



# UNSAFE DRIVING

**UNDER CSA 2010**

As a professional driver, you know that unsafe driving can have serious consequences on the road, including crashes, injuries, or even death. Under the new CSA 2010 program, unsafe driving can also have serious consequences for your career.

## EXAMPLES OF UNSAFE DRIVING:

- Speeding
- Reckless driving
- Improper lane changes or turns
- Inattention
- Following too close
- Failing to yield right of way

## What are the BASICS?

The *Behavioral Analysis and Safety Improvement Categories*, or BASICS, are seven categories of safety-related violations on which you and your employer will be graded under CSA 2010. They are: unsafe driving, fatigued driving, driver fitness, drugs/alcohol, vehicle maintenance, cargo loading/securement, and crash history.

## DID YOU KNOW?

All unsafe driving violations reported at the roadside will be factored into your grade on this BASIC, even if a citation or ticket is not issued!

## Intervention #1

### *The warning letter*

Warning letters are sent to carriers when they perform poorly in one or more BASICS. The letter describes the apparent safety problems and the potential consequences of continued violations.

## WHAT IS UNSAFE DRIVING?

Operating a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) in a dangerous or careless manner.

## HOW IS UNSAFE DRIVING MEASURED?

Using violations of certain federal safety rules and state traffic laws recorded during roadside inspections and traffic enforcement during the past 3 years.

This is a **stand-alone** BASIC — a failing grade in this BASIC alone could have serious consequences!

## HOW WILL UNSAFE DRIVING AFFECT ME?

Besides the obvious risk to public safety, if your personal record includes violations for unsafe driving (even if you weren't placed out of service), your safety ranking — and that of your company — will be affected. This could lead to a response from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), ranging from a warning letter to more roadside inspections, a full-blown audit, or worse. And you personally could be fined. The more violations, the higher the BASIC score and the more likely the FMCSA will intervene.

Your grade on this BASIC will be updated every 30 days. When measuring your performance, the FMCSA will consider:

- Violations from the past 36 months — for your employer's grade, it's 24 months.
- The types of violations committed — some are worse than others (see table).
- The age of the violations — more recent violations bear more weight. In fact, violations from the past 12 months are *three times* as damaging to your grade as those recorded 2-3 years ago.

## EXAMPLES OF UNSAFE DRIVING VIOLATIONS BY SEVERITY

The higher the severity, the more crash risk and the more your grade on this BASIC will be affected.

VIOLATION	SEVERITY
Driving a CMV while texting	10
Reckless driving	10
Speeding: 15+ mph over limit or in construction zone	10
Speeding: 11-14 mph over limit	7
Driving a CMV without wearing a seatbelt	7
Failing to obey a traffic control device	5
Following too close	5
Improper lane changes, turns, or passing	5
Failing to yield right of way	5
Having or using a radar detector	5
Speeding: 6-10 mph over limit	4
Having unauthorized passengers	1

Possible violations under this BASIC: 36 • Number that could affect driver's grade: 35 (average severity = 4.4)



**J. J. Keller**  
& Associates, Inc.  
Since 1953