

1500 SW Arrowhead Road
Topeka, KS 66604-4027



Phone: 785-271-3100
Fax: 785-271-3354
<http://kcc.ks.gov/>

Dwight D. Keen, Chair
Shari Feist Albrecht, Commissioner
Susan K. Duffy, Commissioner

Laura Kelly, Governor

NOTICE OF PENALTY ASSESSMENT

September 12, 2019

20-TRAM-109-PEN

Mark Neis, Owner
d/b/a Mark Neis Farms
12775 County Line Rd
Eudora, KS 66025

This is a notice of a penalty assessment against Mark Neis, d/b/a Mark Neis Farms (Mark Neis Farms) for violation(s) of Kansas Motor Carrier Safety Statutes, Rules, and Regulations discovered during a compliance review conducted on August 12, 2019, by Kansas Corporation Commission Special Investigator Jared Smith. Penalties are assessed in accordance with the FY 2020 Uniform Penalty Assessment Matrix, approved by the Commission on July 16, 2019. For a full description of the penalty(s) and terms and obligations please refer to the Order attached to this notice.

IF YOU ACCEPT THE PENALTY: Mark Neis Farms has been assessed a \$300 penalty. You have thirty (30) days from the date of service of the Penalty Order to pay the penalty. Please remit payment of \$300, through your personal account with the Kansas Corporation Commission's KTRAN system located at <https://puc.kcc.ks.gov/ktran/>. If you have not received a letter from the Transportation Division assigning you a PIN, please contact that Division at 785-271-3145. You must have an account through KTRAN to pay the penalty owed.

The attached Order requires a representative of Mark Neis Farms to attend a Commission-sponsored safety seminar within ninety (90) days from the date of the Order and to provide the undersigned Litigation Counsel with written proof of attendance. A schedule of dates and locations for safety seminars can be found at the Commission's website http://www.kcc.state.ks.us/trans/safety_meetings.htm. The Order also requires your company to submit to one follow-up safety compliance review within 18 months from the date of the Order. Transportation Staff will contact your company at a later date to determine an appropriate time for this review.

IF YOU CONTEST THE PENALTY ORDER: You have the right to request a hearing. A request for hearing must be made in writing, setting forth the specific grounds upon which relief is sought. Mark Neis Farms must file, within fifteen (15) days from the date of service of this Order, the request for hearing with the Commission's electronic filing system found at <https://puc.kcc.ks.gov/e-filing/e-express/>, and mail a copy of the request for hearing to the undersigned at the above address. If you do not have access to the internet, you can mail an original and seven copies of the request to the Executive Director at 1500 S.W. Arrowhead Road, Topeka, Kansas 66604, and mail a copy to the undersigned Litigation Counsel. K.A.R. 82-1-215; K.S.A. 2018 Supp. 77-542.

IF YOU FAIL TO ACT: Failure to pay the penalty of \$300 within thirty (30) days from the date of service of the Penalty Order or failure to comply with the terms of the Order, or in the alternative, failure to provide a timely written request for a hearing, will result in the Order becoming final and may result in additional sanctions of suspension and/or revocation of your motor carrier operating authority.

Respectfully,

Ahsan A. Latif
Litigation Counsel
(785) 271-3118

**THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS**

Before Commissioners: Dwight D. Keen, Chair
 Shari Feist Albrecht
 Susan K. Duffy

In the Matter of the Investigation of **Mark Neis,**)
d/b/a Mark Neis Farms, of Eudora, KS,)
Regarding the Violation of the Motor Carrier)
Safety Statutes, Rules and Regulations and the) Docket No. 20-TRAM-109-PEN
Commission's Authority to Impose Penalties,)
Sanctions and/or the Revocation of Motor)
Carrier Authority.)

PENALTY ORDER

The above-captioned matter comes before the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas (Commission). Having examined its files and records, and being duly advised in the premises, the Commission finds and concludes as follows:

I. JURISDICTION

1. Pursuant to K.A.R. 82-4-1b, 66-1,111, 66-1,112, 66-1,114, 66-1,114b and 66-1,115, the Commission is given full power, authority and jurisdiction to supervise and control motor carriers, as defined in K.A.R. 82-4-1, doing business or procuring business in Kansas, and is empowered to do all things necessary and convenient for the exercise of such power, authority and jurisdiction.

2. Pursuant to K.S.A. 2018 Supp. 66-1,129a, 66-1,130 and 66-1,142b, the Commission may suspend operations, revoke or amend certificates, and initiate sanctions or fines against every motor carrier and every person who violates any provision of Kansas law in regard

to the regulation of such motor carriers and persons, or who fails to obey any order, decision or regulation of the Commission.

3. The Commission has the authority, pursuant to K.A.R. 82-1-237, to investigate an entity under the Commission's jurisdiction and issue an order on the Commission's own motion when the Commission believes the entity is in violation of the law or any order of the Commission.

II. BACKGROUND

4. Mark Neis, d/b/a Mark Neis Farms (Mark Neis Farms) has private operating authority with the Commission and further operates under USDOT number 1104373.

5. Mark Neis Farms is a private motor carrier which primarily hauls grain, feed and hay.

III. STATEMENT OF FACTS

6. Pursuant to the jurisdiction and authority cited above, on August 12, 2019, Commission Staff (Staff) Special Investigator Jared Smith conducted a safety compliance review of the operations of Mark Neis Farms. A copy of the safety compliance review is included in this Penalty Order as Attachment "A" and is hereby incorporated by reference. As a result of this investigation, the special investigator identified one (1) violation(s) of the Motor Carrier Safety Regulations.

- a. Mark Neis Farms commercially transports goods over the highways of the United States. It failed to pay its 2019 Unified Carrier Registration (UCR) fee. Mark Neis Farms operates four (4) commercial motor vehicles. The carrier's failure to annually register its commercial motor vehicle(s) operating in interstate commerce and to pay the appropriate Unified

Carrier Registration (UCR) fees as set out in 49 C.F.R. 367.60, is a violation of K.A.R. 82-4-30a, authorized by K.S.A. 66-1,139a and K.S.A. 66-1,129. Staff recommends a fine of \$300.

IV. STAFF'S RECOMMENDATIONS

7. Based upon the available facts, Staff recommends the Commission finds Mark Neis Farms committed one (1) violation(s) of Kansas law that governs motor carriers, including various provisions of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs), as adopted by the Kansas Administrative Regulations, and is therefore subject to sanctions or fines imposed by the Commission.

8. Additionally, Staff recommends a civil penalty of \$300 for one (1) violation(s) of the Motor Carrier Safety Statutes, Rules and Regulations.

9. Staff further recommends that a representative from Mark Neis Farms be required to attend a Commission-sponsored safety seminar within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, and provide Litigation Counsel with written proof of attendance. A schedule of the dates and locations for safety seminars can be found on the Commission's website at http://kcc.ks.gov/trans/safety_meetings.htm.

10. Finally, Staff recommends that Mark Neis Farms submit to one follow-up safety compliance review within eighteen (18) months from the date of this Order. Transportation Staff will contact the motor carrier at a later date to determine an appropriate time for this review.

V. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

11. The Commission finds it has jurisdiction over Mark Neis Farms because it is a motor carrier as defined in K.A.R. 82-4-1.

12. The Commission finds Mark Neis Farms committed one (1) violation(s) of Kansas law that governs motor carriers, including various provisions of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs), as adopted by the Kansas Administrative Regulations, and is therefore subject to sanctions or fines imposed by the Commission.

THE COMMISSION THEREFORE ORDERS THAT:

A. Mark Neis, d/b/a Mark Neis Farms, of Eudora, KS is hereby assessed a \$300 civil penalty for one (1) violation(s) of Kansas law governing the regulation of motor carriers, the Kansas Administrative Regulations and provisions of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, as adopted by the Kansas Administrative Regulations.

B. Mark Neis Farms is hereby ordered to attend a Commission-sponsored safety seminar within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order, and is to provide Litigation Counsel with written proof of attendance.

C. Carrier is hereby ordered to submit a written, comprehensive corrective action plan (CAP) to Transportation Staff within thirty (30) days of the date of this order.

D. Mark Neis Farms is ordered to submit to one follow-up safety compliance review within eighteen (18) months from the date of this Order. Transportation Staff will contact the carrier to set up the appointment.

E. Pursuant to K.S.A. 2018 Supp. 77-537 and K.S.A. 77-542, any party may request a hearing on the above issue(s) by submitting a written request setting forth the specific grounds upon which relief is sought. The request may be electronically filed with the Commission's electronic filing system at <https://puc.kcc.ks.gov/e-filing/e-express/>, within fifteen (15) days from the date of service of this Order, and a copy of the request mailed to the Litigation Division. If you do not have access to the internet, you can mail an original and seven copies of the request

to the Executive Director at 1500 S.W. Arrowhead Road, Topeka, Kansas 66604, and mail a copy of the request to Litigation Counsel. A hearing will be scheduled only upon written request. Failure to timely request a hearing will result in a waiver of Mark Neis Farms' right to a hearing, and this Penalty Order will become a Final Order assessing a \$300 civil penalty against Mark Neis Farms, and ordering a representative from Mark Neis Farms to attend a Commission-sponsored safety seminar within ninety (90) days from the date of this Order and provide Litigation Counsel with written proof of attendance, and to submit to a safety compliance review within 18 months from the date of this Order.

F. If a request for hearing is filed, attorneys for all parties shall enter their appearances in Commission proceedings by giving their names and addresses for the record. For civil penalties exceeding \$500, a corporation shall appear before the Commission by its attorney, unless waived by the Commission for good cause shown and a determination that such waiver is in the public interest. K.S.A. 77-515(c); K.A.R. 82-1-228(d)(2); K.A.R. 82-1-202(a). For civil penalties less than \$500, a corporation may appear by a duly authorized representative of the corporation. K.S.A. 2018 Supp. 66-1,142b(e) and amendments thereto.

G. If you do not request a hearing, the payment of the civil penalty of \$300 is due in thirty (30) days from the date of service of this Order. Payment of \$300 must be made through your personal account with the Kansas Corporation Commission's KTRAN system located at <https://puc.kcc.ks.gov/ktran/>. You must have an account through KTRAN to pay the penalty.

H. Failure to pay the \$300 civil penalty within thirty (30) days from the date of service of this Penalty Order, *see* K.S.A. 66-1,105, and/or failure to comply with the provisions of this Order, may result in suspension of Mark Neis Farms' motor carrier operating authority without further notice. Additionally, the Commission may impose further sanctions to include,

but not limited to, the issuance and enforcement of revocation of authority and/or cease and desist orders, and any other remedies available to the Commission by law, without further notice.

I. The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and the parties for the purpose of entering such further orders, as necessary.

BY THE COMMISSION IT IS SO ORDERED.

Keen, Chair; Albrecht, Commissioner; Duffy, Commissioner




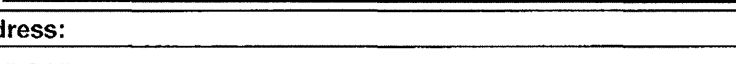
Dated: _____




Lynn M. Retz
Executive Director

AAL

ATTACHMENT “A”

	US DOT # 1104373	Legal: MARK NEIS Operating (DBA): MARK NEIS FARMS	
MC/MX #:		Federal Tax ID:  (SSN)	
Review Type: Non-ratable Review - CSA			
Scope: Principal Office		Location of Review/Audit: Company facility in the U S.	
Territory:			
Operation Types		Interstate	Intrastate
Carrier:	Non-HM	Non-HM	Business: Corporation
Shipper:	N/A	N/A	Gross Revenue:
Cargo Tank:	N/A		for year ending: 12/31/2018
Company Physical Address:			
12775 COUNTY LINE ROAD EUDORA, KS 66025			
Contact Name: Mark Neis			
Phone numbers: (1) 			
E-Mail Address: 			
Company Mailing Address:			
12775 COUNTY LINE ROAD EUDORA, KS 66025			
Carrier Classification			
Private Property			
Cargo Classification			
Grain, Feed, Hay			
Equipment			
	Owned	Term Leased	Trip Leased
Truck Tractor	4	0	0
Trailer	4	0	0
Power units used in the U S.: 4			
Percentage of time used in the U.S.: 100			
Does carrier transport placardable quantities of HM? No			
Is an HM Permit required? N/A			
Driver Information			
	Inter	Intra	Average trip leased drivers/month: 0
< 100 Miles:			Total Drivers: 4
>= 100 Miles:	4		CDL Drivers: 4



	MARK NEIS FARMS (MARK NEIS dba) U.S. DOT # 1104373	Review Date 08/05/2019
Part A		
QUESTIONS regarding this report or the Federal Motor Carrier Safety or Hazardous Materials rules may be addressed to the Office of Motor Carriers at:		
This report will be used to assess your safety compliance.		
<u>Person(s) Interviewed</u>		
Name: Mark Neis		Title: Owner
Name:		Title:



	MARK NEIS FARMS (MARK NEIS dba)	Review Date
	U.S. DOT #: 1104373	08/05/2019

Part B Violations

1 FEDERAL	Primary: 367.	Discovered 1	Checked 1	Drivers/Vehicles In Violation Checked
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Description
Failed to pay Unified Carrier Registration (UCR) fee when operating in Interstate Commerce.
Example
Failure to pay 2019 UCR

Safety Fitness Rating Information:		OOS Vehicle (CR): 0
Total Miles Operated	30,000	Number of Vehicle Inspected (CR): 0
Recordable Accidents	0	OOS Vehicle (MCMIS): 0
		Number of Vehicles Inspected (MCMIS): 0

Your proposed safety rating is :

This Review is not Rated.



MARK NEIS FARMS (MARK NEIS dba)
U.S DOT #. 1104373

Review Date
08/05/2019

Safety Management Process Breakdowns and Remedies

1. FMCSA recently announced planned improvements to the Carrier Safety Measurement System (SMS) which was implemented in December 2010 as part of the Agency's broader Compliance, Safety, Accountability (CSA) initiative. A preview of these improvements is currently available to motor carriers. The system changes are scheduled to be available to the public in July 2012.

There will be additional opportunity for public comment on the changes after the preview period ends in July 2012. The improvements to SMS are based on ongoing analysis and feedback from enforcement personnel, the motor carrier industry, and other stakeholders. The changes more effectively identify and prioritize high-risk and other unsafe motor carriers for enforcement interventions designed to reduce commercial motor vehicle crashes and hazardous materials incidents.

Motor carrier's currently have the ability to preview how the improvements impact their individual safety data in SMS. These improvements include: (1) Changes to the SMS methodology that identify higher risk carriers while addressing industry biases, (2) better applications of SMS results for Agency interventions by more accurately identifying safety sensitive carriers (i.e., carriers transporting people and carriers hauling hazardous materials (HM)), so that such firms can be selected for CSA interventions at more stringent levels; and, (3) more specific fact-based displays of SMS results on the SMS Web site.

The data preview may be found at <http://csa.fmcsa.dot.gov/>. During the data preview period, the Agency requests comments on the impacts of the changes.


2. For all Investigations

- **Understand Why Compliance Saves Time and Money.** Compliance with FMCSRs will not only save lives, but also saves your business time and money. Tracking how much your business spends on non-compliance activities can help you understand the many benefits of compliance to your business and why safety is good business.
- **Document and Follow Through on Action Plans.** Document and follow through on action plans to ensure the actions you are taking are creating improvement in safety management and compliance.
- **NOTICE:** A pattern and/or repeated violations of the same or related acute or critical regulations (violations of the same Part in Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations) will cause the maximum penalties allowed by law to be assessed under Section 222 of the Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999 (MCSIA). A pattern of violations means two or more violations of acute and/or critical regulations in three or more Parts of Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations discovered during any eligible investigation. Repeated violations means violation(s) of an acute regulation of the same Part of Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations discovered in an investigation after one or more closed enforcement actions within a six year period and/or violation(s) of a critical regulation in the same Part of Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations discovered in an investigation after two or more closed enforcement actions within a six year period.
- **NOTICE:** 49 CFR Part 391.23 requires prospective employers to, at a minimum, investigate a driver's employment information, crash record, and alcohol and controlled substances history from all employers the driver worked for within the previous 3 years.

The Pre-Employment Screening Program (PSP) is a screening tool that assists motor carriers in investigating crash history and roadside safety performance of prospective drivers. The PSP allows motor carriers to purchase 5 years of crash data and 3 years of roadside inspection data from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) Motor Carrier Management Information System (MCMIS). Records are available 24 hours a day via Web request. Motor carriers should visit the following website for more information [http://www.psp.fmcsa dot.gov/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.psp.fmcsa.dot.gov/Pages/default.aspx)

- All motor carriers and truck drivers are needed to fight against terrorism and hijacking. You could be a target. Protect yourself, your trucks, your cargo, and your facilities. Discuss with your employees/drivers the "Security Measures for Truck Drivers and Companies" which were provided and reviewed with motor carrier official. Motor carriers should visit the following website for more information:



	MARK NEIS FARMS (MARK NEIS dba) U.S. DOT # 1104373	Review Date: 08/05/2019
Safety Management Process Breakdowns and Remedies		

<http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/documents/Hijacking-Brochure.pdf>

FMCSA recently announced planned improvements to the Carrier Safety Measurement System (SMS) which was implemented in December 2010 as part of the Agency's broader Compliance, Safety, Accountability (CSA) initiative. A preview of these improvements is currently available to motor carriers. The system changes are scheduled to be available to the public in July 2012. There will be additional opportunity for public comment on the changes after the preview period ends in July 2012. The improvements to SMS are based on ongoing analysis and feedback from enforcement personnel, the motor carrier industry, and other stakeholders. The changes more effectively identify and prioritize high-risk and other unsafe motor carriers for enforcement interventions designed to reduce commercial motor vehicle crashes and hazardous materials incidents. Motor carrier's currently have the ability to preview how the improvements impact their individual safety data in SMS. These improvements include (1) Changes to the SMS methodology that identify higher risk carriers while addressing industry biases, (2) better applications of SMS results for Agency interventions by more accurately identifying safety sensitive carriers (i.e., carriers transporting people and carriers hauling hazardous materials (HM)), so that such firms can be selected for CSA interventions at more stringent levels; and, (3) more specific fact-based displays of SMS results on the SMS Web site. The data preview may be found at <http://csa.fmcsa.dot.gov/>. During the data preview period, the Agency requests comments on the impacts of the changes.

This letter should be submitted as soon as possible.

For all Investigations that did not result in a Cooperative Safety Plan.

The KCC requires that you prepare a corrective action plan, addressing the measures taken to correct the violations identified within this report. Submit this letter within 30 days outlining the carrier's updated changes to their policies and procedures regarding all listed violations. Explain in detail how, as a carrier representative, you will rectify these deficiencies and prevent their reoccurrence going forward. Include any supporting documentation and evidence as indicated in the recommendations above, (example: vehicle inspections performed, proof of drug and alcohol testing in place, etc.) necessary to prove that corrective action has been taken. Submit the letter along with copies of your supporting evidence to:

Email g.davenport@kcc.ks.gov
 Fax: 785.271.3124

or Mail
 Kansas Corporation Commission
 Attn: Gary Davenport
 1500 SW Arrowhead Rd
 Topeka, KS 66604-4027

3. Carrier is required to pay Unified Carrier Registration (UCR) fee when operating in Interstate commerce. Payment of UCR is available on your KTRAN account.
4. I acknowledge that these requirements and/or recommendations have been discussed with me and my questions have been answered. I understand that failure to satisfactorily remedy the above-listed requirements, and/or failure to comply with Kansas Motor Carrier Safety Statutes and Regulations could result in the suspension of Mark Neis Farms operating authority and/or the impoundment of Mark Neis Farms commercial motor vehicles.

 Carrier Representative

 Date



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

20-TRAM-109-PEN

I, the undersigned, certify that a true copy of the attached Order has been served to the following by means of first class mail/hand delivered on 09/13/2019.

AHSAN LATIF, LITIGATION COUNSEL
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
Fax: 785-271-3354
a.latif@kcc.ks.gov

MARK NEIS, OWNER
MARK NEIS
D/B/A MARK NEIS FARMS
12775 COUNTY LINE RD
EUDORA, KS 66025
markneisfarms@msn.com

/S/ DeeAnn Shupe

DeeAnn Shupe