

# between the WHITE LINES

A Bimonthly Safety Newsletter From



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## Logging Drug Tests & Roadside Inspections

Remember that all drug tests and roadside inspections must be properly logged as **On Duty Not Driving**.

Please contact the **Log Department at PGT Trucking** with any questions, comments or concerns at extension 408.

## Quarterly Maintenance Reports

Quarterly maintenance reports for all LP and IC equipment must be mailed or faxed to PGT Trucking's Compliance Department. Department of Transportation regulation §396.3 states: "Every motor carrier must retain these records for all equipment under its control." If you need a copy of the form, please contact the Compliance Department at extension 408. The fax number to submit completed reports is **(724) 987-1769**.

## Tips for Merging Safely

*No matter how experienced you are as a driver, it is always a sound practice to review rules of the road that will keep you safe and on your way. For instance, here are several tips for merging on to busy highways:*

- Make sure you are going fast enough to merge safely.
- Realize that you may have to slow down and move in behind the vehicle that is traveling beside you.
- Always keep an eye on how much of the merge lane remains. Merge lanes, even on the same highway, can vary greatly in length.
- Pay attention. Do not allow yourself to become distracted by other things.
- Remember to check whether or not you can stay in the lane you have just merged into. In several major cities, the right-most lane is a commuter lane open only during certain hours.
- Merge into traffic with at least one car length of space in front of your vehicle and behind your vehicle.
- It is your responsibility to merge into traffic. The traffic already on the highway has the right of way. You must adjust your speed accordingly and merge safely.
- Look at the highway traffic flow as soon as possible in order to help determine the opening you will merge into.
- There may be no merge area at the end of the ramp. This will be clearly indicated by signs such as "No Merge Area" or "Yield." In such cases, you might have to slow down, or even stop, to make sure you merge into an empty spot in the next lane.

## New Rule for Medical Exams

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) implemented a new requirement – as of **May 21, 2014** – specifying that drivers renewing their medical examiner's certificate after that date must have their exam conducted by a medical examiner who is listed in the National Registry of Medical Examiners.

You can find a certified medical examiner in your area by searching your zip code at:

**<https://nationalregistry.fmcsa.dot.gov/NRPublicUI/home.seam>**

You can also contact the Compliance Department at PGT Trucking for assistance.