

DataQs State Implementation Plan



Alabama

**For Compliance with Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Revised
Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) Grant Requirements**

Date: September 2026

Purpose

In April 2026, FMCSA announced updated requirements for State participation in the DataQs system as a condition of receiving MCSAP grant funding. To comply with those requirements, each State must submit a DataQs State Implementation Plan. The following pages contain the key elements of the plan approved by FMCSA for Alabama.

DataQs State Implementation Plan

State: Alabama

MCSAP Lead Agency: Alabama Law Enforcement Agency

Initial Review Process

Roles and Responsibilities

- Persons responsible for managing DataQs for the organization
 - **Responsible Party:**
Training and Compliance Sergeant
 - **Supervisor(s):**
<intentionally left blank>
 - **Backups:**
<intentionally left blank>
 - **Interactions:**
<intentionally left blank>
- Person(s) responsible for decision-making for the Initial Review process
 - **Responsible Party:**
State DataQ Analyst.
 - **Supervisor(s):**
<intentionally left blank>
 - **Backups:**
<intentionally left blank>
 - **Interactions:**
<intentionally left blank>
- Person(s) consulted for additional information or evidence
 - **Responsible Party:**
Inspecting Officer (Inspection)
Investigative Officer (Crash)
ALEA Supervisor
FMCSA Division Office
 - **Supervisor(s):**
<intentionally left blank>
 - **Backups:**
<intentionally left blank>

- **Interactions:**
<intentionally left blank>

Process Description

- Receipt of RDR
 - **Responsible Party:**
State DataQ Analyst
 - **Process:**
Analysts receive RDRs through FMCSA's DataQs webpage which they access through the FMCSA Portal. Analysts also receive an email notification each time an RDR and/or response is submitted.
- Review of RDR
 - **Responsible Party:**
State DataQ Analyst
 - **Process:**
Review the RDR submission and verify the request was submitted under the appropriate RDR type.
Review all supporting documentation submitted by the requestor.
Review the record for which the RDR was filed.
Review any notes, videos/photos, or other available evidence provided by the officer (if applicable).
- Outcome of RDR
 - **Responsible Party:**
State DataQ Analyst
 - **Process:**
The analyst will review the RDR submission and verify the request was submitted to the appropriate agency and under the appropriate RDR type.
If the requestor submitted the RDR under the incorrect RDR type, the analyst will either:
Change the RDR to the appropriate type; or
Close the RDR, selecting Closed-No Data Correction Made explaining the reason the request was closed and providing instructions to the requestor to re-open the request and select appropriate RDR type.
If the requestor submitted the RDR to the incorrect agency, the analyst will use the DataQs system to forward the RDR to the correct agency.

If the analyst determines the RDR was properly submitted, he/she will review the following:

All supporting documentation submitted by the requestor.

Record for which the RDR was filed.

Notes, videos/photos, or other available evidence provided by the officer/inspector (if applicable).

The analyst will determine if the documentation provided was sufficient to develop an informed judgement regarding the request.

If the analyst determines that additional information or supporting documentation is required before an informed judgment can be made regarding the request, he/she will take the following steps:

Notify the requestor through DataQs that sufficient documentation and/or information is needed for an informed decision to be made regarding the request.

Notify the filer that the RDR will remain “Open-Pending Requestor Response” and that the RDR filer will have 14 calendar days to provide the necessary documentation through DataQs. This notification will include a statement notifying the requestor that if he/she fails to respond within 14 calendar days, the request will be closed and the status reflect “Closed-No Requestor Response” unless the analyst determines a decision can be made with the existing information.

- Closure of RDR

- **Responsible Party:**

- State DataQ Analyst

- **Process:**

- Each RDR closed, with the status “Closed—No Data Correction Made” must adequately explain the facts and analysis supporting the decision.

- Responses must contain the following information:

- Link to the State’s approved DataQs State Implementation Plan;

- Decision-maker (name and title);

- List of evidence reviewed;

- Decision;

- Specific reason(s) for decision; and

- Next steps for the requestor include how to appeal the decision (RDR Reconsideration process).

- Note: Procedural closures, such as “Closed—No Requestor Response” or “Closed—Insufficient Information,” do not constitute a substantive decision on the merits and are exempt from this detailed reporting requirement.

- Timeliness:

RDRs must be opened within seven calendar days of submission for the Initial Review request.

Initial Review - Analysts must respond to the Initial Review RDR within 21 calendar days of submission.

Additional Information Requests – When an analyst requests additional information from the requestor, the requestor has 14 calendar days to provide the requested information. The 14 calendar days do not count towards the timeline for ALEA's review.

Expected Outcomes for RDR Closures:

Closed—No Data Correction Made: The request has been closed, and the data will not be corrected.

Decision drivers:

Submitted evidence is insufficient or inconsistent with officer/inspector's documentation. Original report contains complete, corroborated source documentation (narrative, inspection form, crash report, citations).

The requestor's claim is opinion, interpretation, or legal dispute rather than factual error.

The issue raised is outside DataQs scope. (e.g., contesting a citation that must be resolved through judicial process).

The requestors claim, compared to the evidence/documentation submitted, fails to meet the burden of proof required to modify the record.

Closed—Data Correction Made: The request has been closed, and the data will be corrected.

Removed Violation(s): Your request has been reviewed. The following violation(s) - [List Violation(s) Here] - were cited in error and have been removed from the inspection report. The updated report has been uploaded to FMCSA's data system. For your records, the corrected report has been uploaded to the DataQs website.

Corrected Report/Violation(s): Your request has been reviewed. The officer made an error when [entering the information or citing the violation(s)] and the report was amended. The following amendment was made to the report: [Insert changes made to the report here]. The updated report was uploaded to FMCSA's data system. For your records, a copy of the amended report has been uploaded to the DataQs website.

Decision drivers:

Clear, verifiable documentation demonstrates an error (e.g., corrected VIN, driver identity, and/or location)

The agency's review reveals an error made by the officer.

Duplicate or clerical entry confirmed.

Closed—Citation Results Entered: The request has been closed, and the violation will be appended to reflect the outcome of the citation.

Decision drivers:

Official citation disposition is received and verifiable.

Closed—Report Not Sent: The request has been closed, but the requested inspection report was not sent.

Decision drivers:

Agency confirms the requested report cannot be located or was never created.

The record is restricted, sealed, or otherwise unavailable for release under state law or agency policy.

The requestor requested a copy but did not provide required documentation and/or processing fee.

The event falls outside the agency's retention period and the original documents were purged.

Closed—Report Sent: The request has been closed, and the agency sent the report. The agency may have faxed or uploaded the report to DataQs, or it may have sent the report directly via email or postal mail.

Decision drivers:

The requestor provided the required documentation and processing fee.

Closed—No Requestor Response: The request was closed because the requestor did not respond.

Decision drivers:

Agency requested additional evidence, clarification, or authorization and the requestor did not supply it within the required timeframe and the agency cannot make a determination using the existing information/documentation.

Communication:

All communication regarding the outcome of the RDR will be communicated in a detailed and timely response to the requestor through the DataQs platform.

Next Steps:

After a decision is made in DataQs, systems are updated on different schedules depending on the system.

Safety Measurement System (SMS) and Pre-Employment Screening Program (PSP):
Updated monthly. A snapshot is taken on the third or last Friday of each month. Processing and validation take about 10 days; once validated, results are uploaded to the SMS and PSP websites. See the SMS update table for details.

SAFER Company Snapshot: Updates daily but contains limited information.

FMCSA Portal (Motor Carriers with Portal access): Carriers can view more complete company records in the Company Activity section on the Portal home page. For older items, use View Full Report.

To request reconsideration of this RDR, review the DataQs Help Center FAQ:
https://dataqs.fmcsa.dot.gov/HelpCenter/Faqs?faq_id=23. Include any additional or updated evidence with your reconsideration request.

Reconsideration Review Process

Roles and Responsibilities

- Person(s) responsible for decision-making for the Reconsideration Review process
 - **Responsible Party:**
Reconsideration Review requests will be reviewed by an arresting officer with subject matter expertise within the ALEA Motor Carrier Safety Unit. Subject Matter Experts will be designated by Motor Carrier Safety Unit Headquarters Staff.
The officer who conducts the Reconsideration Review will be separate and independent from the decision-maker in the Initial Review.
The Reconsideration Review will not be reviewed or decided by the issuing officer or inspector, nor an immediate supervisor of the issuing officer or inspector.
 - **Supervisor(s):**
<intentionally left blank>
 - **Backups:**
<intentionally left blank>
 - **Interactions:**
<intentionally left blank>
- Person(s) consulted for additional information or evidence
 - **Responsible Party:**
Inspecting Officer (Inspection)
Investigative Officer (Crash)

ALEA Supervisor
FMCSA Division Office

- **Supervisor(s):**
<intentionally left blank>
- **Backups:**
<intentionally left blank>
- **Interactions:**
<intentionally left blank>
- Person(s) convening a panel or committee
 - **Responsible Party:**
A panel or committee will not be convened.
 - **Supervisor(s):**
<intentionally left blank>
 - **Backups:**
<intentionally left blank>
 - **Interactions:**
<intentionally left blank>
 - **Panel members' titles and associations:**
<intentionally left blank>

Escalation Procedures:

If a requestor is dissatisfied with the outcome of an Initial Request for Data Review, he or she may request a Reconsideration Review. All requests for Reconsideration Review must be submitted through the FMCSA DataQ platform.

ALEA has the discretion to reject requests submitted without minimal factual or regulatory justification. If a Reconsideration Review is requested without substantive justification, the agency may reject the request without further review. Not every RDR is appropriate for reconsideration.

Process Description

- Review of RDR
 - **Responsible Party:**
ALEA Trooper Senior, ALEA Corporal, ALEA Sergeant, ALEA Lieutenant, or ALEA Captain
 - **Process:**
If the officer determines the RDR was properly submitted, he/she will review the following:
All supporting documentation submitted by the requestor.

Record for which the RDR was filed.

Notes or available evidence provided/collected by the officer/inspector (if available).

- Outcome of RDR
 - **Responsible Party:**
B. 1. Is a duplicate of II. A. 1.
 - **Process:**
II. B. 1. 1. Is a duplicate of II. A. 2.
- Closure of RDR
 - **Responsible Party:**
ALEA Trooper Senior, ALEA Corporal, ALEA Sergeant, ALEA Lieutenant, or ALEA Captain
 - **Process:**
Each Request for Reconsideration closed, with the status “Closed—No Data Correction Made” must adequately explain the facts and analysis supporting the decision. Responses must contain the following information:
Link to the State’s approved DataQs State Implementation Plan;
Decision-maker (name and title);
List of evidence reviewed;
Decision;
Specific reason(s) for decision; and
Next step for the requestor includes how to appeal the decision (Final Review).
- Timeliness:
The officer who conducts the Reconsideration Review must reach a decision and communicate it to the requestor within 21 calendar days.

Expected Outcomes for RDR Closures:

Closed—No Data Correction Made: The request has been closed, and the data will not be corrected.

Decision drivers:

Submitted evidence is insufficient or inconsistent with officer/inspector’s documentation.

Original report contains complete, corroborated source documentation (narrative, inspection form, crash report, citations).

The requestor’s claim is opinion, interpretation, or legal dispute rather than factual error.

The issue raised is outside DataQs scope. (e.g., contesting a citation that must be resolved through judicial process).

The requestors claim, compared to the evidence/documentation submitted, fails to meet

the burden of proof required to modify the record.

Closed—Data Correction Made: The request has been closed, and the data will be corrected.

Removed Violations Your request has been reviewed. The following violation(s) - [List Violation(s) Here] - were cited in error and have been removed from the inspection report. The updated report has been uploaded to FMCSA's data system. For your records, the corrected report has been uploaded to the DataQs website.

Corrected Report/Violation(s): Your request has been reviewed. The officer made an error when [entering the information or citing the violation(s)] and the report was amended. The following amendment was made to the report: [Insert changes made to the report here]. The updated report was uploaded to FMCSA's data system. For your records, a copy of the amended report has been uploaded to the DataQs website.

Decision drivers:

Clear, verifiable documentation demonstrates an error (e.g., corrected VIN, driver identity, and/or location)

The agency's review reveals an error made by the officer.

Duplicate or clerical entry confirmed.

Closed—Citation Results Entered: The request has been closed, and the violation will be appended to reflect the outcome of the citation.

Decision drivers:

Official citation disposition is received and verifiable.

Closed—Report Not Sent: The request has been closed, but the requested inspection report was not sent.

Decision drivers:

Agency confirms the requested report cannot be located or was never created.

The record is restricted, sealed, or otherwise unavailable for release under state law or agency policy.

The requestor requested a copy but did not provide required documentation and/or processing fee.

The event falls outside the agency's retention period and the original documents were purged.

Closed—Report Sent: The request has been closed, and the agency sent the report. The agency may have faxed or uploaded the report to DataQs, or it may have uploaded the report to the DataQs website, sent it via email, or directly via email or postal mail.

Decision drivers:

The requestor provided the required documentation and processing fee.

Closed—No Requestor Response: The request was closed because the requestor did not respond.

Decision drivers:

Agency requested additional evidence, clarification, or authorization and the requestor did not supply it within the required timeframe and the agency cannot make a determination using the existing information/documentation.

Communication:

All communication regarding the outcome of the RDR will be communicated in a detailed and timely response to the requestor through the DataQs platform.

Next Steps:

After a decision is made in DataQs, systems are updated on different schedules depending on the system.

Safety Measurement System (SMS) and Pre-Employment Screening Program (PSP):

Updated monthly. A snapshot is taken on the third or last Friday of each month. Processing and validation take about 10 days; once validated, results are uploaded to the SMS and PSP websites. See the SMS update table for details.

SAFER Company Snapshot: Updates daily but contains limited information.

FMCSA Portal (Motor Carriers with Portal access): Carriers can view more complete company records in the Company Activity section on the Portal home page. For older items, use View Full Report.

To request reconsideration of this RDR, review the DataQs Help Center FAQ:

https://dataqs.fmcsa.dot.gov/HelpCenter/Faqs?faq_id=23. Include any additional or updated evidence with your reconsideration request.

Final Review Process

Roles and Responsibilities

- Person(s) responsible for decision-making for the Final Review process
 - **Responsible Party:**
Final Review requests will be reviewed by the ALEA Motor Carrier Safety Unit's Training Sergeant. If the training sergeant is determined to be the issuing officer or inspector, the final review will be conducted by an arresting

officer with subject matter expertise within the ALEA Motor Carrier Safety Unit designated by an ALEA Lieutenant or Captain within the ALEA Motor Carrier Safety Unit.

The officer who conducts the Final Review will be separate and independent from the decision-maker in the Initial Review and Reconsideration Review.

- **Supervisor(s):**
<intentionally left blank>
- **Backups:**
<intentionally left blank>
- **Interactions:**
<intentionally left blank>
- Person(s) consulted for additional information or evidence
 - **Responsible Party:**
Inspecting Officer (Inspection)
Investigative Officer (Crash)
ALEA Supervisor
FMCSA Division Office
 - **Supervisor(s):**
<intentionally left blank>
 - **Backups:**
<intentionally left blank>
 - **Interactions:**
<intentionally left blank>
- Person(s) convening a panel or committee
 - **Responsible Party:**
A panel or committee will not be convened.
 - **Supervisor(s):**
<intentionally left blank>
 - **Backups:**
<intentionally left blank>
 - **Interactions:**
<intentionally left blank>
 - **Panel members' titles and associations:**
<intentionally left blank>

Escalation Procedures:

If a requestor is dissatisfied with the outcome of a Reconsideration Review, he or she may request a Final Review. All requests for Final Review must be submitted through the

FMCSA DataQ platform.

ALEA has the discretion to reject requests submitted without minimal factual or regulatory justification. If a Final Review is requested without substantive justification, the agency may reject the request without further review. Not every RDR is appropriate for the Final Review.

Process Description

- Review of RDR
 - **Responsible Party:**
The Final Review will be completed by the person described in Part 4(1.)(II.)(A.)
 - **Process:**
If the officer determines the RDR was properly submitted, he/she will review the following:
All supporting documentation submitted by the requestor.
Record for which the RDR was filed.
Notes, videos/photos, or other available evidence provided by the officer/inspector (if applicable).
- Outcome of RDR
 - **Responsible Party:**
B.1. Is a duplicate of II A. 1.
 - **Process:**
II. B.1.1. Is a duplicate of II. A. 2.
- Closure of RDR
 - **Responsible Party:**
The Final Review will be completed by the person described in Part 4(1.)(II.)(A.)
 - **Process:**
Each Final Review request closed, with the status “Closed—No Data Correction Made” must adequately explain the facts and analysis supporting the decision. Responses must contain the following information:
Link to the State’s approved DataQs State Implementation Plan;
Decision-maker (name and title);
List of evidence reviewed;
Decision;
Specific reason(s) for decision; and
A statement that the decision of the Final Review constitutes a Final Agency Decision.

- Timeliness:

The officer who conducts the Final Review must reach a decision and communicate it to the requestor within 45 calendar days.

Expected Outcomes for RDR Closures:

Closed—No Data Correction Made: The request has been closed, and the data will not be corrected.

Decision drivers:

Submitted evidence is insufficient or inconsistent with officer/inspector's documentation. Original report contains complete, corroborated source documentation (narrative, inspection form, crash report, citations).

The requestor's claim is opinion, interpretation, or legal dispute rather than factual error.

The issue raised is outside DataQs scope. (e.g., contesting a citation that must be resolved through judicial process).

The requestors claim, compared to the evidence/documentation submitted, fails to meet the burden of proof required to modify the record.

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Clear, verifiable documentation demonstrates an error (e.g., corrected VIN, driver identity, and/or location)

The agency's review reveals an error made by the officer.

Duplicate or clerical entry confirmed.

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Official citation disposition is received and verifiable.

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Decision drivers:

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Decision drivers:

The requestor provided the required documentation and processing fee.

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Decision drivers:

Agency requested additional evidence, clarification, or authorization and the requestor did not supply it within the required timeframe and the agency cannot make a determination using the existing information/documentation.

Communication:

All communication regarding the outcome of the Final Review will be communicated in a detailed and timely response to the requestor through the DataQs platform.

Next Steps:

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