

Safety Bulletin

Breathe Easier During 'Random Inspection' Season

You survived the ice and frost that gripped most of the nation this past winter. Now that the weather's warmer, it's time to prepare for spring. That means an increase in Department of Transportation (DOT) random inspections.

Last year, 3 million roadside inspections of trucks were conducted nationwide on the state and federal level. They happened most often in June, according to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).

That's also when the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) holds its annual International Roadcheck.



Get prepared. Keep up-to-date with these seven common maintenance items and breathe easier during a random inspection:

- 1. Lights** – During your pre-trip inspections, turn on all lights in your cab (including turn signals) and make sure they work. Don't forget to check the light around your license plate. "Not having the required operable lamps" ranked as the top truck violation found in 2017 roadside inspections, according to the FMCSA.
- 2. Brakes** – These aren't as easy to check, but brake system problems ranked as the No. 1 out-of-service (OOS) violation during the 2017 CVSA International Roadcheck. Make sure your brakes are adjusted properly and that your air brakes are in good working order.
- 3. Paperwork** – The more organized your paperwork, the smoother a roadside inspection will be. Keep your paperwork in a three-ring binder so it's easy for an officer to review your documents. Also, keep your logs up-to-date. Log violations were the No. 1 driver violation at roadside inspections in 2017, according to the FMCSA.
- 4. Tires** – Make sure your tires don't leak, have an appropriate tread depth (more than 2/32 of an inch), and that the lug nuts are secure.
- 5. Emergency Kits** – In particular, keep a fire extinguisher on your truck, and make sure it's secured and up-to-date.
- 6. Cargo** – Regularly inspect your truck's tie-down equipment. Shifting cargo is easy to detect, and cargo securement annually ranks among the top three OOS violations during the CVSA's annual roadcheck.
- 7. Seatbelts** – Make sure yours are in good working order, and keep your seatbelt fastened whenever you get pulled over.



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