



CRASH HISTORY

UNDER CSA

Sometimes, accidents are just unavoidable. But in many cases, an accident involving a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) represents a breakdown or failure of safety management. That's why your crash history plays an important role in how your safety performance is graded under CSA.

CRASHES INCLUDED IN THE SCORING PROCESS:

Any crash on a public roadway involving a commercial motor vehicle that results in:

- A fatality,
- Bodily injury requiring immediate medical treatment away from the scene, or
- One or more motor vehicles needing to be towed away.

What are the BASICs?

The *Behavior 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?

In 2009, there were 2,987 fatal crashes involving large trucks, 51,000 injury crashes, and 232,000 property-damage-only crashes.

Intervention #7

The unfit suspension

With an unfit suspension, a motor carrier is basically placed out of business, ordered to stop operating commercial motor vehicles due to a willful disregard for safety. This is the most severe form of intervention available.

WHAT IS CRASH HISTORY?

A history or pattern of crash involvement, including frequency and severity. Unlike the other BASICs, crash history is not based on a set of behaviors. Rather, it is a consequence of behavior and may indicate a problem that needs attention.

HOW IS CRASH HISTORY MEASURED?

Using crash data reported by state and local enforcement agencies over the past 3 years.

HOW WILL MY CRASH HISTORY AFFECT ME?

If you're driving a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) and are involved in a reportable crash — *whether you were at fault or not* — information about that crash will be sent to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and will be attributed to both you and your company. Your crash record will follow you from employer to employer.

The more crashes you and your company experience, the worse your grades on the Crash History BASIC and the more likely it is the FMCSA will intervene to find out what you might be doing wrong. If there's a *fatal* accident, the FMCSA will likely show up for a full-blown audit.

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

- Reportable crashes from the past 36 months — or 24 months for your employer's grade. If you've had no crashes in the past 3 years, you won't be graded on this BASIC. If your employing carrier has experienced fewer than 2 crashes in the past 2 years or no crashes in the past 12 months, then they also will not be graded on this BASIC.
- Crash severity — crashes involving injury, a fatality, or a release of hazardous materials have a higher severity weight than others, as follows:

CRASH TYPE	CRASH SEVERITY
Injury or fatality with hazmat release	3
Injuries or fatalities	2
Tow-away with hazmat release	2
Tow-away with no injuries or fatalities	1

- The age of the crash — more recent crashes bear more weight.

AGE	WEIGHT
<12 months	3
12-24 months	2
24-36 months	1

WHAT ABOUT FAULT?

The FMCSA's scoring system for CSA does not take accountability or fault into consideration — yet. The agency says it is considering ways to address this issue, and may change the system in the future so that crashes that were "the other guy's" fault will not count against your grade.



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