

TITLE: Appendix H of "Administrative Review, Analysis, and Recommendations for California Heavy Vehicle Operator Licensing Program"

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PROTECT OBJECTIVE:

In conjunction with a project intended to develop enhanced licensing procedures for heavy-vehicle operators, data on all original and 65,000 renewal drivers licensed to drive heavy commercial vehicles (class 1 and 2 drivers) were analyzed.

SUMMARY:

It was found that class 1 and 2 drivers had nearly twice as many accidents as class 3 drivers (operators of personal passenger vehicles). Among class 1 and 2 drivers, it was found that younger drivers had more accidents, and that less experienced drivers, within all age categories, had more accidents. However, the importance of experience was not as great among older drivers.

Class 1 drivers (licensed to operate articulated trucks as well as smaller vehicles) whose drive tests were waived because they presented a certificate of experience issued by a departmentally approved company, had fewer heavy-vehicle accidents than did those required to take the test; however, the opposite was true for class 2 drivers (buses, non-articulated heavy trucks). Because random assignment to licensing groups was not employed, this was not interpreted as being a measure of the relative efficacy of the two licensing programs.

Tables showing the subsequent accident records of drivers with different numbers of prior accidents, and prior and concurrent convictions, were generated and are presented. For all variables, a prior record showing more traffic accidents proved to be predictive of a higher subsequent accident rate. Prior records of accidents and convictions were found to be more accurate predictors of subsequent total accidents than of subsequent heavy-vehicle accidents.

Additional data are presented on the mean total and heavy-vehicle accident and conviction records of heavy vehicle operators classified by age, original versus renewal licensing status, certificate of experience versus drive-test licensing procedure, and class of license.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Some of the recommendations were embodied in the United States Commercial Driver License Act and in subsequent collateral California statutes.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

This data analysis was published as Appendix H of Furtado, B. F., Saenz, P.L., and Eskin, C. G., *Administrative Review, Analysis, and Recommendations for California Heavy Vehicle Operator Licensing Program*. Sacramento: California Department of Motor Vehicles, April 1983.