

DataQs State Implementation Plan



Maine

**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 Maine.

DataQs State Implementation Plan

State: Maine

MCSAP Lead Agency: Maine State Police

Initial Review Process

Roles and Responsibilities

- Persons responsible for managing DataQs for the organization
 - **Responsible Party:**
Civilian Supervisor
 - **Supervisor(s):**
Troop Commander
 - **Backups:**
Section 1 Sergeant
 - **Interactions:**
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- Person(s) responsible for decision-making for the Initial Review process
 - **Responsible Party:**
Civilian Supervisor
 - **Supervisor(s):**
Troop Commander
 - **Backups:**
Section 1 Sergeant
 - **Interactions:**
Eastern Service Center Members
- Person(s) consulted for additional information or evidence
 - **Responsible Party:**
State programs Manager FMCSA TBD
 - **Supervisor(s):**
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 - **Backups:**
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 - **Interactions:**
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Process Description

- Receipt of RDR
 - **Responsible Party:**

MSP Operational Policy GO-145 states:
All requests for Data Review should be reviewed in a timely fashion. The Troop Lieutenant or designee shall review on a weekly basis any and all DataQ's submitted by a Motor Carrier.
In accordance with FMCSA goals, it shall be the goal of the Troop Lieutenant or designee to respond and investigate the DataQ within 10 days of receipt however, it will be this Troop's policy to respond no later than 30 days from date of submission.
The Troop Lieutenant or designee shall consult with the inspector of the report in question and submit a response to the challenging Motor Carrier. If after being denied their DataQ challenge, the Motor Carrier appeals the violation, it shall be the policy of the Maine State Police to employ the DataQ Review Council, which shall consist of 1 member from the Maine State Police (Enforcement), 1 member from Maine Motor Transport (Industry), and 1 member from the FMCSA Division Office in Augusta (Regulation). The DataQ Review Council shall meet upon request and, after hearing the challenge and evidence presented, determine by majority vote if the violation will stand or be removed.
 - **Process:**

Crash and Inspection Data Q's are initially reviewed and responded to by Civilian Supervisor.
- Review of RDR
 - **Responsible Party:**

Civilian Supervisor is the initial level 1 review and responder to all data q's.
 - **Process:**

Civilian Supervisor documents receipt and response to all initial data q's.
- Outcome of RDR
 - **Responsible Party:**

Civilian Supervisor responds to all data q's within 10 days per policy.
 - **Process:**

Civilian Supervisor.
- Closure of RDR
 - **Responsible Party:**

Initial Review is conducted by Supervisor Mark Perkins. Second review is conducted by Sgt. Rogers or Sgt. Poulin. Third level is the Data Q review council as outlined in MSP Policy GO-p145

- **Process:**

RDR are reviewed and a detailed explanation is given to the carrier with reasoning to why the RDR has resulted in correction or no correction. In the response, we give the time frame for corrections to process through the Federal system. Follow up steps are provided to the carrier for RDRs with no corrections in cases the carrier that does not agree with the initial decision.

- **Timeliness:**

Policy requires us to respond and investigate within 10 days and close out within 21 days.

Expected Outcomes for RDR Closures:

Written response and statutory explanation is included in each response. Corrections are made in the Inspect software as well as MCRS when the data q is validated.

Communication:

We have a short turn around time so after the initial receipt response the formal decision is soon to follow.

Next Steps:

Denial responses include information on requesting second review.

Reconsideration Review Process

Roles and Responsibilities

- Person(s) responsible for decision-making for the Reconsideration Review process
 - **Responsible Party:**
Section 1 Sergeant
 - **Supervisor(s):**
Lt. or Troop Commander
 - **Backups:**
Section 3 Sergeant
 - **Interactions:**
Eastern Service Center and FMCSA State Programs managers.
- Person(s) consulted for additional information or evidence

- **Responsible Party:**

ELD SME

FMCSA SP

CVSA SME

The State of Maine utilizes multiple Subject Matter Experts to ensure the completeness and accuracy of the RDR and the RDR's are not answered by a direct supervisor.

- **Supervisor(s):**

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- **Backups:**

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- **Interactions:**

<intentionally left blank>

- Person(s) convening a panel or committee

- **Responsible Party:**

Lt. Troop K

Industry Member (Maine Motor Transport)

Regulatory member (State Programs Manager)

- **Supervisor(s):**

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- **Backups:**

<intentionally left blank>

- **Interactions:**

<intentionally left blank>

- **Panel members' titles and associations:**

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Escalation Procedures:

If second review is rejected by the petitioner, the data q review board will be convened.

Process Description

- Review of RDR

- **Responsible Party:**

Data Q review board decisions are final and will be completed within 30 days of initial filing.

The three vote process includes representation from Industry, enforcement, and regulatory when making these final decisions.

- **Process:**

Initial RDR review.

Secondary RDR Review, performed by different RDR reviewer than Initial review. All information from carrier and initial reviewer will be passed along to second reviewer so they can make an independent judgement on RDR.

Data Q review board will convene if carrier does not agree with Secondary RDR's decision. Data Q review board will receive all information from the initial RDR, Second RDR and from carrier.

- Outcome of RDR

- **Responsible Party:**

The three vote process includes representation from Industry, enforcement, and regulatory when making these final decisions.

- **Process:**

The three vote process includes representation from Industry, enforcement, and regulatory when making these final decisions.

- Closure of RDR

- **Responsible Party:**

The three vote process includes representation from Industry, enforcement, and regulatory when making these final decisions.

The decision makers will vary depending on availability.

- **Process:**

Initial RDR review.

Secondary RDR Review, performed by different RDR reviewer than Initial review. All information from carrier and initial reviewer will be passed along to second reviewer so they can make an independent judgement on RDR.

Data Q review board will convene if carrier does not agree with Secondary RDR's decision. Data Q review board will receive all information from the initial RDR, Second RDR and from carrier.

- Timeliness:

All steps in the Data Q process will be reviewed in a timely fashion. The State of Maine's goal is for a response time within 10 business days at step 1 and 2. Data Q review board will review and answer within 21 days. RDR's will be opened and initially investigated 10 days after they are received.

Expected Outcomes for RDR Closures:

Closed—No Data Correction Made: The request has been closed and the data will not be corrected. Carrier did not supply adequate or convincing evidence that the inspection report should be corrected.

Closed—Data Correction Made: The request has been closed and the data will be corrected. Carrier supplied adequate evidence that the inspection report should be corrected.

Closed—Citation Results Entered: The request has been closed and the violation will be appended to reflect the outcome of the citation. Carrier supplied evidence consistent with SSDQ Adjudication requirements and adjustments made on inspection report.

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

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.

Closed—No Requestor Response: The request was closed because the requestor did not respond. This action is taken when no response from the carrier within 14 days.

Communication:

The State of Maine communicates through carrier through the RDR process and email addresses verified through the MCS-150 form. The State also uses templates supplied by the SSDQ system and templates created by the State to ensure consistency with answers and explanations.

Next Steps:

Provides submitters with next step actions specific to the RDR outcome.

Includes contact information for follow-up with the State agency and references for additional information.

Final Review Process

Roles and Responsibilities

- Person(s) responsible for decision-making for the Final Review process
 - **Responsible Party:**

Lieutenant Maine State Police
FMCSA Federal Partner
Maine Motor Transport Partner- Industry

- **Supervisor(s):**
<intentionally left blank>
- **Backups:**
<intentionally left blank>
- **Interactions:**
<intentionally left blank>
- Person(s) consulted for additional information or evidence
 - **Responsible Party:**
FMSA Partners
CVSA Staff
 - **Supervisor(s):**
<intentionally left blank>
 - **Backups:**
<intentionally left blank>
 - **Interactions:**
<intentionally left blank>
- Person(s) convening a panel or committee
 - **Responsible Party:**
Lt. Troop Commander
 - **Supervisor(s):**
Operations Major
 - **Backups:**
Support Services Major
 - **Interactions:**
<intentionally left blank>
 - **Panel members' titles and associations:**
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Escalation Procedures:

State escalates RDR's to final review when subject matter experts have made a determination on the evidence and the carrier disagrees with decision.

Process Description

- Review of RDR
 - **Responsible Party:**

- Civilian Supervisor
 - **Process:**
Data Q review board decisions are final and will be completed within 21 days of initial filing.
The three vote process includes representation from Industry, enforcement, and regulatory when making these final decisions.
- Outcome of RDR
 - **Responsible Party:**
Civilian Supervisor
 - **Process:**
Civilian Supervisor will forward Review panel findings to carrier via RDR website within 21 days.
- Closure of RDR
 - **Responsible Party:**
Civilian Supervisor
 - **Process:**
Civilian Supervisor will forward Review panel findings to carrier via RDR website within 21 days.
- Timeliness:
Final review will be submitted to carrier within 21 days.

Expected Outcomes for RDR Closures:

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

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

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

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

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.

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

Communication:

The State of Maine communicates via RDR website using SSDQ templates and via verified email address on MCS-150.

Next Steps:

Provide Carrie with decision of final review that includes clear reasoning and evidence. Including contact information for follow-up with the State agency and references for additional information.