

SAFETYFIRST

INFORMATION DEDICATED TO DRIVER SAFETY



AHEAD OF
THE CURVE



Safety Management
Services Company, 2016

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Be Safe Out There



Roadside Inspection Tips

The CVSA's 2016 International Roadcheck is scheduled for June 7-9, 2016 and will have a special emphasis on tire safety. Drivers can be chosen for a roadside inspection by probable cause or at random, and these inspections can be time consuming and costly. Planning ahead and keeping a good attitude can help reduce your downtime and help to obtain a clean inspection. The following "tips" should be employed:

Eliminate easily visible vehicle mechanical defects. Many drivers are "chosen" for a roadside inspection due to easily visible defects such as cracked windshields, flat tires, lights that are burnt out, disheveled equipment, etc. Be sure to do thorough pre-trip inspections and periodic inspections on the tractor and trailer. If defects are discovered, get them fixed and help reduce the likelihood of receiving a roadside inspection.

Organization is critical. How does your paperwork look? But also, how does your permit book look? Is it organized? Don't expect the inspector to rummage through a huge stack of paperwork to find what he or she is looking for. If you are unsure on what paperwork is needed or what is up-to-date, contact your safety department, if applicable. Having paperwork clean and organized makes you and your company look professional and gets you on your way faster.

A clean cab can give a good impression. Nobody is expecting the cab to be immaculate. A clean cab can give a good inspection, whereas a trashed cab can lead an inspector to think, "The chances of me finding something wrong is very likely."

Attitude counts. Inspectors have some discretion on who and what to inspect. Professionalism and courtesy can go a long way to mitigate the chances or likelihood of being held up and inspected. Also, don't be afraid to ask questions.

Avoid creating doubt. To help prevent "Driver Fitness" violations, do not remove your seat belt before being approached by law enforcement. Removing your seat belt to unlock the passenger door or to obtain paperwork could result in the officer believing that you were not wearing one. Also, if you are required to wear prescription glasses to drive, keep them on your nose. Taking them off to view paperwork before the officer approaches could also lead an officer to believe that you were not wearing them.

Roadside inspections may seem like a nuisance, but they are an important tool to improve safety on the road by inspecting both vehicles and drivers. Before starting your truck and beginning your trip each day, ask yourself: "Am I ready for my roadside inspection today?"



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