

ROADSIDE INSPECTIONS

Roadside inspections are a part of the trucking industry, but drivers can play an important role in determining the frequency with which they occur. Three factors that commonly trigger roadside inspections are the environment, meaning periods of increased inspections; the condition of the truck, both inside and outside; and the driver's behavior. Read the information below and ask yourself if there are actions you can take to reduce the likelihood of drawing inspectors' attention of inspectors and preventing violations and possible fines.

RECOGNIZE THE HAZARDS

ENVIRONMENT/EQUIPMENT

- Periods of increased roadside inspections
 - Company SMS results have alerts in the BASICs
 - Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance's (CVSA) Annual International Roadcheck Campaign

EQUIPMENT

- Improper cargo securement
- Visible defects
 - Inoperable taillights
 - Missing placards
 - Rust on wheels
 - Damaged tires/low tread depth
 - Missing reflective tape on the trailer
 - Cracked/tinted windows
 - Missing company name/DOT number
- Audible air leaks
- Dirty exterior
- Cluttered interior

PERSONAL BEHAVIORS

- Speeding
- Tailgating
- Making abrupt changing lanes
- Not wearing a seatbelt
- Talking on a cell phone
- Disobeying traffic signs
- Parking on the shoulder
- Having an unclean appearance
- Not providing the required paperwork
- Presenting inaccurate paperwork
- Making a U-turn

KNOW THE DEFENSE

ESSENTIAL 7 DRIVING TECHNIQUES

- React properly to hazards
 - Conduct a thorough pre-trip inspection and fix defective items before driving
- Avoid distractions
 - Put away your cell phone while driving
- Be attentive to the road ahead
 - Signal lane changes well in advance
- Maintain proper following distance
 - Keep at least six seconds following distance behind the vehicle in front of you
- Observe proper speed for conditions
 - Reduce speed in adverse conditions
- Maintain one lane
 - Avoid abrupt lane changes
- Yield the right of way
 - Allow other drivers to merge when approaching lane closures

OTHER TIPS

- Place emergency warning signs around the vehicle within 10 minutes of stopping
- Ensure the trailer has the proper placard
- Keep the vehicle interior and exterior clean
- Secure cargo properly
- Be polite to the inspector
- Wear a seatbelt
- Be well-rested, groomed, and cleanly dressed
- Keep logs current and properly annotated