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## **REGULATORY ALERT**

*May 20, 2019*

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### **NATIONWIDE DOT ROADSIDE INSPECTION BLITZ SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 4-6**

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The Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance's (CVSA) Roadcheck 2019 nationwide roadside inspection blitz will take place June 4-6. Over the 72-hour period, commercial motor vehicle inspectors in jurisdictions throughout the country will conduct roadside inspections on commercial motor vehicles and drivers. Although roadside inspections will be thorough and cover many driver and vehicle compliance requirements, special emphasis this year will be on steering and suspension systems.

#### ***Inspection Focus***

During Roadcheck 2019, CVSA-certified inspectors will primarily conduct the North American Level I Inspection, a 37-step procedure that includes an examination of driver operating requirements and vehicle mechanical fitness. Inspectors may opt to conduct the Level II Walk Around Driver/Vehicle Inspection, Level III Driver/Credential/Administrative Inspection, or the Level IV Vehicle-Only Inspection. If no critical vehicle inspection item violations are found during a Level I or Level V Inspection, a [CVSA Decal](#) will be applied to the rear impact guard, indicating that the vehicle successfully passed inspection. If a critical vehicle violation is found, the inspector may take the vehicle out of service. This means the vehicle cannot be operated until the violation(s) are corrected. A driver can also be placed out of service for driver credential-related issues or driver conditions, such as fatigue or impairment. Out-of-service orders and the number, type and severity of safety violations affect a motor carrier's Compliance, Safety, Accountability (CSA) score and its Safety Fitness Determination rating. Click on the following links for detailed information on the different roadside inspection levels:

[North American Level I Inspection.](#)

[Level II Walk Around Driver/Vehicle Inspection](#)

[Level III Driver/Credential/Administrative Inspection](#)

[Level IV Vehicle-Only Inspection.](#)

## ***CDL Driver Tips for Surviving a Roadside Inspection***

Roadside inspections are a critical part of the trucking industry. They help ensure that truck drivers are compliant with the laws and are operating safely on the road. It is important drivers are ready for the possibility of a roadside inspection every day. Failing a roadside inspection will result in civil penalties and possible out of service orders. The following tips for drivers stopped for a roadside inspection will help your company avoid unnecessary fines and out of service orders:

- 1. Be polite** - If you get pulled for a random inspection at a weigh station or for having an infraction, being combative, defensive or rude will more than likely lead to the inspector to issue a violation when a warning would have otherwise been appropriate.
- 2. Stay in the Cab** - Stay in the truck with both hands on the wheel when stopped. Remain in the cab during inspection unless asked to exit by the enforcement officer.
- 3. Know Your ELD** - If using an ELD to record hours of service, know how to operate it fully without undue delay or confusion.
- 4. Conduct Pre-trip Inspection** - Conduct pre-trip inspections and take care of any issues you find BEFORE starting your shift. Keep the pre-inspection paperwork in the cab.
- 5. Be Clean**- Keep your truck and equipment clean. This may be nearly impossible in inclement weather but if it's been more than a few days since it snowed or rained and your vehicle is covered in mud, you're asking for trouble. Also, make sure that the interior of the cab is neat and organized.
- 6. Know the Routine** - Be familiar with [roadside inspection procedures](#) this includes knowing how to answer DOT related questions.
- 7. Be Legal** - Don't use a radar detector; the FMCSR, along with several state and local jurisdictions, prohibit the use and possession of radar detectors. Many state troopers and even scale houses use radar detector detectors.
- 8. Buckle-up** - Wear your seatbelt at all times. Failure to wear a seat belt is the most common driver violation for many years running.
- 9. Be Current** - Ensure that the truck and trailer are both current on their annual inspections and are displaying the appropriate decals and placards.
- 10. Be Sober** - Be compliant with FMCSR drug and alcohol requirements.
- 11. Be Qualified** - Drivers need to ensure they meet the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSR) qualification requirements: be at least 21 years of age; able to read English; experience necessary to operate the equipment used; maintain the proper endorsement for hazardous materials; make sure CDL is up to date; be compliant with hours of service limitations; do not use a hand held phone unless it can be operated with a one touch system.

**12. Be Prepared for Emergencies-** Make sure the cab is equipped with an emergency kit including a working and up to date serviced fire extinguisher, extra fuses/circuit breakers, emergency hazard triangles,

**13. Maintain Paperwork -** Maintain, organize and have immediate access to all required paperwork including:

- Medical Examiners Certificate
- Record of Duty Status (long haul drivers)
- Daily Vehicle Inspection Report
- Periodic Inspection Reports
- Shipping Papers, Bills of Lading
- Vehicle Inspection Certificate
- Skill Performance Evaluation Certificate
- CDL License and Endorsement
- Vehicle Insurance and Registration Information
- Record of Duty Status (if required)
- Emergency Guidebook Information

**Bottom Line for your DOT Inspection:**

Be Courteous, Be Organized, and Be Prepared

You should be ready for a DOT truck inspection at any time. Keeping your truck well-maintained, keeping your documents and cab organized, and making sure to be courteous and respectful towards inspectors will ensure that you will pass your truck inspection.