

CSA

DRIVER SCORING: AN OVERVIEW

The CSA enforcement program is all about **Compliance, Safety, and Accountability**. For the first time, commercial motor vehicle drivers are independently being graded on their compliance and safety performance, and will be held accountable for unsafe behaviors.

Maintaining a good safety record is more important than ever, both for your employer's benefit and for your own career. To survive under CSA, you need to understand how your performance will be scored and what you can do to keep those scores low.

How It Works

The FMCSA's Driver Safety Measurement System will generate your scores every 30 days on each of seven categories known as the "BASICS." Within each category, specific crashes and violations reported during roadside inspections – about 450 violations in all – will be used to judge your performance against that of your peers. The more violations you have in any one BASIC, the worse your score will be in that category, and the more likely you'll be targeted with enforcement.

The Formulas

The formulas used to measure your performance on each BASIC rely on data from the past 36 months:

BASIC	FORMULA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unsafe Driving • Drugs & Alcohol • Crash Indicator 	Severity Weight x Time Weight
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fatigued Driving • Driver Fitness • Vehicle Maintenance • Cargo-Related 	Severity Weight (+ 2 for OOS) x Time Weight Inspection Time-Weight

- **Severity Weight:** Each violation or crash carries an assigned severity weight indicating how "bad" the violation or crash was in terms of safety, as listed in the CSA severity tables. Multiple counts of the same violation are only counted once per inspection, and the total severity for any one inspection is capped at 30 per BASIC. In most cases, 2 points are added if you were placed out of service.
- **Time Weight:** The total severity weight for each inspection or crash is multiplied by a time weight — the most recent crashes and violations carry more weight.

Age of Crash or Violation	Time Weight
< 12 months	3
12-24 months	2
24-36 months	1

- **Inspection Time-Weight:** For four of the BASICS, each relevant inspection is given a time weight, using the scale above. The most recent inspections bear the most weight.

Recent, high-severity violations will harm your scores the most, but in most cases, the more clean inspections you have, the lower your scores will be!

Why CSA Matters

After measuring your performance in each BASIC, the FMCSA can compare your scores to those of other drivers to find the "bad apples" and target them with enforcement. If you have a poor safety record and your employer is subjected to a DOT audit, the auditor could investigate your personal violations and issue you a formal warning letter or fine.

Having a poor safety record also makes you a more risky investment on the part of employers. Though your CSA scores will NOT be visible to employers or the public, employers will still have access to your safety record.

Everyone benefits when you strive for low BASIC scores!




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