

If your commercial motor vehicle isn't safe, neither are you or the drivers around you. Improper or inadequate vehicle maintenance can lead to accidents and injuries, downtime and lost revenue, fines, penalties, and other costs. Under the CSA enforcement program, your on-the-road vehicle violations can also lead to a visit from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

Is YOUR Vehicle Compliant?

In most cases, drivers and motor carriers share responsibility for vehicle maintenance violations. The following are the most common vehicle maintenance violations cited during roadside inspections, along with their severity under the CSA scoring system. The higher the severity, the more it will impact your (and your employer's) score.

No.	Description	Severity
1.	Inoperative required lamp	2
2.	No or defective lighting or reflective devices	3
3.	Brake hose/tubing chaffing and/or kinking	4
4.	Parts/accessories in unsafe condition	2
5.	Tire tread depth less than 2/32 of an inch	8
6.	Oil and/or grease leak	3
7.	Brake(s) out of adjustment	4
8.	No proof of annual inspection	4
9.	No/discharged/unsecured fire extinguisher	2
10.	Stop lamp violations	6

Keeping Your Score Low

Keeping your score low in the Vehicle Maintenance BASIC is all about passing your next roadside inspection. Make sure your vehicle is in proper working order at all times!

- **Don't give them an excuse to pull you over.** Vehicles are often inspected because of something visibly wrong with them. Inspect your vehicle regularly for defective lights, broken reflective devices, and other easy-to-spot defects.
- **Perform all required inspections,** including pre-trip, en route, and post-trip, per company policy. Go beyond the minimum by checking the vehicle every time you park. If your maintenance department finds a defect that you missed, figure out why you missed it and what you could have done better to catch it.
- **Carry proof of annual inspection.**
- **If no one knows there's a defect, it won't get fixed.** Let your maintenance personnel know about vehicle defects as soon as possible.
- **Never drive an unsafe or out-of-service vehicle!**
- **Make sure your vehicle is properly maintained** through your company's preventive maintenance program.
- **Don't perform your own brake work or annual inspections** if you're not qualified.

Vehicle Maintenance Under CSA

- There are about 220 total violations tracked in this BASIC. Driver scores are based on about two-thirds of them.
- Driving an out-of-service vehicle carries the highest severity in this BASIC (10), followed by tire defects (8), suspension defects (7), light and steering defects (6), brake defects (4), and daily inspection report violations (4).
- If the vehicle is placed out of service, the severity of the violation increases by 2.
- The more time that passes since your last violation, and the more clean inspections you have, the better your score will be.



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