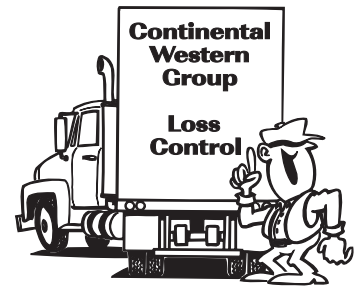


TRUCK TALK

A Publication of
Continental Western Group®



JUNE 2010

Driver Readiness

The May 2010 Truck Talk issue talked about 2010 being a year of changes. Are you, the professional driver, ready for the challenges that lie ahead?

- ✓ Did you do your pre-trip inspection on your equipment today? I mean, really do your pre-trip?
- ✓ Did you check your cargo to make sure it is secure?
- ✓ Have you checked your mirrors to make sure they are aligned properly?
- ✓ Did you check the weather conditions along the route you will be taking?
- ✓ Did you make sure your log book was up-to-date BEFORE leaving? Are you sure you have enough hours available to make the trip? Do you have your prior 7 days' logs with you?
- ✓ Did you do your pre-trip inspection of your attitude today? Not only are you a professional driver, you are also the customer and public relations department.
- ✓ Did you leave all the distractions you may have at the terminal before getting into your truck? Focusing on the job at hand takes all the concentration you have, and then some.
- ✓ Did you put your cell phone somewhere where you can't get to it from the driver's seat? You can hear it ring and know there is a message, so you can pull over when it is safe to do so and return the call. Remember, the shoulder of the road IS NOT considered a safe place to pull over !!!
- ✓ Do you have all of your safety equipment ready and available? Fire extinguisher, reflective triangles, gloves, sunglasses and/or safety glasses, proper footwear, tools you will need for loading and unloading?
- ✓ Did you use the 3 points of contact method to enter and exit the cab of the truck?
- ✓ Have you done your stretching exercises today? How many times?
- ✓ As you proceed on your trip, did you change your duty status on your log book (if necessary)? Is your log book still up to date?
- ✓ Have you allowed plenty of room between you and the car in front of you? It is up to you, the professional, to make sure this happens. Trucks that tailgate are a focus of enforcement officials and are part of the Unsafe Driving BASIC in CSA 2010. Reckless driving has a severity weighting of 10, which is the highest there is.
- ✓ Are you aware that 31% of commercial motor vehicles that are stopped by the DOT are done so as the result of the driver committing an observable act of non-compliance, such as reckless driving, unsafe lane changes, etc? Not only will you get a citation for this offense, you will surely receive a detailed inspection of the truck, trailer, and you, the driver.
- ✓ Are you aware that 35% of commercial motor vehicles that are stopped by the DOT are pulled over as a result of the driver speeding? While you may not get a citation for speeding, you surely will be the recipient of a Level III inspection (that's your log book, medical card, CDL, and bill of lading).
- ✓ Are you determined to work safely today, and every day? On the job injuries are a lose-lose situation for everybody. You are injured and hurting, the company loses the services of a valued employee, and your co-workers have to pick up the slack until a replacement is in position, and on and on.

While the way the DOT conducts their enforcement activities is indeed going through drastic changes, you as the professional can and will handle these challenges in a professional manner.

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