

CHAPTER 6: MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY PROGRAM

South Dakota's lead agency for commercial motor vehicle safety is the South Dakota Highway Patrol Motor Carrier Services program. The overall goal of South Dakota's Motor Carrier Safety Program is a reduction in commercial motor vehicle traffic accidents and related fatalities, injuries, and property damage, including incidents and accidents associated with the highway transportation of hazardous materials.

Commercial Motor Vehicle Definition

Commercial motor vehicles are subject to both state and federal safety regulations. A motor vehicle is subject to Federal Motor Carrier Safety regulations if it is used to transport passengers or property and meets one or more of the following:

Table 21: Commercial Vehicle Definitions

Use	Condition
Interstate Commerce	The vehicle or combination has a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of more than 10,000 pounds
	The vehicle is designed or used to carry 8 or more passengers (including the driver) for compensation.
	The vehicle transports hazardous materials
	The vehicle is designed to transport 15 passengers (including the driver)
Intrastate Commerce Only	The vehicle or combination has more than three axles and a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR), Gross Combination Weight Rating, or actual gross weight exceeding 26,000 pounds
	The vehicle transports hazardous materials
	The vehicle is designed or used to carry 16 or more passengers (including the driver), whether or not compensation is provided

If you are unsure whether your operation is intrastate or interstate, call the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration at (605) 224-8202.

Commercial Vehicle Inspections

Vehicles may be selected for roadside inspection based on observation of their safety condition or by a computerized Inspection Selection System (ISS). Motor Carrier Services personnel typically check vehicles and their drivers for compliance with federal and state motor carrier safety regulations. They also check shipping papers, hazardous materials, and other cargos as appropriate.

In addition, South Dakota conducts commercial inspections on drivers and vehicles in conjunction with Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations and the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) out-of-service criteria. Motor Carrier Services may place a CVSA decal on units of a vehicle that pass the safety equipment inspection without serious defect, and may waive the inspection of vehicles displaying current inspection decals issued by other CVSA member jurisdictions.

An out-of-service sticker may be affixed to vehicle units placed out of service if major defects are detected. A South Dakota Driver-Vehicle Inspection Report will be completed for each driver and vehicle inspection. A copy of these inspections will be provided to the driver after each inspection.

The SDHP is trained to perform North American Standard Level I through Level VI inspections. Table 22 describes the inspection levels and what to expect during each level of inspection. Most safety stops will include a verification of registration and insurance documents.

Level I (North American Standard Inspection)

Level I Inspection includes examination of Driver License, medical examiner's certificate and waiver (if applicable), alcohol and drugs, driver's record of duty status as required, hours of service, vehicle mechanisms and parts, vehicle inspection report, annual vehicle inspection, coupling devices, lamps on projecting loads, safe loading, van and open-top trailer bodies, emergency exits on buses, and hazardous materials requirements, as applicable.

Table 22: Driver & Vehicle Inspection Items

		Inspection Level	I	II	III
Driver	Safety belt use		✓	✓	✓
Credentials	Registration certificate		✓	✓	✓
	Fuel permit		✓	✓	✓
	Shipping papers		✓	✓	✓
	Operator license & status		✓	✓	✓
	Medical certificate		✓	✓	✓
	Driver condition		✓	✓	✓
	Record of duty status		✓	✓	✓
	Vehicle annual inspection(s)		✓	✓	✓
Front of Tractor	HazMat requirements (when applicable)		✓	✓	✓
	Head lamps, turn signals		✓	✓	
Left front side of tractor	Windshield and wipers		✓	✓	
	Wheels and tires		✓	✓	
	Fuel system		✓	✓	
Trailer front	Exhaust system		✓	✓	
	Air and electrical lines		✓	✓	
	Lower and upper fifth wheel		✓	✓	
	Sliding fifth wheel		✓	✓	
Left Side of Trailer & Right Side of Trailer	Rear tractor lamps		✓	✓	
	Frame		✓	✓	
	Condition of hoses		✓	✓	
	Condition of van body		✓	✓	
	Load securement		✓	✓	
	Lighting		✓	✓	
Rear of trailer	Wheels and tires		✓	✓	
	Sliding tandem		✓	✓	
	Lighting		✓	✓	
Front Axle	Load securement		✓	✓	
	Safety/ coupling devices		✓	✓	
	Steering system		✓		
	Front suspension		✓		
	Front axle		✓		
	Frame and assembly		✓		
	Front brake components		✓		
Other Axles	Brake adjustments		✓		
	Axles 2 and 3		✓		
	Suspension components		✓		
	Brake components		✓		
	Brake adjustment		✓		
Other	Frame and assembly		✓		
	Air Loss rate		✓	✓	
	Low air pressure warning device		✓	✓	
	Tractor protection valve		✓		
	Trailer emergency relay valve		✓		
	Steering wheel lash		✓	✓	
	Fifth wheel movement		✓		
Enforcement Actions	All visible frame and suspension components			✓	
	Completion of inspection report		✓	✓	✓
	Appropriate out-of-service procedure		✓	✓	✓

Level II (Walk-Around Driver-Vehicle Inspection)

Level II Inspection includes most of the items specified under the Level I inspection. The walk-around driver-vehicle inspection generally addresses only those items that can be inspected without getting underneath the vehicle.

Level III (Driver-Credentials Inspection)

Level III Inspection is a roadside examination of the Driver License, medical certification and waiver (if applicable), driver's record of duty status as required, hours of service, seat belt, vehicle inspection report, and hazardous materials requirements, as applicable.

Level IV (Special Inspections)

Level IV Inspection typically includes a one-time examination of a particular item. These examinations are normally made in support of a study or to verify or refute a suspected trend.

Level V (Vehicle-Only Inspections)

Level V Inspection includes each of the vehicle inspection items specified under the Level I inspection, without a driver present, conducted at any location.

Level VI (Radioactive-Load Inspection)

Level VI Inspection is an examination for radioactive shipments that includes the items specified under the Level I inspection, with stricter requirements for corrective strategies.

Security and Safety Sensitivity Program

The events of September 11, 2001 require the trucking community to increase efforts to ensure the safe, secure, and efficient movement of people and goods across the United States. A major concern is that terrorists could use hazardous materials in the transportation system as a weapon.

In response, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has initiated the Security and Safety Sensitivity Program. Its purpose is to heighten the awareness of the trucking community to any

suspicious behavior that could threaten the security and safety of operators and every individual in our country. To report any questionable activity, immediately call 911.

Local FMCSA offices can provide assistance with questions regarding federal motor carrier safety regulations, hazardous materials regulations and registration, and household goods consumer information. The South Dakota Division of FMCSA can be reached at (605) 224-8202.