

Tips & Tricks for Improving CSA Scores



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WAYS DRIVERS GET A ROADSIDE INSPECTION

INSPECTION SELECTION SCORE (ISS)

Your scores need to be 74 or lower to avoid inspections

ACCIDENTS

Ensure drivers have clear steps to follow if they are involved in an accident

AN OBSERVABLE DEFECT

Keep your equipment repaired and free from fixable issues officers can easily see

UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES

Make sure you have policies and training that let your drivers know that breaking the law will not be tolerated

Your company also has a role to play in a successful roadside inspection.

This includes documentation on the CMV itself. This documentation includes:

- a) Registration
- b) Vehicle Insurance
- c) Annual Inspections
- d) IFTA Card

The best way to keep this documentation is in a folder that can be easily handed off to the inspector at the time of the inspection. The driver should also be prepared to hand the inspector his CDL, Medical Card and RODS.

CSA REPORT CARD

What are the BASICS?

The Behavior Analysis and Safety Improvement Categories (BASICS) organize data from roadside inspections.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL COMPLIANCE BASIC

As a carrier that transports hazardous materials, you must take steps to make sure that you have a successful roadside inspection.

UNSAFE DRIVING BASIC

Having a nationwide ticket solution for drivers can reduce your Unsafe Driving BASIC by up to 58%. Ensure your drivers are reporting ALL tickets to your company to improve the effectiveness of fighting them.

HOURS OF SERVICE BASIC

Of the top 20 driver violations that are received during roadside inspections, 10 of them are for hours of service.

CRASH RATE BASIC

Operating a CMV is a huge responsibility and the FMCSA's main responsibility is to keep the general motoring public safe and on the road. The best thing you can do to provide a proactive stance regarding accidents is to place your drivers through periodic defensive driving courses.

DRIVER FITNESS BASIC

The main reason these violations occur during roadside inspections is that the CDL holder's license is suspended. These can be traced back to several things like not paying a fine on a citation, not turning in a medical card, and even not paying child support.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE BASIC

Lessen the impact of CSA points being added to your Vehicle Maintenance BASIC by keeping your CMV clean, making sure your drivers are filling out their DVIRs, see your fleets' struggles from past CSA scores, and put into place a Preventative Maintenance Program.

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE & ALCOHOL BASIC

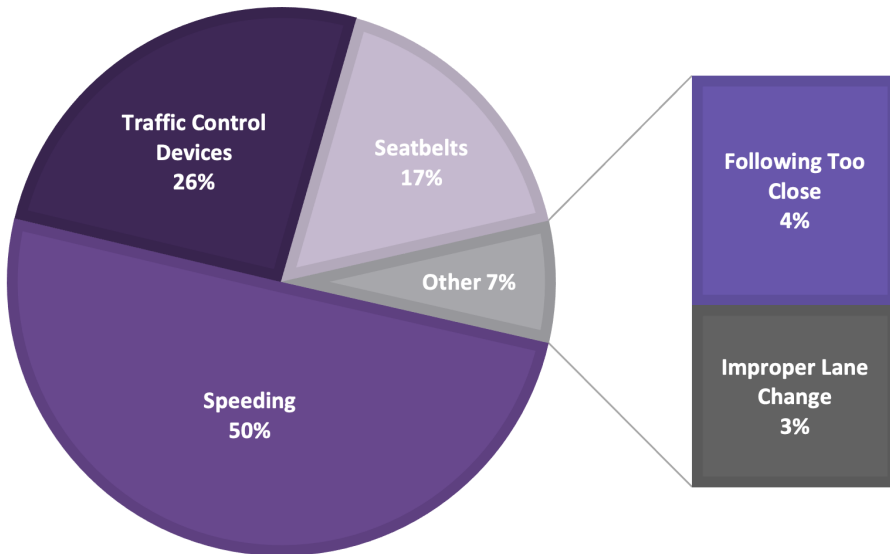
One of the first things you must do is to determine what kind of controlled substance and alcohol policy you will implement. You can put a zero tolerance policy in place or allow the driver to come back to work after they complete a SAP program, a return to duty process, and go through the FMCSA's Clearinghouse.

Unsafe Driving and Vehicle Maintenance BASICS are the two CSA scores that trigger other roadside inspection violations. These two will get the truck and driver inspected due to unlawful activities or observable defects. If you limit these two BASICS and have a low ISS the frequency of your roadside inspections will drastically decrease.

Unsafe Driving BASIC

Deals with Unlawful Activities

MOST COMMON TYPES VIOLATIONS



Having a nationwide ticket solution for drivers can reduce your Unsafe Driving BASIC by **up to 58%**. Ensure your drivers are reporting ALL tickets to your company to improve the effectiveness of fighting them.

Vehicle Maintenance BASIC

Deals with Observable Defects

STEPS TO LESSEN IMPACT OF CSA POINTS

Keep CMV Clean

A clean vehicle makes it easier for an inspector to do their job. It also will make you appear meticulous to the inspector.

Create a Preventative Maintenance Program

By doing this, you can avoid violations by not letting them become an issue in the first place.

Review CSA Scores

See where your fleet is struggling. Put in place a “focused” pre-trip where this violation is looked at by all of your drivers.

Complete DVIRs

Driver Vehicle Inspection Reports ensure daily vehicle inspections are conducted, potential safety issues are identified, and faulty vehicle components are fixed.

Vehicle maintenance is another major contributor to why CMV's are pulled over.

Hours of Service BASIC

5 WAYS MINIMALIZE THE IMPACT OF CSA POINTS

1. Provide ongoing driver training:
 - How to properly utilize the ELD.
 - When and how to use personal conveyance and/or yard moves.
 - What to do when an ELD malfunctions.
2. Ensure that you have all the proper paperwork such as the ELD User's Manual, the Instruction Sheet, and at least 7 days worth of paper logs.
3. Schedule your loads with time to spare so the driver does not have to violate the Hours of Service Regulations to make the delivery.
4. Make sure that the drivers are filling out all the required fields.
5. Regularly audit logs. Focus on those drivers that struggle the most.

Vehicle Maintenance BASIC

ACCIDENT FACTS

An accident is federally recordable and shows up on the carriers SMS profile if one of the following things occur:

Fatality

Towaway

Injury

If the accident was not preventable (i.e., another motorist was the cause of the accident), there are ways to prevent the accident from harming the carrier's SMS by requesting a Request for Data Review (RDR) from the FMCSA.

The best thing you can do to provide a proactive stance regarding accidents is to place your drivers through periodic defensive driving courses.

Check to see if an accident on your SMS qualifies for the Crash Preventability Determination Program

Controlled Substance and Alcohol BASIC

One of the first things you must do is to determine what kind of controlled substance and alcohol policy you will implement.

POLICY, PROCESSES & PROGRAMS

You can put a zero-tolerance policy in place or allow the driver to come back to work after they complete a SAP program, a return to duty process, and go through the FMCSA's Clearinghouse.



Controlled Substances

Ensure that the company is doing the pre-employment controlled substance test, are enrolled in a consortium, and are meeting the requirements set forth by the FMCSA in regards to testing rates.



Alcohol

If a driver receives a violation for controlled substances or alcohol during a roadside inspection, the number one thing they can do to protect themselves is to contest the citation in court. If the citation is reduced or dismissed, then a Request for Data Review can be filed, and the violation will be removed, or a point reduction will occur on your CSA scores

Hazardous Material Compliance BASIC

THESE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING

- The drivers **MUST** have a Hazmat Endorsement on their CDL and be trained.
- Have the driver check the placards to make sure they correctly identify the material being transported
- Make sure that you have the permits required to complete the load.

The FMCSA wants to ensure that any carrier transporting hazmat materials is compliant with PHMSA (Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration) regulations.

Driver Fitness BASIC

PREVENTION TIPS

Sign your drivers up for a license monitoring service.

These services monitor your drivers' CDLs for convictions and suspension. If one of those should occur you will get an email alert notifying you of the issue.

Every time a driver updates his medical card, it is the carrier's responsibility to ensure the new information is on the driver's MVR.

After 15 days of turning in an updated medical card to the state, the company **MUST** check the driver's MVR or with the DMV to see if the new information has been entered into the state's database.

The main reason these violations occur during roadside inspections is that the CDL holder's license is suspended. These can be traced back to several things like not paying a fine on a citation, not turning in a medical card, and even not paying child support.



CDL Consultant offers nationwide court representation on behalf of you or your drivers. We get **over 95%** of our cases reduced or dismissed. No membership fees and no court appearances.

If you are in need of safety office help, dataqs, CDL monitoring, driver corrective action training, hiring, DA consortium, CSA score management, citation help, accident mitigation, or just need someone to answer your questions:

Call CDL Consultant

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