



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

504 West Hamilton Street

Suite 3701

Allentown, Pennsylvania 18101

(215) 861-8540

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TRUCKER PLEADS GUILTY TO FALSIFYING LOGBOOKS

PHILADELPHIA - Valerij's Nikolaevich Belovs, 58, of Philadelphia, PA, pleaded guilty today to 15 counts of making false statements in connection with falsified commercial truck driver log books. Sentencing is set for March 13, 2012.

Between December 20, 2008 and January 23, 2009, Belovs falsified his federally-required driver daily logbooks 15 times to conceal the fact that he was driving in excess of the lawful number of allowable driving hours without the required period of rest. For example, on January 22, 2009, the defendant stated that he was in a sleeper berth in Wyethville, Virginia, when he was actually driving to Pennsylvania. On January 23, 2009, at approximately 9:25 a.m., Belovs caused a multi-vehicle crash on the Schuylkill Expressway (I-76) eastbound near the Conshohocken curve during rush hour traffic. Specifically, the defendant struck another vehicle killing the driver and seriously injuring the passenger.

Commercial truck drivers must certify the truthfulness and accuracy of the logbooks, which are inspected by the United States Department of Transportation. Inspection of logbooks is allegedly conducted to ensure that, among other things, truck drivers have not exceeded the 11 hour maximum allowable daily driving hours without having the required 10 consecutive hours of rest or off-duty time. This is to ensure that truck drivers operate their multi-ton trucks in a safe, unimpaired manner to protect the public from commercial trucking-related accidents on the nation's highways.

The case was investigated by the United States Department of Transportation, Office of Inspector General, and has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Robert Reed.

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
EASTERN DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA
Suite 1250, 615 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106**

**Contact: PATTY HARTMAN
Media Contact
215-861-8525**