



## AFTC Discusses HOS Exemptions With CVSA

September 21, 2009

Representatives of AFTC met with the Executive Committee of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) during its Annual Conference on Sept. 19 in Baltimore, Md. Attending were: AFTC Executive Director Russell Laird; Bill Taft, Logistics Division Manager of GROWMARK Inc. in Bloomington, Ill.; and Dave Schroyer, President of Schroyer Inc. in Celina, Ohio, and Past Chairman of AFTC.

The CVSA has stated it intends to seek repeal of hours of service (HOS) exemptions in the next transportation reauthorization bill. The AFTC group made it clear that retaining all statutory HOS exemptions is ATA policy. In addition to agriculture, similar exemptions exist for the industry-specific needs of water well drillers, construction, oilfield workers and utilities, to name a few.

The presentation focused on educating the CVSA on the importance of flexible work hours in the agricultural industry. The dialogue was positive and respectful, with CVSA participants acknowledging that intense, seasonal work like agriculture does require flexibility in HOS. CVSA expressed concern that some operations have expanded the exemption beyond the need and that they would like to see increased clarity in terms of seasonality and products that qualify for the exemption as well as monitoring of safety among those utilizing the exemption.

Both groups agreed on the need to promote safety in the agricultural trucking industry and discussed how to get that message out, including promotion of AFTC's "Manager's Guide to Safe Trucking During Agricultural Planting and Harvest Season."

Discussion will occur among AFTC members about next steps going forward with this dialogue during the AFTC Board of Directors meeting scheduled for Oct. 6 during the ATA Management Conference and Exhibition in Las Vegas.