Title 49 CFR, Part 396
Vehicle Maintenance Standards

Vehicle inspections, repair and maintenance are critical to the safe operation of commercial motor vehicles. They are designed to reduce accidents, injuries and fatalities resulting from unsafe vehicles operating on the highways. Maintenance standards cover systematic maintenance, pre-trip/post-trip inspection reports and annual inspections.

General standards

393 (Parts and Accessories) and 396 (Inspection, Repair and Maintenance)

- A carrier is responsible for ensuring that it properly inspects repairs and maintains vehicles under its control.
- A motor vehicle may not be operated when its mechanical condition is likely to cause an accident or breakdown.
- Parts and accessories must be in safe operating condition at all times.
- A vehicle must be maintained according to the vehicle manufacture's recommended schedule, or an improved schedule based on actual operating conditions, and
- Push out windows, emergency doors and emergency door markings. Lights in buses must be inspected at least every 90 days.

Required records

For each vehicle a carrier controls for 30 consecutive days or more, the carrier must ensure the proper vehicle maintenance records are maintained. Each vehicle record must contain:

- Vehicle identification including company number, make, serial number, year and tire size.
- If the vehicle is leased, the person furnishing the vehicle must be identified.
- A means to indicate the nature and due date of various inspection and maintenance operations to be performed.
- A record or log of inspections, repair and maintenance indicating their date and nature.
- A record of tests conducted on push out windows, emergency doors, and emergency door marking lights on buses.

Where must records be maintained?

Vehicle maintenance records must be retained where the vehicle is maintained for a period of one year and for six months after the vehicle leaves the carrier's control.

Roadside inspection reports

Any driver who receives a roadside inspection report must deliver it to the motor carrier. An official of the motor carrier is to examine the roadside inspection report and ensure that the violations or defects noted on the report are corrected before the vehicle is re-dispatched. Within 15 days after the inspection, the carrier must sign the completed roadside inspection report to certify that all violations have been corrected and then return it to the indicated address. **A copy must be retained for 12 months from the date of inspection.**

Driver vehicle inspection report

The motor carrier shall require a driver vehicle inspection report to be completed at the end of each day's work on each vehicle operated and the report shall cover the following:

Parking (hand) brake	Steering mechanism
Lighting devices and reflectors	Horn
Tires	Windshield wipers
Rear vision mirrors	Coupling devices
Wheels and rims	Emergency equipment
Service brakes including trailer brake connections	

The report shall identify the vehicle, any defect or deficiency discovered by the driver, which would affect the safety of the operation of the vehicle or result in its mechanical breakdown. If no defect is discovered the report shall so indicate. In all instances, the driver shall sign the report.

When defects are noted on the driver vehicle inspection report

Prior to requiring or permitting a driver to operate a vehicle, the motor carrier shall repair any defect or deficiency listed on the driver vehicle inspection report, which would likely affect the safety of operation of the vehicle. Every motor carrier or its agent shall certify on the original driver vehicle inspection report any listed defect that has been repaired or that repair is unnecessary before the vehicle is operated again. **These reports shall be maintained for a period of three months.**

Before driving a motor vehicle the driver shall be satisfied that the vehicle is in safe operating condition, review the last driver vehicle inspection report; and sign the report if defects or deficiencies were noted by the driver who prepared the report, to acknowledge that the driver has reviewed it and that there is a certification that the required repairs have been performed.

Periodic inspection

Every commercial vehicle shall have a periodic inspection that must be performed at least once every 12 months. At a minimum, inspections must include all items enumerated in the Minimum Periodic Inspection Standards, Appendix G, Subchapter B, Part 396. Carriers may perform required annual inspections themselves, with a qualified inspector. The original or copy of the periodic inspection report must be retained by the motor carrier for **14 months** from the report date. Utah based carriers must meet the mandatory State Inspection standards.

Documentation of the most recent periodic inspection must be kept on the vehicle. (Report, sticker or decal) Utah based carriers must meet the mandatory State Inspection Standards.

Inspector qualifications

A motor carrier must ensure that the individual(s) performing an annual inspection is qualified. The inspector must:

- Understand the inspection standards of Part 393 and Appendix G.
- Be able to identify defective components.
- Have knowledge and proficiency in methods, procedures and tools.
- Utah based carriers must meet the mandatory State Inspection Standards.

What experience or training qualifies an inspector?	Inspectors may have gained experience or training by: • Completing a State/Federal training program, or earning a State or Canadian Province qualifying certificate in commercial motor vehicle safety inspections. • A combination of other training or experience totaling at least a year.
Evidence of qualification	**Evidence of the inspector's qualification must be maintained until one year after the inspector ceases to perform inspections for the carrier.**
Brake inspectors	The motor carrier is responsible for ensuring that all inspections, maintenance, repairs and service to brakes of commercial motor vehicles comply with these regulations. Employees responsible for brake inspections, maintenance, service or repairs must meet minimum brake inspector qualifications. (Sample certificate on next page)

Driver's Vehicle Inspection Report

Check any defective item and give details under "Remarks."
DATE: _____
TRUCK/TRACTOR NO. _____

Air Compressor
Air Lines
Battery
Brake Accessories
Brakes
Carburetor
Clutch
Defroster
Drive Line
Engine
Fifth Wheel
Front Axle
Fuel Tanks
Heater

Horn
Lights
Head – Stop
Tail – Dash
Turn Indicators
Mirrors
Muffler
Oil Pressure
On-Board Recorder
Radiator
Rear End
Reflectors
Safety Equipment
Fire Extinguisher
Flags-Flares-Fuses
Spare Bulbs & Fuses
Spare Seal Beam

Springs
Starter
Steering
Tachograph
Tires
Transmission
Wheels
Windows
Windshield Wipers
Other

TRAILER(S) NO.(S) _____

Brake Connections
Brakes
Coupling Chains
Coupling (King) Pin
Doors

Hitch
Landing Gear
Lights-All
Roof
Springs

Tarpaulin
Tires
Wheels
Other

Remarks: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

CONDITION OF THE ABOVE VEHICLE IS SATISFACTORY
DRIVER'S SIGNATURE _____
ABOVE DEFECTS CORRECTED
ABOVE DEFECTS NEED NOT BE CORRECTED FOR SAFE OPERATON OF VEHCILE

MECHANIC'S SIGNATURE _____DATE_____

DRIVER'S SIGNATURE _____DATE_____

BRAKE CERTIFICATION - 49 CFR, Part 396.25

A "brake inspector@ is any employee of a motor carrier who is responsible for ensuring all brake inspections, maintenance, service, or repairs to any commercial motor vehicle, subject to the motor carrier=s control, meet the applicable Federal standards.

No motor carrier shall require or permit any employee who does not meet minimum brake inspector qualifications to be responsible for the inspection, maintenance, service or repairs of any brakes on its commercial motor vehicles.

Minimum Qualifications

- Understands and can perform brake service and inspection.
- Is knowledgeable of and has mastered the methods, procedures, tools and equipment necessary to perform brake service and inspection.
- Is capable of performing brake service or inspection by reason of experience, training or both, and qualify in one of the following categories (check all that apply):

I._____ Has successfully completed an apprenticeship program sponsored or approved by a State, Canadian Province, a federal agency or labor union or has a certificate from a State or Canadian Province which qualifies the person to perform brake service or inspections. Specify: _____
_____

OR

II._____ Has brake-related training or experience or a combination thereof totaling at least one year as follows (check all that apply):

___ 1. Participation in a brake maintenance or inspection training program sponsored by a brake or vehicle manufacturer or similar commercial training program. Where and Date: _____

___ 2. _____ (years) experience performing brake maintenance or inspection in a motor carrier maintenance program. Name and Date:_____
_____

___ 3. ____(years) experience performing brake maintenance or inspection at a commercial garage, fleet leasing company, or similar facility. Name of Facility and Dates:
_____

I certify the above information is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge:

Employee _____
Signature of Mechanic/Inspector Date

Motor Carrier/Company _____
Signature of Employer/Supervisor Date

Evidence of Inspector's Qualifications on file at:_____