EQUIPMENT COMPLIANCE

49 CFR §396 · INSPECTION, REPAIR & MAINTENANCE

Every motor carrier and intermodal equipment provider is required to systematically inspect, repair, and maintain — or cause to be systematically inspected, repaired, and maintained — all motor vehicles under its control. This must be done consistently and properly, not just occasionally. Parts and accessories identified in 49 CFR Part 393, and any additional parts and accessories impacting the safety of operation, must always be in safe and proper operating condition. §396.3(A)

§396.3(B) — REQUIRED RECORDS

Required for each piece of equipment under a motor carrier's control for **30 consecutive days**. These records must include:

MAKE _____ MODEL YEAR _____ TIRE SIZE _____

VIN — ALL 17 CHARACTERS _____

COMPANY NUMBER _____ OWNER (IF LEASED) _____

The record must identify the name of the person furnishing any non-owned equipment.

- ☐ Indication of the **nature and due date** of the inspection and maintenance operations to be performed
- ☐ Record of **inspections, repairs, and maintenance** with their date and nature

RECORDS MUST BE MAINTAINED FOR 18 MONTHS AFTER THE EQUIPMENT LEAVES THE MOTOR CARRIER'S CONTROL

OTHER PARTS OF VEHICLE COMPLIANCE INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO

49 CFR 396

- ☐ Equipment must be inspected by a **certified inspector** every 12 months (annual inspection)
- ☐ Maintenance inspectors must have the **proper qualifications** for the equipment they are inspecting

49 CFR 396.11

- ☐ All drivers must conduct thorough pre- and post-trip (DVIR) inspections and should **refuse to operate until all safety defects are addressed**
- ☐ Post-trip DVIRs (driver vehicle inspection reports) must be kept for at least **90 days**

Use the **MIG Vehicle Maintenance Record** to capture the required §396.3(b) records, and the **MIG Driver Vehicle Inspection Report** for daily pre/post-trip inspections.

For general guidance only — not legal advice. Current as of July 2026.