

# VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

**UNDER CSA**

Vehicle maintenance is a critical component of any motor carrier's safety program, and it's vital to your safety on the road. Under CSA 2010, improper vehicle maintenance could have a big impact on both you and your company.

## EXAMPLES OF VEHICLE MAINTENANCE VIOLATIONS:

- Defective brakes, lights, or other safety-related components
- Failure to make required repairs
- Failure to complete daily or annual inspections

## 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?

Operating a vehicle that has been placed out of service (i.e., "jumping" an OOS order) could cost you up to \$2,100 in fines, and your employer up to \$16,000!

## Intervention #5

### The notice

A **Notice of Violation** is used to put a carrier or driver on notice of specific regulatory violations. The carrier would then have to provide evidence the problems were fixed or successfully challenge the violations. A **Notice of Claim** includes a fine and is used to deter severe or persistent unsafe behavior.

## WHAT IS CONSIDERED A VEHICLE MAINTENANCE VIOLATION?

Operating a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) that has critical safety defects due to improper or inadequate maintenance.

## HOW IS VEHICLE MAINTENANCE MEASURED?

Using violations of federal safety rules recorded during roadside inspections during the past 3 years. Failure to inspect and maintain vehicles properly is a "fundamental" violation that can put a carrier out of business.

## HOW WILL IMPROPER VEHICLE MAINTENANCE AFFECT ME?

Under CSA 2010, vehicle maintenance is a shared responsibility between you and your company. Violations for failing to inspect and maintain a CMV will harm your safety ranking and that of your employer, which could lead the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to step in. As a result, you and/or your employer could be warned, audited, fined, and/or ordered to fix the problems. The more violations, the higher the BASIC score and the more likely the FMCSA will intervene, even if you switch employers.

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 — or 24 months for your employer's grade.
- The types of violations committed — some are worse than others (see table).
- The number of inspections — the more "clean" inspections the better.
- The age of the violations — more recent violations bear more weight. Violations from the past 12 months are *three times* as damaging to your grade as those recorded 24 to 36 months ago.

## EXAMPLES OF VEHICLE MAINTENANCE VIOLATIONS BY SEVERITY

The higher the severity, the more crash risk and the more your grade on this BASIC will be affected. Being placed out of service increases the severity by 2 points.

VIOLATION	SEVERITY
Violating a vehicle out-of-service order	10
Violating the tire tread standards	8
Suspension-related violations	7
Violating the lighting standards	6
Steering-related violations	6
No pre-trip inspection	4
Brake-related violations	4
Failing to be knowledgeable of Part 396 rules	4
Failing to complete a Driver Vehicle Inspection Report	4
Reflective sheeting/reflector violations	3
Defective coupling device	3
Underinflated tire or excessive load on tire	3

Possible violations under this BASIC: 219 • Number that could affect driver's grade: 172 (average severity = 3.5)



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