

GEARED UP FOR SAFETY

Safety Training for Scrap Transporters

The Importance of Regular Vehicle Inspections

A well performed inspection can detect a problem with a vehicle before it causes a breakdown or accident. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSR) dictate what inspections are required and what items must be inspected.

1. Pre-Trip Inspections. A pre-trip inspection is conducted prior to each trip to identify problems that could cause a breakdown or accident. Though the regulations do not require a driver to complete a written pre-trip report, there are specific items that must be checked prior to beginning a trip. (See Sec. 392.7 and Sec. 393.13.)

2. On-the-road inspections. On-the-road inspections of a vehicle's cargo and load securing devices are required within the first 25 miles of a trip, and when the driver makes a change of duty status, after the vehicle has been driver for 3 hours or after the vehicle has been driven 150 miles - whichever occurs first. (See Sec. 392.9.) It is a good idea to use these mandatory inspections as an opportunity to check the rest of the vehicle. A quick check of tires, wheels, rims, brakes, lights, electrical connection, and coupling devices can prevent accidents and the need for major repairs while on the road.

3. Post-Trip Inspections. A post-trip inspection must be conducted at the end of a driver's day of work on a commercial motor vehicle. The driver is required to fill out a report covering specific parts and accessories. Before the vehicle can be operated again, any items listed as needing maintenance must be repaired and the carrier is responsible for certifying that the repairs were made or that the repairs weren't necessary. (See Sec. 396.11.)



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