

Driver Safety Letter

presented by



Roadside Inspections

May 2017



In three weeks, the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance's (CVSA) 30th annual International Roadcheck will take place. On June 6-8, 2017, CVSA-certified commercial motor vehicle inspectors in jurisdictions throughout North America will conduct inspections of commercial motor vehicles and their drivers.

Each year, International Roadcheck places special emphasis on a category of violations. This year's focus is cargo securement. While checking for compliance with safe cargo securement regulations is always part of roadside inspections, CVSA is highlighting cargo securement safety this year as a reminder of its importance to highway safety. Inspectors will primarily be conducting the North American Standard Level 1 Inspection, which is the most thorough roadside inspection. It is a 37-step procedure that includes an examination of both driver operating requirements and vehicle mechanical fitness.

Drivers will be required to provide items such as their driver's license, hours-of-service documentation, motor carrier registration and shipping documentation, and inspectors will be checking drivers for seat belt usage and the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. The vehicle inspection includes checking items such as the brake systems, cargo securement, coupling devices, driveline/driveshaft, exhaust systems, frames, fuel systems, lighting devices (required lamps), steering mechanisms, suspensions, tires, van and open-top trailer bodies, wheels, rims and hubs, windshield wipers, and emergency exits (on buses).

International Roadcheck is the largest targeted enforcement program on commercial motor vehicles in the world, with nearly 17 trucks or buses inspected, on average, every minute in Canada, the United States and Mexico during a 72-hour period. Since its inception, more than 1.5 million roadside inspections have been conducted during International Roadcheck campaigns.

Since its inception in 1988, it is estimated that these roadside inspections have saved hundreds of lives saved and thousands of injuries by keeping unsafe equipment off the road and raising awareness or proper pre-trip and post-trip inspections. How can you continue to contribute to the success of the program?

- Before you climb behind the wheel, make sure you do a complete and thorough vehicle walk-around inspection to ensure everything is in proper operating condition.
- Before you even put your foot on the pedal, fasten your seat belt. Your seat belt is the one thing that can make the difference between you either walking away, or having to be carted away, from a crash.
- You wouldn't drive your truck on empty so why would you let yourself drive on empty? The most important part of a moving truck or bus is the driver! Get plenty of rest before getting behind the wheel. Eat well and stay fit. Remember, fatigue and hours of service violations are serious and can threaten your livelihood or even your life. Stay healthy and well rested!
- Adjust your mirrors and know your blind spots. Some are so large that a car can virtually disappear from your view. So take extra precautions when changing lanes. Don't drive blind!
- Always leave enough space between you and the vehicle in front of you. If you hit someone from behind, you are typically considered "at fault," regardless of the situation. Large trucks require more stopping distances than other vehicles. Take advantage of your driving height, and anticipate braking situations.

The NPTC Monthly Driver Safety Letter, jointly sponsored by NPTC and [CPC Logistics, Inc.](http://CPCLogistics.com), is a Microsoft Word document that you can print out and post as is, if appropriate, or modify any way you wish to make it a better fit for your drivers, including adding your company logo. If you are already doing an in-house letter, you may find information here that you can cut and paste into your own letter. If you are interested in specific subjects, or have any comments/feedback, contact Tom Moore, CTP, at tmoore@nptc.org or (703)838-8898.