



CARGO LOADING AND SECUREMENT

UNDER CSA

Proper loading and securement of cargo is a critical step in the safe operation of your vehicle. Its importance only grows under the CSA enforcement program.

EXAMPLES OF CARGO-RELATED VIOLATIONS:

- Failing to use enough securement straps
- Failing to use a placard
- Using a knotted or damaged tiedown
- Pushing a loaded bus

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. They are: unsafe driving, fatigued driving, driver fitness, drugs/alcohol, vehicle maintenance, cargo-related, and crash history.

DID YOU KNOW?

Under the CSA program, there are nearly 50 violations with a severity of 10!

Intervention #6

The settlement agreement

The settlement agreement is used to contractually bind the carrier to take actions to improve safety while avoiding fines or suspension. It allows the carrier to avoid significant penalties by committing to major safety improvements. Failure to comply with the agreement usually results in the maximum fine.

WHAT IS A CARGO-RELATED VIOLATION UNDER CSA?

A commercial motor vehicle (CMV) incident resulting from shifting loads, spilled or dropped cargo, or the unsafe handling of hazardous materials.

HOW IS THE CARGO-RELATED BASIC MEASURED?

Using violations of certain federal safety or hazardous materials rules as recorded during roadside inspections over the past 3 years.

HOW WILL IMPROPER LOADING & SECUREMENT AFFECT ME?

Aside from facing cargo claims, drivers who fail to properly load and/or secure their cargo can affect their — and their company's — safety ranking, which could get the attention of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). This could lead to a warning letter, more roadside inspections, an audit, or even an out-of-service order. The more violations, the higher the BASIC score and the higher the likelihood 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 age of the violations — more recent violations bear more weight.
- The number of inspections — the more "clean" inspections the better.

EXAMPLES OF CARGO-RELATED 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
Leaking/spilling/blowing/falling cargo	10
Unsecured cargo	10
Hazardous materials (hazmat) released or unsecured	10
Pushing or towing a loaded bus	10
Improper securement of specific commodities (logs, coils, etc.)	10
Hazmat package integrity violations	8
Failure to prevent cargo movement	8
Improper tiedowns or tiedown use	8
Damaged securement equipment	7
Failure to prevent cargo from shifting	7
Hazmat marking violations	5

Possible violations under this BASIC: 352 • Number that could affect driver's grade: 187 (average severity = 6.7)



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