

SURVIVING CSA: UNSAFE DRIVING

Professional drivers know the consequences of unsafe driving. Speeding, texting, tailgating, and other violations can all have tragic costs. Yet each year, thousands of citations are issued to commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers for unsafe practices.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration is cracking down on unsafe driving. Its CSA enforcement program will grade your safety performance and take aim at the worst offenders, both motor carriers *and* individual drivers. Now is the time to reexamine your driving practices, *before* they can harm your company, your career, or the motoring public.

Are YOU a Safe Driver?

These are the most common unsafe driving violations cited during roadside inspections, along with their severity under the CSA grading system. The higher the severity, the more it will impact your (and your employer's) score.

No.	Description	Severity
1.	Speeding	1-10*
2.	Failing to use a seat belt	7
3.	Failure to obey a traffic control device	5
4.	Following too close	5
5.	Improper lane change	5
6.	Having/using a radar detector	5
7.	Failure to yield right of way	5
8.	Improper turns	5
9.	Improper passing	5
10.	Reckless driving	10

*The severity of a speeding violation varies depending on how fast you were going and where you were. Speeding by 15 mph or more OR speeding through a work zone will cost you 10 severity points!

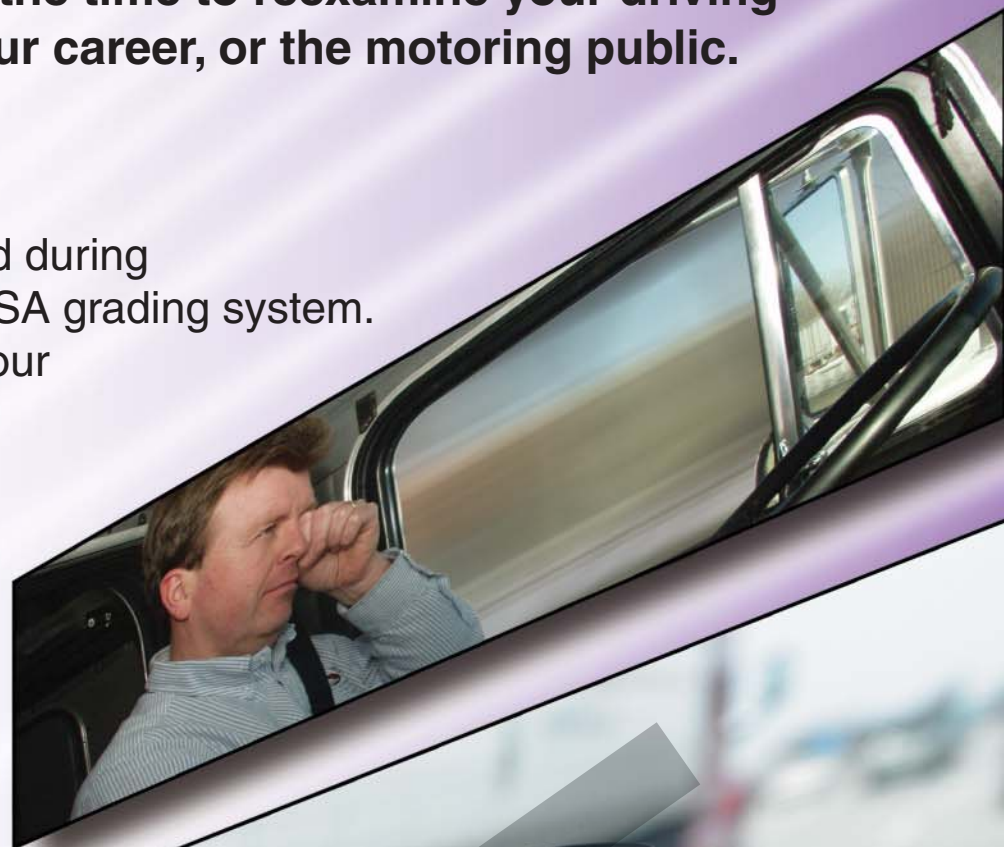
Keeping Your Score Low

Your Unsafe Driving score is in your hands. Follow this advice before you get behind the wheel, and you'll "pass the test" on unsafe driving:

- **Follow the rules of the road!** Most roadside inspections take place after an officer spots a traffic violation, especially **speeding**. Most unsafe driving violations are tied to state and local traffic control laws, so learn the rules and observe them.
- **Stay alert!** Avoid distractions and fatigue so you can concentrate on the most important task: driving.
- **Wear your seatbelt.**
- **Go beyond the rules and become a defensive driver.** Defensive driving can reduce your crash risk by helping you anticipate dangerous situations that might be caused by road conditions or the mistakes of other drivers.
- **Participate in refresher training.** All drivers can develop bad habits after a while; refresher training can help break those habits.

Unsafe Driving Under CSA

- There are almost 200,000 CMV speeding violations reported each year — almost 3 times any other unsafe driving violation.
- Texting makes you 23 times more likely to be involved in a crash, and it gets you 10 severity points!
- Studies show that drivers with a reckless driving violation in their past are 325% more likely to be involved in a future crash.
- There are 35 possible unsafe driving violations that can harm your score.
- The only way to improve your score is to avoid violations and wait for time to pass. Clean inspections will NOT help your score in this BASIC.



J. J. Keller
& Associates, Inc.[®]
Since 1953