

DEFINITION AND REQUIREMENTS OF A DOT ACCIDENT

The definition as specified is-

1. Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this definition, an occurrence involving a commercial motor vehicle operating on a highway in interstate or intrastate commerce which results in:
 - (i) A fatality;
 - (ii) Bodily injury to a person who, as a result of the injury , immediately receives medical treatment away from the scene of the accident; or
 - (iii) One or more motor vehicles incurring disabling damage as a result of the accident, requiring the motor vehicles to be transported away from the scene by a tow truck or other motor vehicle.
- (2) The term accident does **not** include:
 - (i) An occurrence involving only boarding and lighting from a stationary motor vehicle; or
 - (ii) An occurrence involving only the loading or unloading of Cargo.

When you review the complete sections of parts 390.5 and 390.15 it will describe additional requirements including the time frame of which a commercial driver involved in a motor vehicle accident must be drug tested (*FMCSA parts 382.303 post accident testing, and procedures part 40*).

It is the responsibility of the motor carrier to ensure these directions are followed and properly documented and carried out accordingly.

A good way to ensure all DOT requirements are followed is the training of key personnel and drivers. Supervisors should review company policies at least yearly to ensure they are in complete compliance and all accidents have been properly followed up on. The worst thing you can do is **not** keep all documentation of any accident minor or not they should all be thoroughly investigated.