

Takin' a Load Off Your Mind

MAY 2009

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PREPARE YOUR DRIVERS & VEHICLES!!!

Road-Check 2009

June 2 - 4

Not that your vehicles and drivers may not already be prepared; but, beware – the inspectors (Nationwide - 8,500 or more) will be stopping trucks during these days. It could be your truck or driver that is selected.

Last year they inspected a record number - 67,931 drivers/vehicles.

20% of the vehicles were placed "Out Of Service" (...more than 13,000) and 5.3% (...nearly 4,000) of the drivers were placed out of service – mostly for Hours of Service (logbook) violations.

Remember, you can use D.O.T. Roadside inspections in lieu of your Annual/Periodic Inspections if your vehicle passes the inspection. But, you will still need to have a current inspection at the time the truck inspected.

Puzzled about the laws ...

D.O.T. Compliance Workshop (a.m.)

Hours of Service Workshop (p.m.)

June 17 and July 15, 2009

...at our Grandville, MI office facility

For more details go to:

www.fleetcompliance.com

If you can't arrange your schedule for these dates – we hold these workshops nearly every month throughout the year.

Retention: Pay and Hours of

Service Records

Payroll records are required to be maintained for a period of 3 years, both hours worked each day and total hours worked each week.

D.O.T. compliance, logbooks must be kept for a period of six (6) months. If the logbooks are used as payroll records, you will no longer have the proper payroll records beyond the 6-month period. You will, therefore, need to keep the logbooks for the entire three-year period of time. Or, maintain an alternate source of time records.

Always remember that following an accident involving a commercial motor vehicle, the logbooks must also be kept for a period of three years.

Motor Carrier Responsibility - To Be Compliant Is To Know The Law

No motor carrier or employee of a motor carrier is allowed, by regulation, to request or allow a driver to speed, or operate while fatigued in order to arrive at their delivery point at a time that best fits the motor carrier and/or customer needs.

As stated in 49CFR, 392.6 – "No motor carrier shall schedule a run nor permit nor require the operation of any commercial motor vehicle between points in such a period of time that would necessitate the commercial motor vehicle being operated at speeds greater than those prescribed by the jurisdictions in or through which the commercial motor vehicle is being operated".

The regulation also addresses fatigue – or running over the prescribed hours regulation. See 49CFR, 392.3 "A motor carrier shall not require or permit a driver to operate a Commercial Motor Vehicle while the driver's ability to alertness is so impaired as to make it unsafe for him/her to begin or continue to operate the CMV".

A motor carrier is also responsible to require drivers to advise them when they have been prescribed or are taking a prescription drug that could affect their driving ability.

Looking for a source in the Grand Rapids area for a Michigan

CDL, Automobile or Motorcycle Skill Test?

Give us a call – 616-532-0704

CDL Rentals Available

Appointments typically available within 1-4 days

OWNER/OPERATORS

The term "employee" as defined by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (390.5) specifically includes an independent contractor employed by a motor carrier. The existence of operating authority has no bearing upon the issue. The motor carrier is, therefore, responsible for compliance with all of the regulations by its driver/employees, including those who are owner-operators.

Fun facts

- ✓ In the time of Shakespeare, a mattress was secured onto the bed frame with ropes. When you pulled on the ropes, the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. That's where the phrase, "sleep tight" came from.
- ✓ The total amount of precipitation to fall to earth in one year is 5,000 million tons.
- ✓ A slug has four noses.
- ✓ A starfish doesn't have a brain.
- ✓ Octopuses have 3 hearts
- ✓ Bees travel an average of 1600 round trips in order to produce one ounce of honey; up to 6 miles per trip.

Annual Inspections (10,001

G.V.W.R and over)

There is no requirement for a sticker to be displayed on the outside of the vehicle. The motor carrier must carry proof of the inspection on (or in) the vehicle. Proof may be in the form of a copy of the inspection report; a document the motor carrier creates with all the required information; or a sticker/decals. If a motor carrier chooses to use a sticker, it can be placed anywhere on the vehicle. We recommend that the right side of the vehicle works best - the officers working the scales can best see the sticker from that location (likely looking no further).

Pre-Employment Drug Tests

A test must be administered "prior" to hiring a driver. **Be sure you have the result before you allow them to operate a Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV).**

Another pre-employment test is required, any time employment has been terminated for more than 30 days. (Also check Random regulations.)