



Roadside Inspectors and CSA: Understanding the Importance of Roadside Data

The Roadside Inspection Program is critical to the success of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) new enforcement program, Compliance, Safety, Accountability (CSA). Roadside inspectors serve as the first line of defense against those motor carriers that pose a high crash-risk and they play a critical role in improving commercial motor vehicle (CMV) safety.

Roadside Inspectors Making a Difference

Roadside inspection results are central to the CSA Safety Measurement System (SMS). The SMS uses roadside inspection results, along with crash data, to evaluate carriers' safety performance and to identify carriers at the highest risk for future crashes for safety interventions.

CSA Impact on Roadside Inspection

CSA has increased the emphasis on roadside safety inspections. Under CSA, *all* violations documented on inspection reports are factored into carriers' safety measurements.

In order to enhance the uniform documentation of violations found and cited during roadside inspections, FMCSA and the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) have worked together to implement several process improvements that promote consistent documentation of roadside violation data and standardize the process for requesting reviews of this data. In an effort to further enhance roadside data, inspectors are encouraged to know and remain consistent with the goals and objectives of the roadside inspection program. By understanding and working towards the goals of the inspection program, inspectors will not only increase the integrity of the inspection program but they will also remove unsafe vehicles from the road.

For more information on how to improve the uniformity and consistency of our roadside data, please go to the CVSA Website at www.CVSA.org or contact your Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) lead agency.

CSA is FMCSA's new enforcement and compliance program to improve large truck and bus safety and ultimately reduce CMV-related crashes, injuries, and fatalities. For more information, visit <http://csa.fmcsa.dot.gov>

All Violations Count

Under CSA, the role of the roadside inspector does not change. Roadside inspections are still being conducted in accordance with the North American Standard Driver/Vehicle Inspection Levels. Compliance and enforcement designed to advance CMV safety continue to be the top priority. **What has changed is that under CSA, all roadside inspection results count in compiling a carrier's safety profile.** This means that roadside inspections and results are more important than ever and have a greater impact on roadway safety than they did before.

SMS at Roadside

FMCSA has enhanced both the desktop and web-based version of the **Inspection Selection System (ISS)** to support uniformity and to provide better information to the roadside inspector. ISS still makes a pass/inspect recommendation based on the carrier's safety performance but those recommendations are now based on SMS Behavior Analysis and Safety Improvement Category (BASIC) values instead of SafeStat Safety Evaluation Area (SEA) values. The new ISS provides better, more detailed information to enforcement officials, focusing limited resources on addressing the right carriers at roadside and maximizing improvements to safety. After downloading the new ISS software, enforcement officials are encouraged to continually update the data to ensure accurate and up-to-date safety information.

