

# MCO Currents



MCO TRANSPORT, INC.  
GEARED FOR INNOVATION...DRIVEN BY EXCELLENCE.

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## MCO Transport Celebrates It's 30<sup>th</sup> Year!



1985-Founder Hugh McComas with MCO's first brand-new trucks

MCO Transport was formed in 1976, when founder, Hugh G. McComas, owner of MCO Industries, Inc., purchased Wilmington Port Kilns, and their trucking operation, WPK Trucking. The lumber yard and truck terminal were located in downtown Wilmington, NC, at the old foot of the Isabella Holmes Bridge.

of 1985. Later that year, MCO made it's first purchase of new tractors; twelve 1986 Freightliners. In January of 1986, Danny McComas was named President of MCO Transport, and in 1987, MCO's headquarters moved into a brand-new facility on Hwy. 421.

New trucks, a new terminal, and the expansion into bulk commodities were only the first of the changes and growth that would come about under Danny's leadership. Foreseeing an eventual decline in Wilmington port business, he steered the Wilmington operation away from containers, with a new focus on specialized commodities and domestic freight.

Originally intended to compliment the Charleston terminal and provide better service to their container customers, a terminal in Savannah, GA was opened in the early 1990's. However, with the explosive growth of the Georgia Port, and winning the business of Georgia Pacific in Brunswick, that terminal now boasts the highest annual revenues company-wide.

In early 1999, Danny McComas became not only President, but Owner of MCO Transport. Danny's vision for MCO, "to be not the biggest, but rather the best," has kept the company on a steady course of controlled growth.

Eventually, headquarters outgrew the office space at the Wilmington terminal, and in 2002, the Administrative offices were moved to the second story of a warehouse facility owned by MCO. Today, MCO operates a fleet of 97 late model company trucks with 52 owner/operators; and last year, expanded it's scope of operation again with the opening of their warehouse, MCO Logistics and Distribution, also in Wilmington.

Throughout it's 30-year history, MCO has steadfastly maintained an unwavering commitment to it's customers and employees. This commitment is at the heart of MCO's success and is certain to guide it's future endeavors.

**Happy Anniversary MCO!**

In the early years, MCO's primary business was transporting containers to and from the Port of Wilmington, as well as woodpulp for Riegel Paper (now International Paper) in Riegelwood, NC. The entire fleet consisted of about 16 drivers; half owner/operator and half company. The first company trucks were Ryder lease units, eventually replaced by a tiny fleet of used tractors. In the early 1980's, the Charleston terminal was opened, hauling containers with about 10 lease and 3 company trucks.



In 1983, MCO purchased Parmenter Transport, a Wilmington dump operation. When the two companies were merged a short time later, MCO's company fleet was increased to just over 20 company drivers and tractors, and the company expanded into the business of hauling bulk commodities.

Hugh McComas brought his son, Danny, into the business in April

## William Etheridge Named Director of Safety



MCO Transport is pleased to welcome William (Bill) Etheridge to the MCO Team as Director of Safety and Recruiting.

A former driver, himself, Bill brings to us over 30 years of experience in transportation safety and driver training. He will be leaving Commercial Transportation in Philadelphia, PA, where he has been the Director of Safety and Security for the past 13 years, and joining us on September 11th. Prior to CTI, Bill was Director of Safety and Personnel and Director of Maintenance with Reisch Trucking

in Pennsauken, NJ; and Driver Trainer with Rentar Corporation in Glendale, NY. He has been an active member of the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Motor Truck Associations, and of the Smart-Way Transportation Partnership run by the EPA.

With Bill's wealth of knowledge and experience, we are looking forward to making significant and positive changes to our safety program. Changes that will help meet our goal to continually improve safety, and enhance the professional development of our driving team.

Bill will be based at the Wilmington terminal; making frequent visits to our South Carolina and Georgia locations.

### Welcome Aboard!

- Brian Atkinson - WIL Driver
- Kevin Cromwell - WIL Driver
- Darell Young - BRU Driver
- Raymond Bates - CHS Driver
- Richard Leeds - WIL Driver
- Benjamin Wilson - SAV Owner/Operator

## What is SafeStat? (And Why You Should Care)

**SafeStat** is a system that determines the relative safety status of motor carriers. It was developed for and is managed by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).

Data is compiled from roadside inspections, compliance reviews (DOT audits) and state accident records. The data is used to derive scores for four Safety Evaluation Areas (SEAs); Accident, Driver, Vehicle and Safety Management.

The graph to the left, shows MCO's current SEA values. What these numbers indicate is that 62.12% of carriers have better driver SEAs than MCO, and 62.49% have better vehicle SEAs. The lower the number, the better the score.

Driver SEA is based on the number of driver OOS violations and moving violations over the last 30 months. Vehicle SEA is determined by the number of vehicle OOS violations.

One of the uses of SafeStat data is to identify carriers for on-site compliance reviews. Carriers with two SEAs of 75 or higher are earmarked for audits.

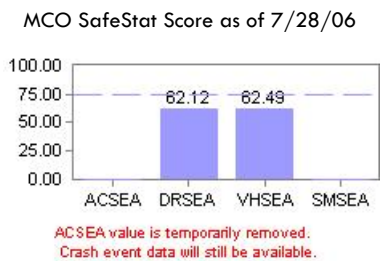
SafeStat results are also available online via the internet to customers and the public. Most larger companies use SafeStat information in their carrier selection process. They compare the scores of carriers competing for their business.

Another use of SafeStat is for the Inspection Selection System (ISS). ISS is a decision-aid, which guides safety inspectors in selecting vehicles for inspection on the road. When inspectors see a vehicle, they check the carrier's ISS value, and decide whether or not to inspect the truck, and the level of inspection.

The higher the SafeStat numbers, the higher the ISS values. As you can see below, drivers for carriers with high numbers are in for a

Recommendation	ISS Inspection Value
<b>Inspect</b> ( <i>inspection warranted</i> )	75-100
<b>Optional</b> ( <i>may be worth a look</i> )	50-74
<b>Pass</b> ( <i>no inspection required</i> )	1-49

rough time; and drivers for carriers with low scores are frequently given a free pass.



“ISS IS A DECISION-AID WHICH GUIDES SAFETY INSPECTORS IN SELECTING VEHICLES FOR INSPECTION ON THE ROAD.”

Watch for monthly updates on MCO's SafeStat scores and tips for helping improve them.

If you have any suggestions, or ideas for the newsletter, we'd love to hear from you!

You can email [ideas@mcotransport.com](mailto:ideas@mcotransport.com) or call Debbie Kern at 800-239-0869, ext. 113 or Jim Jordan at ext. 120.

### .....so where does that put our drivers?

Well, according to the SafeStat website, with an ISS value of 64, our drivers are somewhere in between. If our value goes higher, our roadside inspections will be more frequent and more in-depth. If our numbers go down, our inspections will be less frequent and/or less in-depth.

So why should we care about SafeStat? The answers are obvious. First and foremost, because it's a measure of our commitment to safety and the well-being of the public and our drivers.

Low SafeStat numbers reduce the likelihood

Inspection Selection System (ISS-2) Recommendation* (As of July 28, 2006)	
Carrier Name: MCO TRANSPORT INC US DOT #: 157596 MC #: 14286	
ISS Inspection Value:	<b>64</b>
ISS Recommendation:	<b>OPTIONAL</b>
Basis for Recommendation:	<b>Safety</b>

of an on-site DOT audit; and minimize the aggravation and lost time our drivers face on the road, with fewer and less in-depth

roadside inspections.

Good SafeStat scores ensure that we maintain existing good customers and increase the likelihood of winning out on bids for new ones.

How do we reduce our scores? Perform thorough pre-trip inspections, regularly re-check equipment on long trips; abide by the hours of service regulations and keep accurate and up-to-date logs; obey traffic laws; and most of all, DRIVE SAFELY!!

For more information on SafeStat and to see in-depth information on inspections, visit their website at <http://ai.volpe.dot.gov/SafeStat/disclaimer.asp>

## September Celebrations!

### Birthdays

- Ricky Roll Sept. 11
- Danny Schneider Sept. 13
- Willy Willette Sept. 15
- Darryl Simmonds Sept. 16
- Festus Jackson Sept. 17
- Cherry Ross Sept. 22
- Gerald Kehler Sept. 26
- Linton Brooker Sept. 26
- Aaron Walker Sept. 27
- Jeff McKinney Sept. 27
- Jamie McGarry Sept. 29
- Bill Batley Sept. 30

### MCO Anniversaries

- Anthony Elliott WIL 9 years
- Art Hook WIL 7 years
- Kenny Rooks BRU 7 years
- Dale Bean CHS 6 years
- Teresa Newton WIL 2 years
- Kenneth Blair WIL 1 year

