

CASE SUMMARIES

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Texas / Eastern District
Court allows negligence claims against Amazon to proceed under FAAAA motor vehicle safety exception.

Haney v. Ismatov, 2026 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 227467 (E.D. Tex. Oct. 2, 2026)

The Eastern District of Texas denied Amazon's motion to dismiss negligence claims arising from a tractor-trailer collision involving a third-party carrier transporting Amazon freight. The plaintiff alleged that the truck struck his vehicle, causing injuries and a fire, and sought to hold Amazon liable for negligent hiring, training, supervision, entrustment, and respondeat superior. Although the Court found the claims fell within the Federal Aviation Administration Authorization Act's (FAAAA) express preemption provision, it held that the motor vehicle safety exception applied. Relying on the Supreme Court's recent Montgomery decision, the Court determined that claims concerning carrier selection, driver qualifications, and vehicle safety were not preempted. It further found the allegations sufficiently pleaded to allow the claims against Amazon to proceed.

Illinois / Northern District
Court allows motor carrier's breach of contract claim against chassis owner to proceed following wheel-detachment collision.

Drzik v. Assaf, 2026 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 242618 (N.D. Ill. Oct. 21, 2026)

The Northern District of Illinois partially denied a chassis owner's motion to dismiss crossclaims arising from a collision in which a wheel detached from a semi-truck's intermodal chassis and struck another vehicle. The motor carrier alleged that Direct ChassisLink breached obligations under the Uniform Intermodal Interchange and Facilities Access Agreement (UIIA) by providing equipment that failed to comply with Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. The Court allowed the breach of contract claim to proceed, finding sufficient allegations that the chassis owner was bound by the UIIA and that its equipment violated contractual safety requirements. However, it dismissed a separate negligence claim based on alleged regulatory violations, finding the carrier's claimed litigation expenses and potential liability insufficient to support relief under the regulations.

Pennsylvania / Eastern District
Court upholds termination of commercial truck driver who failed to disclose prescription opioid use.

Clark v. Antonio Origlio, Inc., 2026 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 236457 (E.D. Pa. Oct. 16, 2026)

The Eastern District of Pennsylvania granted summary judgment in favor of a beverage distributor facing discrimination claims from a commercial truck driver terminated after failing to disclose his prescribed Oxycodone use before a random drug test. The driver alleged disability and race discrimination, arguing that his prescription medication was necessary to manage back pain. The Court found he failed to comply with the employer's drug and alcohol policy, which required advance disclosure and physician documentation confirming his ability to safely operate a commercial vehicle. Because the driver neither provided the required medical clearance nor informed his employer of his underlying disability or requested an accommodation, the Court rejected his discrimination claims. The ruling reinforces the importance of commercial-driver safety requirements and employer drug-disclosure policies.