DataQs State Implementation Plan

Georgia

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 Georgia.

DataQs State Implementation Plan

State: Georgia

MCSAP Lead Agency: Georgia Department of Public Safety (DPS), Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (CVE)

Initial Review Process

Roles and Responsibilities

- Persons responsible for managing DataQs for the organization
    - ***Responsible Party:***
      DataQ Analyst
    - ***Supervisor(s):***
      DataQ Unit Manager
    - ***Backups:***
      Additional designated DataQ Analysts
    - ***Interactions:***
      Coordinates with Regional Command (Lieutenant level) for case evaluation
      Communicates directly with requestors through the DataQs system
      Consults with FMCSA Division Office for regulatory interpretation when necessary
      Coordinates with legal advisors when appropriate
- Person(s) responsible for decision-making for the Initial Review process
    - ***Responsible Party:***
      DataQ Analyst (when sufficient information exists for resolution)
      Regional Command (Lieutenant Level)
    - ***Supervisor(s):***
      DataQ Unit Manager
    - ***Backups:***
      Alternate Regional Command personnel or Command Staff
    - ***Interactions:***
      Works directly with inspectors/officers for clarification and supporting documentation
      Coordinates with the DataQ Unit for review consistency and compliance
- Person(s) consulted for additional information or evidence
    - ***Responsible Party:***

Inspectors/Officers involved in the inspection
Regional Supervisors
DataQ Unit Manager
Legal Counsel (as needed)
FMCSA Division Office (interpretation only)

Crash Analysts (as applicable)
Assist with the review of crash-related Requests for Data Review (RDRs), validation of crash coding, crash report information, and supporting documentation associated with commercial motor vehicle crashes.

- ***Supervisor(s):***
  Regional Command Staff
- ***Backups:***
  Subject matter experts (NAS Part A – Driver, NAS Part B – Vehicle, Hazardous Materials)
- ***Interactions:***
  Provide supporting documentation, clarification, and fact-finding assistance
  Assist in validating inspection data and regulatory application

Process Description

- Receipt of RDR
  - ***Responsible Party:***
    DataQ Analyst
  - ***Process:***
    Requests for Data Review (RDRs) are received through the FMCSA DataQs system.
    The DataQ Analyst serves as the primary intake and processing point for all RDRs.
    Upon receipt, each RDR is evaluated for completeness and validity.
    The RDR is opened within seven (7) calendar days of submission.
    The Analyst reviews available documentation, including the RDR, inspection report, crash report, and supporting data, as applicable.
    If sufficient information is available, the Analyst may resolve the RDR at this stage.
    If additional information is required, the Analyst requests it from the submitter through the DataQs system. The requester is provided 14 calendar days to respond, and the applicable review timeline is paused during this period.

If the RDR cannot be resolved at intake, it is routed to the appropriate personnel for further evaluation based on the nature of the request.
Differentiated Review Pathways:
• Inspection-Related RDRs are routed to the appropriate Regional Command (Lieutenant level) for review if not able to be resolved by the Analyst. The review may include consultation with the issuing inspector, supervisors, subject matter experts, and examination of inspection reports, ELD records, citations, narratives, photographs, video, and other supporting documentation.
• Crash-Related RDRs are reviewed by the DataQ Unit in coordination with crash analysts, crash records personnel, investigating agencies, or other personnel responsible for crash reporting and data quality. Supporting documentation may include crash reports, supplemental reports, photographs, witness statements, court documentation, and other relevant evidence.
• Adjudicated Citation Requests are reviewed and processed in accordance with FMCSA's Adjudicated Citations Policy and applicable State procedures.
If new, relevant evidence is submitted during a Reconsideration Review or Final Review that was not previously evaluated, the RDR may be returned to the Initial Review stage for evaluation of the new information in accordance with FMCSA requirements.

- Review of RDR
    - ***Responsible Party:***
      DataQ Analyst
      Regional Command (Lieutenant Level)
    - ***Process:***
      The DataQ Analyst conducts an initial review using available documentation and system data.
      If routed, the Regional Command (Lieutenant) conducts a detailed evaluation of the RDR.
      The Lieutenant reviews the inspection report and associated records.
      The involved inspector/officer is contacted to provide clarification and supporting documentation.
      Additional evidence may include ELD data, inspection narratives, citations, in-car audio/video footage, and other supporting materials.
      The Region provides a written response outlining findings to the DataQ Analyst.
      The DataQ Analyst reviews the Region’s response for accuracy,

completeness, and consistency with applicable regulations and policies.

Crash RDRs: Reviewed by the DataQ Analyst in coordination with the appropriate DPS personnel responsible for commercial motor vehicle crash reporting and analysis. Supporting documentation may include crash reports, supplemental investigative reports, photographs, witness statements, court documentation, and other relevant evidence. When a crash involves another law enforcement agency or external reporting source, the DataQ Unit will coordinate with the appropriate agency to obtain clarification or supporting documentation necessary to evaluate the request.

- Outcome of RDR
  - ***Responsible Party:***
    DataQ Analyst
    DataQ Unit Manager (if escalated)
  - ***Process:***
    The DataQ Analyst determines the appropriate outcome based on evidence, regulatory standards, and policy.
    If discrepancies or inconsistencies are identified, the Analyst may request clarification or corrections from the Region.
    If concerns remain unresolved or the case is complex, the matter is elevated to the DataQ Unit Manager for review.
    The issuing inspector or officer SHALL NOT be the sole decision-maker in any case where the outcome is "No Data Correction Made."
    A final determination is documented and prepared for communication to the requestor.
- Closure of RDR
  - ***Responsible Party:***
    DataQ Analyst
  - ***Process:***
    The final decision is entered into the DataQs system.
    The response is communicated to the requestor, including required documentation elements.
    The RDR is closed using the appropriate FMCSA status classification.
    All documentation is retained for quality control, audit, and compliance purposes.
- Timeliness:
  Georgia DPS CVE adheres to the following FMCSA-required timelines:
  RDR opened within 7 calendar days

Initial Review decision issued within 21 calendar days
If additional information is requested:
The requestor is provided 14 calendar days to respond
The review timeline is paused during this period
The DataQ Unit maintains a tracking system to monitor all deadlines and ensure compliance.

Expected Outcomes for RDR Closures:

Each RDR will be closed using one of the following outcomes, with decision drivers:
Closed—Data Correction Made
Verified factual or documentation error supported by evidence
Closed—No Data Correction Made
Inspection and violations supported by evidence and applicable regulations
Closed—Citation Results Entered
Court disposition modifies violation record
Closed—Report Sent
Requested report provided to requestor
Closed—Report Not Sent
Report unavailable or not applicable
Closed—No Requestor Response
Requestor failed to provide requested information within required timeframe
Closed—Insufficient Information
Available information insufficient to substantively evaluate the RDR

Communication:

All communication is conducted through the DataQs system, with supplemental email communication as needed.
All substantive responses will include:
Summary of evidence reviewed
Applicable regulatory or policy references
Clear explanation of findings and decision
Instructions for appeal, if applicable
All substantive responses with the outcome “Closed—No Data Correction Made” shall include:
Decision-maker name and title
Summary of evidence reviewed
Applicable regulatory or policy references
Explanation supporting the decision

Available next-step or appeal information
Status updates and requests for additional information will be communicated to the requestor through the DataQs system throughout the review process.

Next Steps:

If a correction is made, the data will be updated accordingly.
If no correction is made, the requestor may submit a reconsideration request within 30 days.
Contact information and appeal instructions are included in all responses.

Reconsideration Review Process

Roles and Responsibilities

- Person(s) responsible for decision-making for the Reconsideration Review process
  - ***Responsible Party:***
    Independent DataQ Analyst
  - ***Supervisor(s):***
    DataQ Unit Manager
  - ***Backups:***
    Additional designated DataQ Analysts
  - ***Interactions:***
    Coordinates with Regional Command personnel for additional fact gathering when necessary
    Consults with FMCSA Division Office for regulatory interpretation only
    Coordinates with legal advisors when appropriate
- Person(s) consulted for additional information or evidence
  - ***Responsible Party:***
    Subject matter experts (NAS Part A, NAS Part B, Hazardous Materials)
    Regional Command personnel
    Legal advisors
    FMCSA Division Office (interpretation only)
  - ***Supervisor(s):***
    DataQ Unit Manager
  - ***Backups:***
    Additional qualified subject matter experts
  - ***Interactions:***

    Provide clarification regarding applicable regulations, policies, inspection procedures, and supporting evidence
    Assist with independent review of complex or disputed cases

- Person(s) convening a panel or committee
    - ***Responsible Party:***
      Panel or committee not used at this level
    - ***Supervisor(s):***
      <intentionally left blank>
    - ***Backups:***
      <intentionally left blank>
    - ***Interactions:***
      <intentionally left blank>
    - ***Panel members' titles and associations:***
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Escalation Procedures:

RDRs are escalated to the Reconsideration Review process when:
• New, relevant evidence is presented
• Regulatory interpretation is challenged
• Procedural errors are alleged
• The case is complex or involves extenuating circumstances
Requests lacking substantive justification may be procedurally rejected or denied escalation consistent with FMCSA DataQs requirements.
Any RDR reopened due to newly submitted evidence following procedural closure will be reviewed at the appropriate review stage consistent with FMCSA guidance.

Process Description

- Review of RDR
    - ***Responsible Party:***
      Independent DataQ Analyst
      DataQ Unit Manager
    - ***Process:***
      An independent DataQ Analyst conducts a full review of the RDR, prior findings, and any new evidence.
      The review includes all supporting documentation, inspection records, crash reports, citations, narratives, audio/video evidence, and applicable regulatory references.
      Subject matter experts may be consulted based upon the type of RDR under

review.
FMCSA may be consulted for regulatory interpretation.
If necessary, the case may be escalated to the DataQ Unit Manager for additional review. Personnel involved in the Initial Review decision shall not serve as the primary decision-maker during the Reconsideration Review

- Outcome of RDR
  - ***Responsible Party:***
    Independent DataQ Analyst
    DataQ Unit Manager
  - ***Process:***
    A determination is made based upon evidence, regulatory standards, and policy compliance.
    If new evidence warrants additional fact-finding, the case may be routed back to the Initial Review process.
- Closure of RDR
  - ***Responsible Party:***
    DataQ Analyst
  - ***Process:***
    The determination is entered into the DataQs system.

    The response is communicated to the requestor.
    All supporting documentation is retained for quality control, audit, and compliance purposes.
- Timeliness:
  Georgia DPS CVE adheres to the following FMCSA-required timelines for Reconsideration Review:
  Reconsideration decisions issued within 21 calendar days
  If additional information is requested from the requestor, the requestor is provided 14 calendar days to respond
  Review timelines are paused while awaiting requested information

Expected Outcomes for RDR Closures:

All Reconsideration Review determinations are based upon available evidence, applicable regulations, inspection documentation, and established policy.
Substantive responses with the outcome “Closed—No Data Correction Made” shall include:
Decision-maker name and title
Summary of evidence reviewed

Applicable regulatory or policy references
Explanation supporting the decision
Instructions regarding available appeal options
Procedural closures such as “Closed—No Requestor Response” or “Closed—Insufficient Information” do not constitute substantive determinations on the merits of the RDR.

Communication:

All communication associated with the Reconsideration Review process is conducted through the FMCSA DataQs system, with supplemental email communication utilized when appropriate.
Georgia DPS CVE utilizes standardized response language to promote consistency, transparency, and regulatory compliance.
Responses include:
Applicable findings
Supporting evidence reviewed
Regulatory or policy references
Explanation of the decision
Available next-step or appeal information

Next Steps:

Following completion of the Reconsideration Review process:
Any approved corrections will be processed through the appropriate systems and databases
The requestor will be notified of the determination and any available appeal options
Requests for Final Review must be submitted within the applicable FMCSA-established timeframe

Final Review Process

Roles and Responsibilities

- Person(s) responsible for decision-making for the Final Review process
  - ***Responsible Party:***
    DataQ Unit Manager
    Designated Member(s) of CVE Command Staff
  - ***Supervisor(s):***
    CVE Commanding Officer or designee
  - ***Backups:***

Alternate designated Command Staff member

- ***Interactions:***
  Coordinates with Regional Command personnel for additional fact gathering when necessary
  Consults with FMCSA Division Office for regulatory interpretation only
  Coordinates with legal advisors when appropriate
  Consults with subject matter experts in driver, vehicle, hazardous materials, or crash-related enforcement matters as needed

- Person(s) consulted for additional information or evidence
  - ***Responsible Party:***
    Subject matter experts (NAS Part A – Driver, NAS Part B – Vehicle, Hazardous Materials)
    Regional Command personnel
    Legal advisors (if applicable)
    FMCSA Division Office & CVSA Staff
  - ***Supervisor(s):***
    CVE Command Staff (for DPS personnel)
  - ***Backups:***
    Additional qualified subject matter experts
  - ***Interactions:***
    Provide clarification regarding applicable regulations, policies, inspection procedures, and supporting evidence
    Assist with independent review of complex or disputed cases
- Person(s) convening a panel or committee
  - ***Responsible Party:***
    DataQ Unit Manager
  - ***Supervisor(s):***
    Designated member of CVE Command Staff
  - ***Backups:***
    Alternate designated Command Staff member
  - ***Interactions:***
    Coordinates independent panel review of complex or disputed RDRs
    Assigns subject matter experts appropriate to the type of RDR under review
    Coordinates with FMCSA Division Office for regulatory interpretation when necessary & available CVSA subject matter experts
    Coordinates with legal advisors when appropriate
  - ***Panel members' titles and associations:***

CVE Command Staff member(s)
NAS-certified instructors - DPS
Experienced inspectors or supervisors with subject matter expertise - DPS
Personnel independent from all prior review stages (excluding DataQ Unit Manager) – DPS
FMCSA Staff (if available)
CVSA Staff (if available)

Final Reviews may be conducted by a panel of at least three experienced personnel.
The issuing inspector/officer SHALL NOT participate in the Final Review panel.
Immediate supervisors of the issuing inspector/officer SHALL NOT participate in the Final Review panel.
Subject matter experts may be assigned based upon the type of RDR under review, including driver, vehicle, hazardous materials, or crash-related matters.

Escalation Procedures:

Requests for Final Review may be initiated following completion of the Reconsideration Review process.
Cases eligible for Final Review generally involve:
Allegations of procedural error
Significant disputes regarding regulatory interpretation
Complex factual disputes requiring additional independent review
Matters involving significant operational or safety implications
Cases lacking substantive new information or justification may be denied escalation at the discretion of the DataQ Unit Manager.
Any RDR reopened due to newly submitted evidence following procedural closure will be reviewed at the appropriate review stage consistent with FMCSA guidance.

Process Description

- Review of RDR
    - ***Responsible Party:***
      DataQ Unit Manager
      Final Review Panel (when convened)
    - ***Process:***

A Final Review is initiated upon request following completion of the Reconsideration Review process and may be assigned to an independent Final Review Panel for evaluation.
The DataQ Unit Manager assigns the case for independent review by qualified personnel not involved in prior review stages.
All prior decisions, evidence, supporting documentation, and newly submitted information are reviewed.
Subject matter experts may be consulted based upon the nature of the RDR.
Additional clarification or supporting documentation may be requested when necessary.
FMCSA and/or CVSA may be consulted for regulatory interpretation.

- Outcome of RDR
    - ***Responsible Party:***
      Final Review Panel
      DataQ Unit Manager
    - ***Process:***
      A final determination is made based upon applicable regulations, supporting evidence, and established policy.
      Decisions are documented with supporting rationale and evidence reviewed.
      Final Review outcomes may include:
      Closed—Data Correction Made
      Closed—No Data Correction Made
      Closed—Citation Results Entered
      Closed—Report Sent
      Closed—Report Not Sent
      Closed—No Requestor Response
      Closed—Insufficient Information
- Closure of RDR
    - ***Responsible Party:***
      DataQ Analyst
    - ***Process:***
      The final determination is entered into the DataQs system.
      The requestor is notified of the State's final determination.
      Responses include applicable regulatory references, evidence reviewed, explanation of findings, and notification that the State's review process has concluded.
      Final Review decisions represent the State's final determination unless otherwise reopened at the discretion of the State.

- Timeliness:
  Georgia DPS CVE adheres to the following FMCSA-required timelines for Final Review:
  Final Review decisions issued within 45 calendar days
  If additional information is requested from the requestor, the requestor is provided 14 calendar days to respond
  Review timelines are paused while awaiting requested information
  Complex RDRs requiring additional time may be coordinated with FMCSA on a case-by-case basis.

Expected Outcomes for RDR Closures:

All Final Review determinations are based upon available evidence, applicable regulations, inspection documentation, and established policy.
Each RDR will be closed using one of the following FMCSA status classifications and associated decision criteria:
Closed—Data Correction Made
Used when the review identifies a factual error, documentation issue, incorrect regulatory application, data entry error, or other substantiated condition requiring correction to the inspection, violation, crash, or carrier record. Corrections are supported by evidence and processed through the appropriate systems and databases.
Closed—No Data Correction Made
Used when the review determines the inspection, violation, crash data, or associated enforcement action was properly documented, supported by evidence, and consistent with applicable regulations, policies, and enforcement procedures.
Closed—Citation Results Entered
Used when adjudicated citation information or court disposition requires the violation record to be updated to accurately reflect the judicial outcome in accordance with FMCSA Adjudicated Citations Policy.
Closed—Report Sent
Used when the requested inspection report, crash report, or associated documentation has been provided to the requestor through the DataQs system, email, fax, or other approved method.
Closed—Report Not Sent
Used when the requested report cannot be provided due to record availability limitations, legal restrictions, inability to validate the request, or because the requested report is not maintained by the agency.
Closed—No Requestor Response
Used when the requestor fails to provide requested supplemental information or

clarification within the established response timeframe necessary to continue the review process.

Closed—Insufficient Information

Used when the information or documentation submitted is insufficient to substantively evaluate the merits of the RDR or support the requested correction.

Substantive responses with the outcome "Closed—No Data Correction Made" shall include:

Decision-maker name and title

Summary of evidence reviewed

Applicable regulatory or policy references

Explanation supporting the decision

Information regarding the finality of the State's determination

Available next-step or appeal information, when applicable

Procedural closures such as "Closed—No Requestor Response" or "Closed—Insufficient Information" do not constitute substantive determinations on the merits of the RDR.

Requests closed for insufficient information shall include an explanation of the deficiency and instructions regarding submission of additional supporting documentation when appropriate.

Communication:

All communication associated with the Final Review process is conducted through the FMCSA DataQs system, with supplemental email communication utilized when appropriate.

Georgia DPS CVE utilizes standardized response language to promote consistency, transparency, and regulatory compliance.

Responses include:

Applicable findings

Supporting evidence reviewed

Regulatory or policy references

Explanation of the decision

Notification regarding the finality of the review process

Next Steps:

Following completion of the Final Review process:

Any approved corrections will be processed through the appropriate systems and databases

The requestor will be notified of the State's final determination

Final Review decisions represent the conclusion of the State's formal review process