ROADSIDE INSPECTION DO'S & DON'TS

DRIVER QUICK REFERENCE

Every roadside inspection affects your CSA scores — and your insurance premiums. Clean inspections actively improve your safety profile. Violations follow the company for 24 months and the driver for 36 months.

✓ DO

- ☐ Do a thorough pre-trip — the best inspection defense happens before you roll
- ☐ Pull over promptly and safely when directed
- ☐ Stay in the cab until the officer instructs otherwise
- ☐ Be professional and courteous — attitude influences discretion
- ☐ Hand over documents promptly and keep them organized
- ☐ Answer what is asked — briefly and truthfully
- ☐ Say "I don't know" rather than guessing
- ☐ Get your copy of the inspection report before leaving
- ☐ Send every inspection report to your safety manager same day — clean ones too

✗ DON'T

- ☐ Don't argue with the officer or dispute violations roadside — challenge later via DataQs
- ☐ Don't volunteer information beyond what is asked
- ☐ Don't admit fault or speculate about violations
- ☐ Don't obstruct or refuse the inspection — refusal is an out-of-service offense
- ☐ Don't let the officer see a messy, disorganized cab — it invites a deeper look
- ☐ Don't operate after being placed out of service — the fines and CSA damage are severe
- ☐ Don't forget: inspections feed your CSA / BASIC scores — which drive your insurance costs

HAVE THESE DOCUMENTS READY

- ☐ CDL & medical certificate
- ☐ Registration / cab card (IRP)
- ☐ Insurance & permit book
- ☐ IFTA license & decals
- ☐ ELD display + instruction card
- ☐ Blank paper logs (8+ days)
- ☐ ELD data transfer instructions
- ☐ Last DVIR & annual inspection
- ☐ Shipping papers / BOL
- ☐ Hazmat permits (if applicable)

KNOW THE COMMON INSPECTION LEVELS

1. **Level I — North American Standard:** full driver credentials + complete vehicle walkaround (most thorough, most common)
2. **Level II — Walk-Around:** driver credentials + items inspectable without going under the vehicle
3. **Level III — Driver Only:** credentials, hours of service, seat belt — no vehicle inspection

AFTER THE INSPECTION

1. **Get your copy** of the inspection report and turn it in to safety the same day — even when it's clean
2. **Disagree with a violation?** Don't argue roadside — your company can file a Request for Data Review at **dataqs.fmcsa.dot.gov**
3. **Share results with MIG** — your inspection history shapes your CAB profile and renewal pricing; clean inspections are a selling point we use on your behalf

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