



Roadcheck 2012

The Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) will hold its annual Roadcheck from June 5 to 7, 2012.

During this 72-hour event, roadside inspectors will be examining more than 70,000 vehicles at more than 1,000 checkpoints on highways across North America to monitor truck compliance with safety regulations.

According to the CVSA, 14 trucks or buses are inspected each minute during this period.

This inspection process is an important annual event. In 2011, 70,712 inspections took place and 18.3 per cent of the vehicles involved were placed out of service due to mechanical issues.

Be prepared for June inspections

Drivers need to know they have a role to play during an inspection. Drivers should not feel the inspector is their adversary, but rather they are a team working together to ensure vehicles are travelling safely on our roads.

Drivers should do the following.

- Ask questions during an inspection so they know exactly where they stand.
- Answer all questions openly and honestly.
- Handle themselves calmly if a conflict should arise.

As well as detecting unsafe vehicles and drivers, Roadcheck provides an opportunity to educate the motor carrier industry and the public about the importance of safety in large vehicles.

In preparation for this type of inspection, drivers should have the following items with them.

- A current and valid driver's licence
- Medical examiner's certificate
- Driver's record of duty status
- Proof of pre-trip inspection
- Proof of insurance
- Annual inspection documents
- Documents related to the transportation of dangerous goods or hazardous material
- Record of CVOR
- Any appropriate permits.

Drivers should be knowledgeable about the condition of their vehicles. By conducting their own regular checks they can be aware of any potential issues and deal with them before they become a problem. Circle checks and pre-, during-, and post-trip reviews are a helpful way to ensure vehicles are always well maintained.

These checks can include the following.

All vehicles

Engine compartment

- fluids
- drive belts, hoses
- batteries
- frame rails

Driving compartment (in-cab)

- controls

Emergency equipment (if applicable)

Outside checks

- bumpers
- lighting equipment
- tailgate, doors, mirrors, load
- safety sticker
- licence plates
- fuel tank
- exhaust system
- tires
- brakes
- rims
- suspension
- splash guards
- hub oil (if applicable)
- load security
- tie-down devices

Combination vehicles

- fifth wheel/coupling device
- air lines, glad hands, and electrical cord
- landing supports and crank handle
- sliding bogie locking bars/pin (if applicable)

Buses

- interior lights
- seats and handrails
- wheelchair restraints (if applicable)
- emergency exits (if applicable)
- service door(s)
- auxiliary heaters (if applicable)
- wheelchair lift or kneeling feature (if applicable)

By conducting regular inspections and safety meetings, and performing routine maintenance, drivers can ensure their vehicles will "motor" through this year's Roadcheck inspections safely and efficiently.