlando, FL

## NPTC/J.J. KELLER WEBCASTS:

- **May 20**—Using DATAQs to challenge accident determinations
- **May 21**—Accident protocols
- **July 15**—Roadside inspections
- **July 16**—How to survive a DOT safety audit
- **October 14**—Driver fatigue and hours of service
- **October 15**—Medical qualifications for drivers

## WASHINGTON REPORT CONFERENCE CALL

As a reminder, all NPTC members are invited and encouraged to participate in the Washington Report, a monthly conference call of the Legislative and Regulatory Committee featuring NPTC General Counsel Rick Schweitzer. The meeting is held on the second Monday of each month at 11:30 a.m. EST.

## CTP EXAM

On February 8, 93 candidates sat for the 2020 Certified Transportation Professional (CTP) exam at 33 locations. In addition, 17 CTPs volunteered to grade the case study and short-answer essay portions of the exam on February 17-18 in Jacksonville.