

## DRIVER RECORDS

Regardless of what business you're in, the most deadly hazard faced by American workers is that of the road. More workers are killed in vehicular accidents than by any other cause. Since most accidents are the result of human error, not vehicular condition, one of the best controls available for vehicular accidents, is to properly screen drivers. One of the best tools available for screening drivers is the MVR, or Motor Vehicle Record, of the driver. This is a report, available from the state, listing all tickets, accidents, and other similar infractions for a given driver, over a set period of years (usually 3 years, or 7 years).

It is recommended that an MVR be obtained and reviewed **prior** to hiring an employee who will drive, and **certainly before allowing that employee to drive on company business**. MVR's should also be reviewed at least annually for all driving employees. This is the only way to be certain problems have not come up undetected. Drivers don't usually come in and announce a rash of speeding tickets, or a DUI. Many employers assume they know their employees well, and they'd know if they got a ticket. This isn't the case.

A criteria should be set up for the evaluation of MVR's and should be fairly and uniformly applied to all drivers. Drivers who do not meet the criteria, or who fall below the criteria, should not be hired for driving duties, or should be removed from driving duties until it can be demonstrated that the problem is resolved.

**In most states, MVR's can be obtained from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), or from the State Police or State Patrols.**

Typically, your request for MVR's must be in writing, and should include the following:

1. Subject's Full Name, as it appears on the drivers' license.
2. Subject's Date of Birth
3. Subject's Driver's License Number.
4. Written Permission from subject driver to check MVR.
5. Company Check or Money Order to cover costs of request(s).

The state agency responsible for MVR's can advise you on the specific details of how to obtain MVR's.

*If you're in a hurry*, there are other methods for obtaining MVR's, including requiring job applicants to bring their own MVR to the interview. Various information services, such as Validata, Equifax, and others, also can do "quick checks", and fax or telephone results to you. Relying on your auto insurer for MVR evaluation can backfire. It is not uncommon for a driver to be hired, and have a serious accident, **before** the MVR results reach you. It is also common for the paperwork to be lost, and the information never reaches you. It is acceptable to utilize your insurance agent, or auto insurer, if they offer the service, to provide you with annual MVR review information for *existing* drivers, *provided* you are given hard copies of the MVR's, and not just verbal information.