

# CSA IN THE MAINTENANCE SHOP

Proper vehicle inspection and maintenance is usually a shared responsibility between the maintenance shop and the driver. That's one reason the shop plays a critical role under the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's CSA enforcement program, which aims to keep unsafe vehicles off the road. Is your maintenance program up to the challenge?

## Top Vehicle Violations

The following are the most common vehicle maintenance violations cited during roadside inspections, along with the severity they hold under the CSA grading system. The higher the severity, the more it will impact the company's and driver's CSA scores.

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 the Scores Low

Improper inspection and maintenance is reflected in the violations that appear on roadside inspection reports, which, in turn, affect the scores that drivers and carriers receive in the CSA's vehicle maintenance category. To keep those scores good (low) means having an effective maintenance program that keeps vehicles in proper working order at all times.

- **Catch the "small" stuff.** Vehicles are often inspected because of something visibly wrong with them, such as defective lights or broken reflectors. Make sure the easy-to-spot defects get corrected before the vehicle hits the road.
- **Make sure each vehicle (including any trailer(s)) has proof of annual inspection** on-board, whether a decal or a copy of the inspection form.
- **If a driver reports a defect, make sure it gets documented** and corrected. All safety-related defects must be corrected before the vehicle is driven again.
- **Make sure vehicles are properly lubricated** and free of oil and grease leaks.
- **Use a preventive maintenance program** to prevent vehicle problems before they can arise, rather than dealing with them after a violation.
- **Ensure that on-the-road defects get repaired**, so drivers are not forced to operate defective vehicles.
- **Maintain your inspection/maintenance records.** Most records have to be kept for at least 12 months.
- **Make sure you're qualified!** Don't perform brake work or annual inspections if you don't have proof that you meet the qualification standards for those tasks.

## Vehicle Maintenance Under CSA

- There are about 220 total violations tracked for vehicle maintenance. Driver scores are based on about 170 of those.
- The violations that cause the most "damage" in the CSA scoring system include driving an out-of-service vehicle (severity = 10), tire defects (8), suspension defects (7), defective lights (6), steering defects (6), and brake defects (4).
- If a vehicle maintenance violation results in an out-of-service order, the severity of the violation increases by 2.
- Any reported violations will affect the driver's CSA score for 36 months and the company's score for 24 months. Scores are updated every 30 days.
- The more time that passes since the last violation, and the more clean inspections the driver has, the better the scores will be!



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