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FMCSA Driver and Management Research Study: Telephone Survey Instrument

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Driver and Management Training
Needs for Small Passenger Vehicle Carriers

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Submitted to:

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Introduction: Hello, I am _____ from the Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg. We're part of a team doing research for the Department of Transportation to identify the kinds of safety information van and limousine operators need to improve their safety efforts. We are calling only to do research to increase safety; this is not a telemarketing call.

I'd like to ask you some questions about your company. The information that you provide may be used to develop educational tools for small passenger vehicle operators like your company."

(1) Does your company operate 9 to 15 passenger vans or limos?
Yes _____ no _____

[If the answer is 'no,' thank them and end the interview.]

During this survey, we need your candid responses so we can learn from your everyday experience and meet the needs of business owners and operators like yourself around the country. Your answers will be anonymous. We will not associate your company's name with the responses you give.

The survey will only take about 15 minutes.

(2) Can you help me with the survey questions?
[Repeat introduction if necessary]

(3) What is your current job with the company?

Owner _____ Manager _____ Driver _____ Mechanic _____

Other (specify) _____

Thank you for your help with this research. We're collecting information about the best ways to provide safety information and training for your drivers and managers. Your company is already registered and has a U.S. DOT number so we know that the safety of your passengers is important to your company. We hope that learning a bit about your safety practices will help other van and limo operators across the country operate more safely.

(4) How many 9-15 passenger vans and limos do you operate?
a. Number of vans _____, Number of limos _____

(5) Do you offer passenger service in more than 2 states in the U.S. or in Mexico or Canada?

a. Yes _____
b. No _____

- (6) On average, how many miles do you estimate all your 9-15 passenger vans or limos traveled in 2005?
- a. _____miles
 - b. I don't know
- (7) On average, how many passengers do your vehicles carry at one time?
- a. Number: _____
- (8) When you have mechanical work done on your vehicles, is the main reason (choose one)
- a. Scheduled maintenance based on mileage or time
 - b. Repairs for problems reported by drivers
 - c. Repairs after a vehicle brakes down
 - d. Periodic inspections

[Skip the following question if the company only operates limos]

- (8) When transporting passengers in your vans, do you often (please indicate yes or no to all that apply)
- a. Stow luggage behind the rear seat
 - b. Stow luggage on the roof
 - c. Tow a trailer for luggage
 - d. We rarely carry luggage
- (9) How many drivers work for your company now? How many full-time? How many part-time?
- a. Total _____
 - b. Full-time _____
 - c. Part-time _____

- (10) Do your drivers work a regular shift or does their schedule change frequently?
- a. Drivers always or usually work the same shift_____
 - b. Drivers occasionally work the same shift
 - c. Drivers work schedules usually change frequently
- (11) How often do your drivers drive between midnight and 6 a.m.?
- a. All of the time or most of the time_____
 - b. Occasionally_____
 - c. Never or rarely_____
- (12) Last week, on average, how many hours per day did your drivers work? This includes their total time on duty (driving taking tickets, loading, waiting, etc.)?
- a. Number_____
 - b. I don't know
- (13) Was this a normal week for your drivers or do they usually work longer or shorter hours?
- a. Longer hours (number)_____
 - b. Shorter hours (number):_____
 - c. About the same:_____
- (14) On a normal workday, what activities do drivers typically perform? I will read a list. Please say yes or no to each activity.
- a. Check that passenger seatbelts are working
 - b. Check tire pressure
 - c. Inspect vehicle lights, wipers, mirrors, and windshield
 - d. Report problems with their vehicle to the company in a written inspection report
 - e. Record hours worked in a driver's log book

- (15) Are your drivers required to wear a safety belt?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
- (16) How many of your passengers wear seat belts when they travel with you?
- A. All or almost all _____
 - B. Some _____
 - C. None or almost none _____
- (15) I will now read a list of practices your company might have to monitor the safety of its drivers. Please say "yes" or "no" to each practice.
- A. The company keeps a file on each driver.
 - B. Managers periodically ride along with drivers.
 - C. Managers discuss problems with drivers when customers complain.
 - D. Managers keep a list all accidents.
 - E. Managers review the drivers' record from the DMV.
 - F. The company requires a medical examination for drivers.
 - G. The company checks references from previous employers.
 - H. The company requires new drivers to pass a road test.
 - I. The company provides training for drivers.
 - J. Managers regularly discuss safety issues with drivers

We're almost done. There are only a few more questions.

- (16) In the past 12 months, have you obtained any safety or training information for your drivers?
- A. Yes
 - B. No [If no, skip to question 18]

(17) If yes, where do you get safety and training information for you or your drivers? Please say "yes" or "no" when I read each source.

- A. I have not collected safety or training information
- B. Driver licensing agency or Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)
- C. Federal and State Regulations
- D. Government agency publications
- E. Industry and business associations
- F. Insurance company
- G. Driving school, community college, or formal training
- H. Friends and associates in the trucking or bus industry
- I. Newspapers and magazines
- J. Internet
- K. You already have most of the information you need
- L. You create your own training
- M. Other (please specify): _____

(18) If you operate 15-passenger vans, have your drivers reported any handling problems when the van is fully loaded?

- A. Yes _____
- B. No _____
- C. I don't know _____

(19) If they did report any handling problems, what do you and your drivers do to address problems? (open-ended)

Closing

Finally, there are four more questions. These are open-ended questions where you can express your opinion and offer other ideas.

- (20) **In your opinion, what are the most important actions you and your managers and drivers can take to ensure 9-15 passenger vehicle carriers operate safely? (open-ended)**

- (21) **What safety information would be most useful to you for operating and managing these types of vehicles? (open-ended)**

- (22) **If you could share advice regarding safety matters with other companies like yours, what would you tell them? (open-ended)**

- (23) **Is there anything else you would like to add? (open-ended)**

Thank you for your participation in this survey.