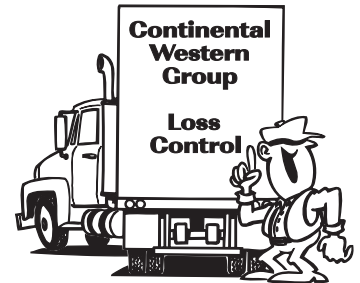


TRUCK TALK

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Roadside Inspections

An organized method of conducting roadside inspections has been with us now for about 25 years. Prior to 1984, there was no organized or specific methodology as to what truck was selected to be inspected along the roadside. So, what were you doing when the officer decided to stop you?

Whenever you are pulled over for a roadside inspection, the officer has a reason for stopping you. Of all the trucks and cars on the road, you were the one chosen. Why? Many moving violations can be listed as the reason, but the most often cited reason was – you guessed it: SPEEDING. Actually, speeding is cited 5 times more often than the next most common reason – failure to obey a traffic control device.

Once your vehicle has been stopped, it is more-than-likely that a roadside inspection will follow. The inspection can be on just the driver, on just the equipment, or both. The most likely inspection will be a Level III inspection – driver only. Depending on what the inspection finds, the roadside inspection may result in an out-of-service violation against the driver, company, or both. The inspection result will remain in the DOT's database for at least the next 3 years.

The following chart lists the most common moving violations cited on roadside inspection reports in 2008:

Violations	Inspections	Percentage
Speeding	192,872	21.14%
Failure to Obey Traffic Control Device	40,324	4.24%
Following Too Close	11,698	1.28%
Improper Lane Change	10,333	1.13%
Failure to Yield Right-of-Way	2,227	.22%
Operating a CMV while Ill or Fatigued	1,706	.19%
Improper Passing	1,701	.19%
Improper Turns	1,366	.15%
Reckless Driving	1,159	.13%

As you can see, it is obvious that speeding is by far and away the Number One reason why drivers are stopped for a roadside inspection. As many of you have experienced, often times the driver does not receive a citation for the speeding violation, but more often than not walks away with some violation in part 392.2 of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations: "Every commercial motor vehicle must be operated in accordance with the laws, ordinances, and regulations of the jurisdiction in which it is being operated". Please be aware with the advent of CSA 2010, this violation will be part of both the Carrier and Driver Safety Measurement Systems.

Lesson Learned: If you want to greatly reduce your odds of being stopped for a roadside inspection, obey traffic control devices and DO NOT SPEED!

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