

## **NOTICE TO UA PIPELINE RIG WELDERS REGARDING EXEMPTION FROM FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

On December 4, 2015, President Barack Obama signed into law the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. The FAST Act includes, at Section 5524, an exemption to federal motor carrier safety laws and regulations covering virtually all trucks owned by UA welders that are equipped with welding rigs used in pipeline industry. Attached to this Notice is a copy of Section 5524.

Under the new law, if you own a pick-up-style truck (e.g., a pickup truck with an enclosed or flatbed) that is equipped with a welding rig that is used in the construction or maintenance of pipelines and that has a gross vehicle weight and combination weight rating and weight of 15,000 pounds or less, you, your vehicle, and your employer are all covered by the exemption. The exemption applies irrespective of whether you are traveling in the State in which your vehicle is registered or in another State.

The exemption was designed to cover all of the requirements that the typical rig welder was previously required to meet under federal law. If the exemption applies, you and your employer are not required to do any of the following in relation to your truck:

- Register as a motor carrier
- Obtain or display a DOT number
- Maintain a driver qualification file
- Meet federal requirements related to vehicle parts and accessories, inspections or repair and maintenance
- Keep a record of duty log or comply with any other hours of service rule

Please keep this Notice, and the attached copy of Section 5524 of the FAST Act, in your vehicle at all times. If you are pulled over for not displaying a DOT number, respectfully inform the officer that your vehicle is covered by a federal exemption and offer to provide him or her with this Notice and the attached copy of Section 5524 below.

### ***SEC. 5524. EXEMPTIONS FROM REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN WELDING TRUCKS USED IN THE PIPELINE INDUSTRY.***

- (a) Covered Motor Vehicle Defined. In this section, the term "covered motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle that
- (1) is traveling in the State in which the vehicle is registered or another State;
  - (2) is owned by a welder;
  - (3) is a pickup style truck;
  - (4) is equipped with a welding rig that is used in the construction or maintenance of pipelines; and

- (5) Has a gross vehicle weight and combination weight rating and weight of 15,000 pounds or less.

**(b) *FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS. A covered motor vehicle, including the individual operating such vehicle and the employer of such individual, shall be exempt from the following:***

- (1) Any requirement relating to registration as a motor carrier, including the requirement to obtain and display a Department of Transportation number, established under chapters 139 and 311 of title 49, United States Code.
- (2) Any requirement relating to driver qualifications established under chapter 311 of title 49, United States Code.
- (3) Any requirement relating to driving of commercial motor vehicles established under chapter 311 of title 49, United States Code.
- (4) Any requirement relating to parts and accessories and inspection, repair, and maintenance of commercial motor vehicles established under chapter 311 of title 49, United States Code.
- (5) Any requirement relating to hours of service of drivers, including maximum driving and on duty time, established under chapter 315 of title 49, United States Code.