

TRUCK TALK

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Top Driver Violations of 2006

In 2006, there were 2,232,834 driver violations issued by enforcement officials across the United States. That is 6117 violations every hour of every day of the year, or a little more than 4.25 violations for every minute of every hour of every day of the year.

Of those violations, only 8.2% were for either the 14 hour on-duty rule (5.2%), or the 10 hour off-duty rule (3.0%). In comparison, 8.4% of the violations were for either not having a medical card in their possession, or for having an expired medical card.

Log book violations accounted for 7 of the top 13 violations, or 34.1%. Subtracting the 14 and 10 hour violations, that means that 25.9% of log book violations were for actions that have absolutely nothing to do with the physical operation of a truck. Things like Record of Duty Status Not Current (10.3%), General Form and Manner (9.7%), Failing to Retain Previous 7 Day's Logs (2.1%), No Record of Duty Status (2.0%), and False Report of Drivers Record of Duty Status (1.8%), account for 3 times the number of violations than do those violations dealing with the 14 and 10 hour regulations.

"392.2 Every commercial motor vehicle must be operated in accordance with the laws, ordinances, and regulations of the jurisdiction in which it is being operated". This was by far and away the most frequent violation cited, with over half a million (577,650) violations. Size and weight violations came in a distant second, with 290,568 violations. Third place went to Record of Duty Status Not Current, with 230,956 violations cited.

Speeding violations were cited 228,051 times, and Failure to Obey Traffic Control Device violations totaled 37,665. These 2 traffic law violations account for 11.9% of all violations. Although it has only been a Federal Regulation since 1970, Failing to Use Seat Belt (392.16) violations totaled 62,359!

Would you believe in this day and age, that Using or Having a Radar Detector (392.71 (a) accounted for 11,644 violations? Along the same line, No Pre-Trip Inspection (392.7) violations were cited 10,607 times, and Failure to Have a Driver Vehicle Inspection Report (396.11) accounted for 15,408 violations.

All signs point to increased enforcement activities for driving violations in the foreseeable future; knowing what violations were cited most frequently in the past will assist you in your efforts to help drivers avoid similar violations in the coming year.

What would your SAFER and SafeStat scores look like if you were able to reduce by only 10% the number of non-driving related log violations ???

Here are the top 10 FMCSA Driver Violations of 2006:

Rank	FMCSA Rule	Description	No. of Violations	Percentage
1	392.2	Local laws – general	577,650	25.9
2	392.2	Size and weight	290,568	13.0
3	395.8 (f)(1)	Record of duty status not current	230,956	10.3
4	392.2	Speeding	228,051	10.2
5	395.8	Log – general form and manner	216,959	9.7
6	391.41 (a)	No medical certificate in possession	145,269	6.5
7	395.3 (a)(2)	14-hour rule	115,797	5.2
8	395.3 (a)(1)	10-hour rule	66,987	3.0
9	392.16	Failing to use seat belt	62,359	2.8
10	395.18	Failing to retain previous 7 day's logs	47,581	2.1
			1,982,177	88.7

