

## PART 396-INSPECTION, REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE

Every motor carrier must see that all its vehicles are regularly inspected, repaired and maintained.

All vehicle parts and accessories must be in a safe and proper working order at all times.

Pushout windows, emergency doors and emergency door-marking lights in buses must be inspected at least every 90 days.

Generally, motor carriers must see that the following maintenance records are kept on each commercial motor vehicle:

- (1) An identification of the vehicle including company number (if so marked), make, serial number, year and tire size. Also, if the carrier does not own the vehicle, the records must show the name of the person providing the vehicle.
- (2) A way to show the type and due date of the various inspections and maintenance operations to be performed.
- (3) A record of inspection, repairs and maintenance showing their date and type.
- (4) A lubrication record.
- (5) A record of tests conducted on pushout windows, emergency doors, and emergency door-marking lights on buses.

Maintenance records must be kept where the vehicle is either housed or maintained for a period of 1 year and for 6 months after the vehicle leaves the motor carrier's control.

A vehicle must not be driven if it is likely to break down or cause an accident.

Every motor carrier must require its drivers to complete a vehicle inspection report at the end of each day. The report must identify the commercial motor vehicle and list anything wrong that could affect its safe operation.

Before the vehicle is driven again, the motor carrier must repair any safety defects listed and sign the vehicle inspection report.

A copy of the last vehicle inspection report must be available to the driver. Every motor carrier must keep the original vehicle report for at least 3 months.

**(New Federal Rule effective 12/18/2014,** drivers operating in INTERstate commerce a property carrying commercial motor vehicle are not required to prepare or submit a report if no defect or deficiency is discovered by or reported to the driver.)

Before driving a commercial motor vehicle the driver must do the following:

- (1) Be satisfied that it is in safe operating condition;
- (2) Review the last inspection report; and
- (3) Sign the report if defects were listed and the report has been signed to show that repairs were made.

NOTE: Examples of several maintenance forms are in this folder.