

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who is qualified to work on brakes?

- a. A brake inspector is defined as a person who is an employee of a motor carrier responsible for ensuring that inspections, maintenance, repairs, or service to the brakes meet applicable safety standards. Even though the regulations do not apply to people not employed by the carrier, the carrier is responsible for assigning only qualified people to inspect, maintain, repair, and service brakes.
- b. The qualification requirements can be met in such ways as completing an officially approved apprentice or training program or through relevant training and/or experience totaling at least one year. Refer to 396.25
- c. A CDL driver who is licensed to operate CMVs with airbrakes is only qualified to inspect air brakes, but is not qualified to perform brake adjustments or other brake-related tasks without having the training or experience required.

2. How can a carrier meet the annual inspection requirements?

- a. The regulations require that commercial motor vehicles operating in interstate or foreign commerce pass an inspection at least annually. The inspection requirements may be met through periodic inspection programs administered by the states, or by a self-inspection, a roadside inspection, or an inspection performed by a commercial garage or similar commercial business, so long as the inspection complies with federal standards or compatible state standards.

3. How long must a motor carrier retain a roadside inspection report?

- a. The motor carrier must retain a copy of the completed form at its principal place of business, or where the vehicle is housed, for 12 months. Refer to 396.9(d)(3)(ii)

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