

# Risk *topics*

## Motor Vehicle Record Criteria

### Introduction

Studies conducted on vehicle accidents have shown a direct correlation between past driving performance and accident experience. The drivers who were involved in these vehicle accidents have had more than one vehicle accident and/or violation during the thirty-six months preceding their accidents. Obtaining a current Motor Vehicle Record (MVR) of the potential driver is one of the best indicators to tell what kind of a risk that person presents to an organization when behind a wheel in a motorized vehicle.

State agencies are the general source of information on MVR checks when it comes to verifying the driver's driving records. With all new drivers, MVRs should be ordered for each State in which the applicant has held an operator's license. The check on MVRs should minimally go back three (3) years and be used as part of the overall Driver Selection Program. MVRs should also be ordered and reviewed annually for all drivers.

One of the most important functions of any organization is to establish criteria of what constitutes an acceptable driving record from a driver. Once criteria have been established, all drivers should be informed of the policy, and man-

agement should follow the criteria fairly and consistently. To assist your organization in establishing some basic MVR criteria, the following is an example of what some companies have used to categorize their violations:

**TYPE A VIOLATION** - Includes (but not limited to) DWI/DUI/OWI/OUI, Refusing Substance Test, Reckless Driving, Manslaughter, Hit & Run, Eluding a Police Officer, any Felony, Drag Racing, License Suspension, and Driving While License Suspended. Any driver with these types of violations is a major concern.

**TYPE B VIOLATION** - Includes all vehicle accidents, regardless of fault.

**TYPE C VIOLATION** - Includes all moving violations not classified as Type A or Type B. (Speeding, Improper Lane Change, Failure to Yield, running Red Lights or Stop Lights.)

**TYPE D VIOLATION** - Includes all non-moving violations (Illegal Parking or Vehicle Defects.)

Acceptable MVR Criteria should be established in conjunction with the Department of Transportation or other jurisdictional requirements, union agreements, and review by legal counsel.

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The following sample criteria are offered only for guidance in developing a suitable criteria for your Fleet Safety Program.

### Criteria

#### **Declination, Termination, or Reassignment to a Non-Driving Position:**

- One or more Type A Violations in preceding 36 months.
- Two or more Type B Violations in preceding 36 months.
- Three or more Type C Violations in preceding 36 months.
- One Type B Violation and two Type C Violations in preceding 36 months.

#### **Probation (6 Months):**

- One Type B Violation in preceding 36 months.
- Two Type C Violations in preceding 36 months.
- One Type C Violation and two Type D Violations in preceding 36 months.
- Three Type D Violations in preceding 36 months.

### Disclaimer

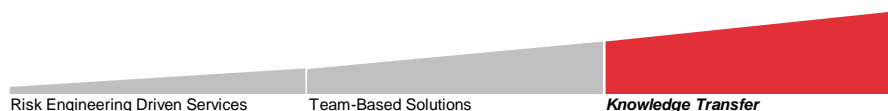
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### Conclusion

MVRs are an important part of any fleet safety program. It is the most important piece of information used in the area of driver selection driving responsibilities.

### References

1. *Fleet Safety Program Guide*, National Safety Council, Itasca, IL
2. "Motor Vehicle Records." *Motor Vehicle Reports*, April 1987, 2.6. Engineering and Safety Service. American Insurance Services Group.



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