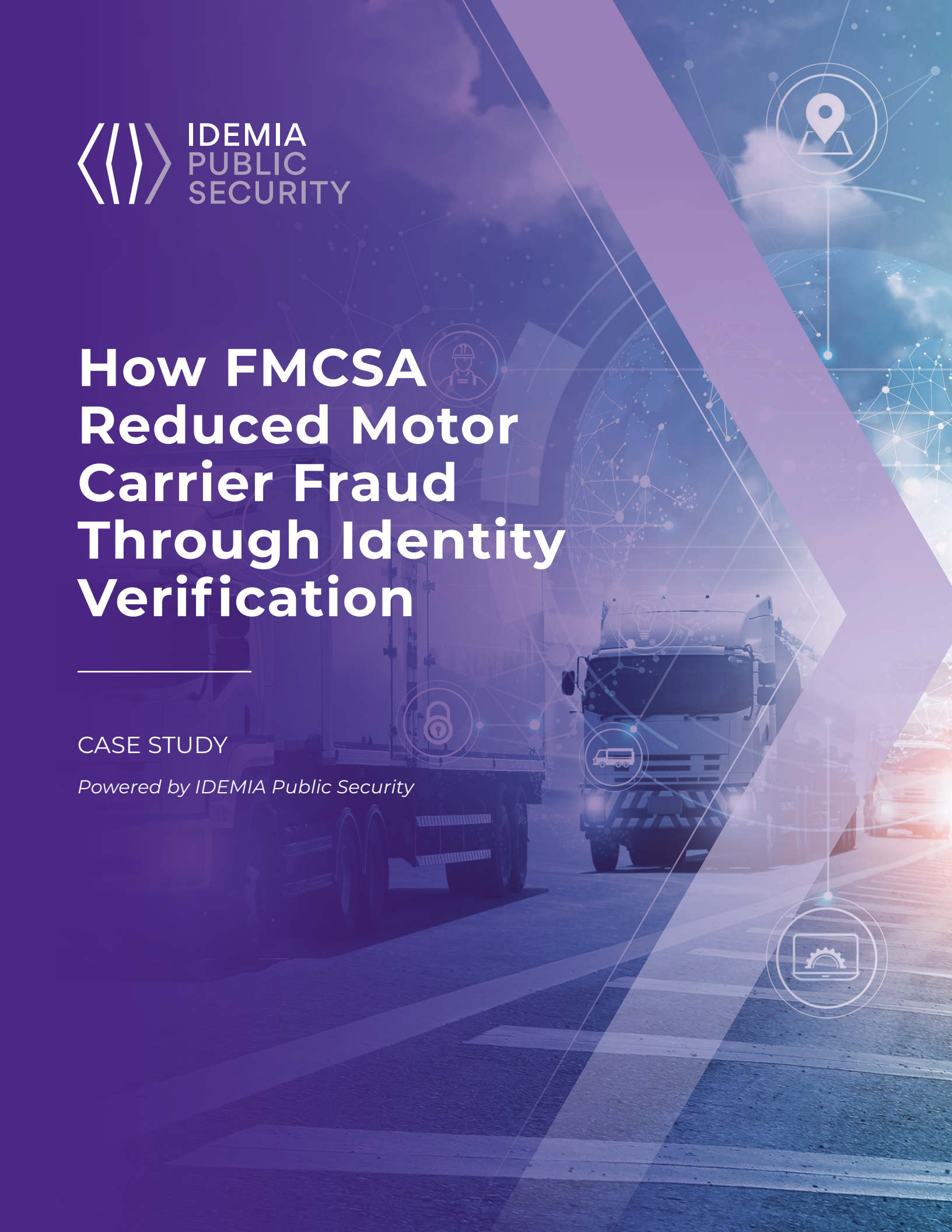
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# How FMCSA Reduced Motor Carrier Fraud Through Identity Verification

CASE STUDY

*Powered by IDEMIA Public Security*



# Executive Summary

In early 2025, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) introduced mandatory identity verification for new motor carrier applicants to combat widespread fraud in the trucking industry. By **integrating identity proofing** from IDEMIA Public Security into its Unified Registration System (URS), FMCSA **moved fraud prevention to the front of the registration process.** Early data shows the change has cut approval rates roughly in half—strong evidence that fraudulent and unverifiable applicants are being stopped before entering the system, without deterring legitimate carriers.

# **The Challenge:** Fraud at Scale

FMCSA has long faced abuse of its motor carrier registration process. Fraudsters have exploited weak identity controls to create sham carriers, hijack legitimate authorities, and enable double brokering and cargo theft. Because the process relied heavily on self-reported information, fraudulent applications often progressed far into review—or were approved—before being detected, placing a heavy burden on regulators and industry stakeholders.



# **The Solution:** Upstream Identity Verification

In 2025, FMCSA implemented a new requirement: all new applicants must complete identity verification through an app provided by IDEMIA Public Security before their registration can proceed.

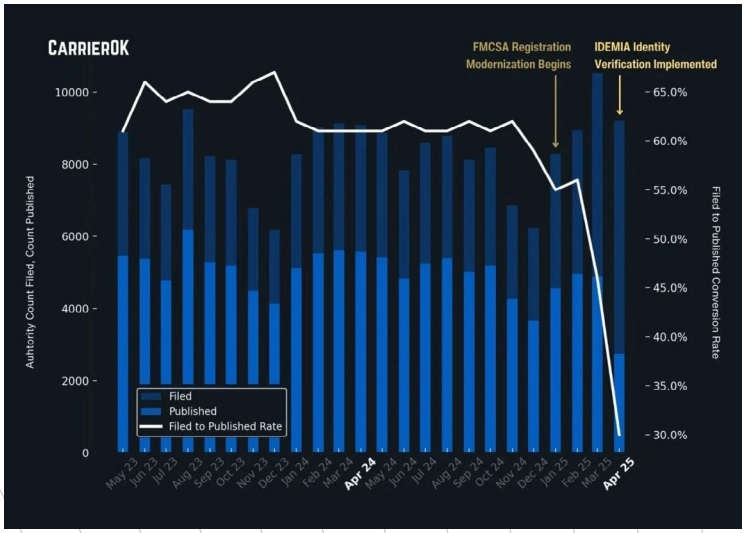
**The process includes:**

- Submission of a government issued photo ID
- A live facial “selfie” for biometric comparison
- Validation of a legitimate physical business address

FMCSA only receives a confirmation of successful verification, not the personal/biometric data used to achieve this result, preserving applicant privacy while establishing strong identity assurance at the point of entry. **This approach shifts fraud prevention from downstream enforcement to proactive gatekeeping.**

# **Early Results:** A Sharply Tightened Funnel

Data from April 2025, when full ID and facial verification went live, shows a dramatic change in application outcomes. According to *CarrierOK,* the share of applications advancing from “Filed” to “Published” dropped from a historical average of 60–65% to roughly 30%. Industry coverage from *FreightWaves* and *Yahoo! News* described this as an effective halving of newly published operating authorities—attributed to fraudulent applicants failing identity or address checks at initial submission.



## **Impact:** Filtering Fraud Without Blocking Legitimate Carriers

Importantly, overall application volume has not gone down. Legitimate carriers continue to apply at comparable rates; the difference is who advances. Applications that cannot pass basic identity verification are now stopped early, reducing workload for FMCSA staff and risk for brokers, shippers, and compliant carriers. The result is a cleaner registry and a more level competitive landscape.

## Conclusion

FMCSA's adoption of identity verification from IDEMIA Public Security represents a measurable shift in how the agency protects the integrity of the motor carrier registry. By moving identity proofing to the front of the process, FMCSA has demonstrated that modern digital identity technology can **deliver immediate, data-backed fraud reduction** in a complex federal regulatory environment—without impeding legitimate market entry.



For more information, contact us at **info@ps-idemia.com**

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