

SURVIVING CSA: FATIGUED DRIVING

Driving a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) while ill, fatigued, or in violation of the hours-of-service rules puts you and the motoring public at extreme risk and could do permanent damage to your company and career. Under the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's CSA enforcement program, even "minor" hours-of-service violations can harm your score — and your employer's score — on the Fatigued Driving BASIC.

Are YOU In Compliance?

More than one-half of all driver violations cited during roadside inspections are for hours of service. The following are the most common ones and their severity under CSA. The higher the severity, the more it will impact your score.

No.	Description	Severity
1.	Failing to complete your log properly (form & manner)	2
2.	Failing to keep your log current	5
3.	Violating the 11- or 14-hour rules (property-carrying vehicles)	7
4.	Falsifying your log	7
5.	Failing to create a log	5
6.	Failing to carry previous 7 days' logs	5
7.	Violating the 60/70-hour rule	7
8.	Driving while ill or fatigued	10
9.	Violating the on-board recorder rules	1
10.	Jumping an Out-of-Service order	10

Keeping Your Score Low

Keeping your score low in the Fatigued Driving BASIC isn't a matter of guesswork or luck. Rather, it's fairly simple: comply with the hours-of-service rules and stop driving if you become ill or fatigued. Follow this advice *before* your next roadside inspection:

- **Get rest when you need it.** Driving while fatigued is dangerous, it's against the rules, and it carries a high severity in the CSA scoring system. Use your off-duty time wisely so you're well rested before getting behind the wheel.
- **Keep your log current and legal!** Complete all required information, no matter how "minor" it may seem, and make sure your log is kept current to the last change in status.
- **Know and understand the rules.** Stop driving once you reach the limits.
- **Never violate an out-of-service order.**
- **Communicate with your employer** if you have concerns about the rules, the timing of a run, or your level of fatigue.
- **Stop driving if you become too ill or fatigued to drive safely!**
- **Always strive for clean inspections,** and make sure they get recorded.

Fatigued Driving Under CSA

- Almost 700,000 hours-of-service violations were recorded on the roadside in 2009, and more than 160,000 of those resulted in out-of-service orders.
- If you are placed out of service for a violation, the severity gets increased by 2 points, but violations will hurt your score even if you aren't placed out of service.
- Violations will affect your CSA score for 36 months and your employer's score for 24 months. Your score is updated every 30 days.
- There are two cures for a bad score: time, and clean inspections.
- Use the online DataQs system to challenge any violations that don't belong on your record.
- The hours-of-service rules allow you to "work" as much as you want, but you must stop driving CMVs after reaching the limits.
- If you take time off for lunch, waiting for loading/unloading, or short breaks, that time must be counted against the 14-hour total.



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