

Safety Bulletin

4 Steps to Reduce the Stress of Roadside Inspections

Spring brings with it sunshine, warmth and safer driving conditions. Yet it also leads to a big stressor – an increase in roadside inspections.

Level I inspections, as defined by the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA), are the most comprehensive and time-consuming. They can happen anywhere at any time. Yet you can still be prepared. Follow these four tips to reduce some of the stress from roadside inspections:



1. Get your documents in order – During a Level I inspection, you will be asked to show the inspectors your driver's license, medical examiner's certificate for non CDL holders, record of duty status (RODS), documentation of your rig's annual inspection, and any hazardous material paperwork or permit credentials (if required). Keep these documents organized in a three-ring binder, put them in an easy-to-access place in your truck, and keep them updated.

Paperwork matters. The top out-of-service driver violations found during last summer's CVSA International Roadcheck were for hours of service (48.6%) and false logs (16.4%).¹

2. Keep up on vehicle maintenance – Instead of waiting for a roadside inspection, you can detect and report any non-working items on your vehicle by conducting thorough pre- and post-trip inspections. Items to look for include brake systems, cargo securement, coupling devices, lights, windshield wipers, tires, wheels and rims. Brake violations accounted for the largest amount of out-of-service violations (45.7%) during last year's CVSA International Roadcheck, while wheel and tire violations accounted for 18.5%. Taking the time for daily inspections will help you and your carrier keep up on maintenance and worry less during a roadside inspection.

3. Keep your truck clean – When on the road, your truck is your home. And a clean truck shows that you care about your truck's condition. Cleanliness alone doesn't mean you won't be chosen for a roadside inspection, but it won't hurt, either. Remember, your personal appearance and attitude can also impact the results of your inspection. Be polite and courteous.

4. Take a deep breath – The more defensive and stressed you feel during a roadside inspection, the higher the chance the inspection won't go well. So, take a deep breath, and don't take it personally. More than 4 million roadside inspections take place throughout North America each year.²

¹ <http://cvsa.org/news-entry/2016-international-roadcheck-results/>

² <http://cvsa.org/inspections/inspections/>