



Understanding DOT Inspections

A DOT officer or state trooper can pull you over anywhere .. weigh stations, truck stops or on the side of the road. As a driver, it's your responsibility to act in a professional manner throughout the process. From the moment you open the driver's side door and begin a conversation, the officer is alert. The way you handle yourself and how well you maintain the inside of the truck can indicate to which level of inspection you'll be subject. And, keep in mind that while most officers pull over commercial drivers for a reason, one isn't required — which means you should always be prepared. There are 6 inspection levels; however, Levels 1, 2 & 3 are the most commonly used. Level 1 is the most thorough and includes inspection of the tractor, trailer and driver. Level 2 is less thorough and includes a walk around the vehicles and checking driver paperwork & credentials. Level 3 is a driver only inspection focusing on credentials and paperwork.

VIOLATIONS

If no violations are found, nothing will be listed on the report and the company's CSA and driver's PSP (Pre-employment Screening Program) report will not be affected.

Violations that are not serious enough to be placed out of service, will be noted on the inspection report and will count against the carrier and possibly the driver.

Violations that are serious can place the vehicle and/or driver OOS. The vehicle/driver can't operate again until all violations have been corrected and documented.

PLEASE NOTE: Even though you may only receive a warning, if a violation – OF ANY KIND - is noted on the DOT inspection, it is not considered a "clean" inspection. And it WILL appear on your PSP report and possibly on your MVR. It will also count against the company's CSA score. Attached is a diagram showing the difference between the PSP report and the MVR report and the information that is included on each one.

An employer can only request a driver's PSP report as part of the pre-employment screening process with the driver's written consent. It cannot be requested for a current employee. A driver, however, may access their PSP report for a \$10 fee by visiting the following website - <https://www.psp.fmcsa.dot.gov/psp/Driver#/start>. You can also obtain your information free of charge from FMCSA by submitting a Privacy Act request at the following - <https://www.transportation.gov/foia>.



With Covid-19 cases rising, we are requiring masks to be worn at all times when you are in or around the building. This includes the Dispatch window, the Shop, and Driver's Lounge. As always, please make sure you are washing/sanitizing your hands often and social distancing whenever possible. STAY SAFE!



... is the lucky winner of the gift card this month for turning in his signed newsletter.

I have read and understand the above information regarding "Understanding DOT Inspections".

Signature

Date

