

## **D. Wylie Associates Truck and Bus Driver Fatigue and Error Analysis**

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### **Fatigue and Error**

Driver error is the most common cause of traffic accidents, and in truck and bus crashes, driver error is often caused by fatigue. Inattention, drowsiness, “looked but did not see,” and “driving without awareness” result in delays of perception, comprehension, and reaction. Sleep debt, long hours, irregular schedules, circadian rhythms, and other human factors often underlie these impairments. The question is more complex than simply determining compliance with Federal hours-of-service rules. Drivers in compliance may be fatigued; drivers not in compliance may not be fatigued. However, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations are clear in defining responsibility to the motor carrier to insure that a driver is qualified to drive a commercial motor vehicle, has sufficient hours of service available under the rules, and is not ill or fatigued. Proper analysis of these issues requires specialized scientific expertise that we can provide.

### **Unique Qualifications**

Dennis Wylie was Principal Investigator of the largest study of commercial driver fatigue. The study was done for the U.S. DOT and Transport Canada (Canada’s DOT), and he has written technical reports and peer-reviewed journal articles detailing the results. He is thoroughly familiar with motor carrier standard of care, and he is principal author of the official Commercial Driver’s Manual, adopted by all States, which defines commercial driver standard of care. All commercial drivers in the United States – more than 9,000,000 so far – have been licensed under the system developed by Dennis Wylie and his colleagues for the U.S. Department of Transportation and set out in 49 CFR 383 “Commercial Driver’s License Standards.”

### **Nationwide Services**

D. Wylie Associates offers comprehensive expert witness services for plaintiff and defense.