Roadside Inspections



Why inspect a CMV?

- Safety is the single most important reason you inspect your vehicle.
 Safety for yourself and for other road users around you.
- A vehicle defect found during an inspection could prevent a serious accident or unsafe condition from becoming worse.
- Federal and state inspectors can inspect your vehicle at any time, and if found unsafe, can place your vehicle out-of-service.
- Always inspect every vehicle you operate without exception.



Roadside Inspection

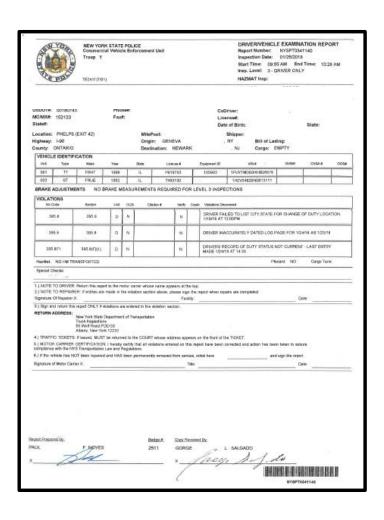
- Roadside inspections are conducted at weigh stations, portable scales, and a variety of other roadside locations, using the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) inspection standards and referencing the FMCSRs to verify the current safety condition of vehicles and drivers.
- When a driver receives an inspection report from a state or FMCSA official at a roadside inspection, the driver must deliver the report to the motor carrier upon arrival at the next terminal or facility. If the driver is not scheduled to arrive at a terminal or facility within 24 hours, an alternate delivery method must be used.



After receiving a roadside inspection report from a driver, the motor carrier must correct
all noted defects, must certify on the form that violations have been corrected, and must
mail the completed form to the address shown. This must be done within 15 days
following the date of the inspection.

Introduction

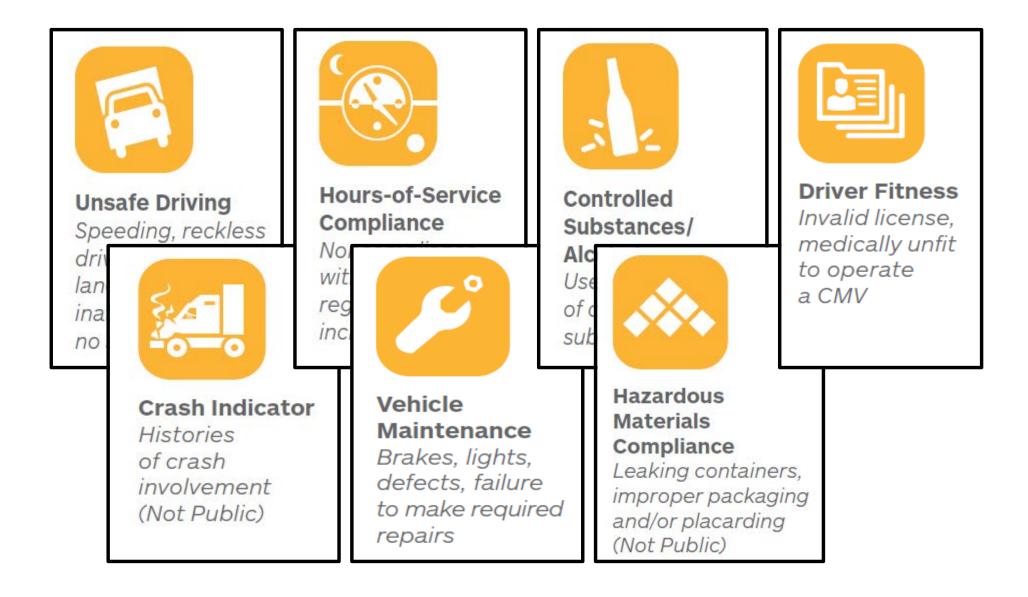
Your company's safety data appears online in FMCSA's Safety Measurement System (SMS) website. FMCSA updates the SMS once a month with data from roadside inspections, including driver and vehicle violations; crash reports from the last two years; and investigation results. The SMS considers:



- The number of safety violations and roadside inspections;
- The severity of safety violations and crashes;
- When violations occurred, with recent events weighted more heavily;
- The number of trucks operated and the number of miles traveled; and
- Acute and Critical Violations found during investigations

Introduction

FMCSA organizes the SMS data into seven Behavior Analysis and Safety Improvement Categories (BASICs):



How to prepare for a DOT inspection?

Effective pre and post trip inspections catch potential mechanical deficiencies and prevent them from becoming safety hazards on the road. Safety is the single most important reason we inspect our vehicles. Safety for ourselves and for other road users around our vehicles. A vehicle defect found during an inspection could prevent a serious accident or unsafe condition from becoming worse.

Both drivers and carriers can use the following tips to prepare for inspections:

- Clean the equipment inside and out
- Implement and follow a <u>preventive maintenance program</u> to keep vehicles in safe condition
- Perform pre-trip, in-route and post-trip inspections for each vehicle operated
- Ensure each driver dispatched has available hours to complete the assigned tasks
- Ensure all driver credentials are current and in the driver's possession every trip, every day
- Secure cargo and equipment properly, including in the cab and check it regularly
- Implement and follow a daily gate check program

What are the most common violations?

Violations are cause for a driver or CMV to be placed out of service. If a driver is placed OOS, another driver may need to come and take over the truck. If the vehicle is in violation, it can either be repaired on site or towed away. Knowing the most common violations can help drivers and carriers better maintain the equipment and keep the necessary documentation on hand.

For drivers:

- Moving violations / unsafe driving
- No or expired medical card
- Invalid, downgraded or expired driver's license
- Not wearing a seat belt
- Exceeding HOS limits
- Operating without the proper CDL endorsements

For vehicles:

- Inoperable lights
- Tire tread depth below 2/32 or 4/32 of an inch
- Oil, grease, transmission fluid or fuel leaks
- No current annual inspection on the vehicle
- Improper cargo securement
- Discharged or unsecured fire extinguisher

Driver Engagement & Vehicle Inspections

What does it mean to be engaged in your driver's vehicle inspection process?

- Understanding the task and verifying daily completion
- Sharing your time and being a mentor
- Sharing your valuable knowledge and experience

What tools are available to managers?

- Give constructive & transparent feedback
- Reinforce expectations consistently
- Observe and ask questions routinely
- Challenge missed opportunities and raise expectations



End of Chapter