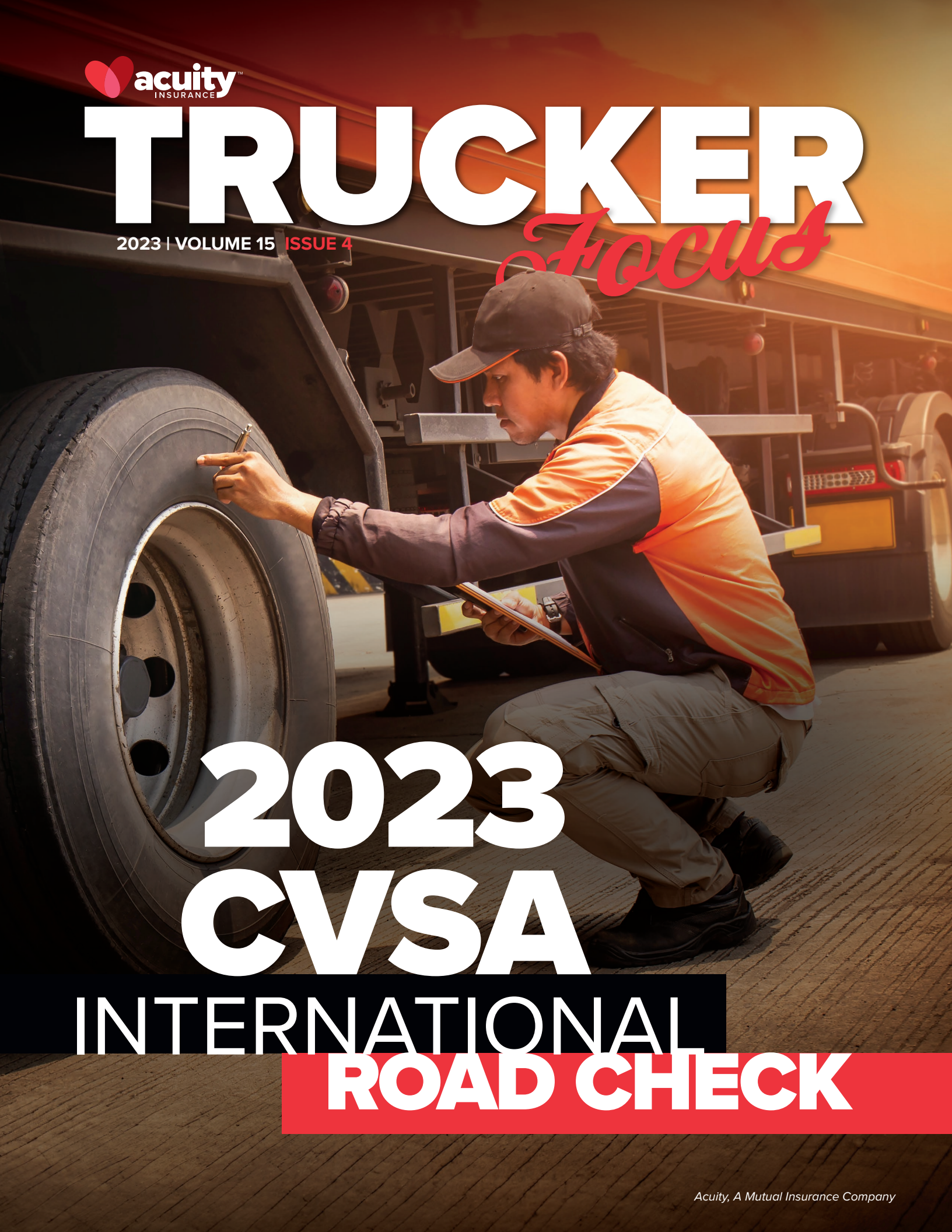


TRUCKER

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Focus



2023 CVSA INTERNATIONAL ROAD CHECK

2023 CVSA INTERNATIONAL ROAD CHECK: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?

In May, the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) conducted its annual International Roadcheck, a three-day event when CVSA-certified inspectors conduct compliance, enforcement, and educational initiatives targeted at various elements of motor carrier, vehicle, and driver safety.

This year, more than 59,000 commercial motor vehicles were inspected in Canada, Mexico, and the U.S., with 19% (11,270) having at least one out-of-service violation. In addition, 5.5% (3,256) of inspected drivers were found to have at least one out-of-service driver violation.

DOT compliance is a key component to profitable operations. It can help reduce maintenance costs, increase driver retention, and improve uptime. Compliance can also contribute to a positive company reputation and fewer roadside inspections and citations. It may be helpful to review your own operations against CVSA findings to see if there are areas of improvement.

ATRI's 2022 Predicting Truck Crash Involvement Report shows that driver behavior continues to be one of the most statistically significant predictors of future crash risk. According to the report, eight

TOP 5 OUT-OF-SERVICE VIOLATIONS

Vehicles:

1. Brake Systems (25%)
2. Tires (20%)
3. Defective Service Brakes (14%)
4. Cargo Securement (12%)
5. Lights (11%)

Drivers:

1. Hours of Service (39%)
2. False Logs (27%)
3. Other (10%)
4. Canceled/Revoked License (8%)
5. No Medical Card (5%)

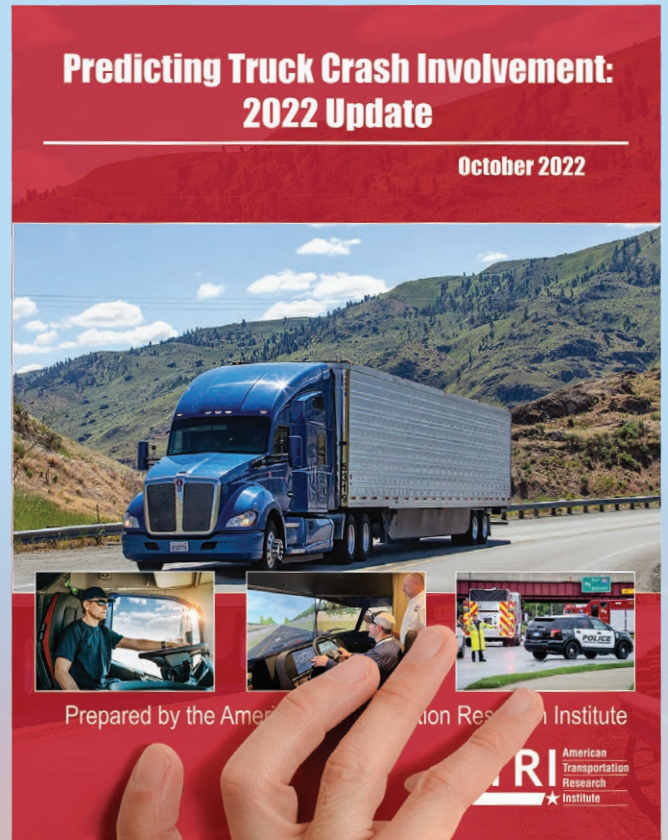
Source: 2023 CVSA U.S. Road Check Inspection Results



different predictors ranked consistently within the top 10 predictors of future crash involvement, including:

- *Improper or Erratic Lane Changes Conviction*
- *Past Crash*
- *Failure to Keep in Proper Lane Conviction*
- *Reckless Driving Violation*
- *Failure to Yield Right-of-Way Violation*
- *Failure to Use / Improper Signal Conviction*
- *Improper Lane / Location Conviction*
- *Reckless / Careless / Inattentive / Negligent Driving Conviction*

With this information in mind, are you monitoring, training, and empowering your drivers to avoid aggressive driving behaviors while reinforcing the positives of safe-driving practices? Acuity has many tools available to our trucking customers, including resources within our **Motor Carrier Toolbox**, loss control services provided by our expert staff, and assistance from our experienced on-staff **Trucking Consultant**. Contact your independent insurance agent to learn more.

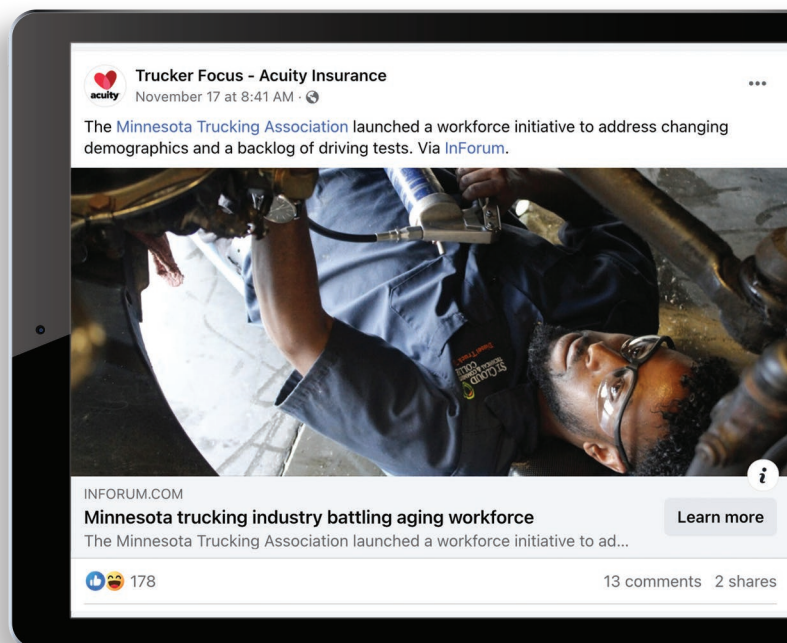


JOIN THE CONVERSATION

 facebook.com/acuitytrucking

Check out how one state trucking association is helping the industry contend with the driver challenge, and join in the conversation on our Facebook page at:

facebook.com/acuitytrucking.



TRUCK DRIVER APPRECIATION WEEK AT ACUITY

Truckers work hard, demonstrating unsurpassed heart, discipline, and sacrifice in accomplishing their job, especially when their day does not go according to plan.

To express genuine appreciation, Acuity continues to take part in Truck Driver Appreciation Week each September.

This year, Acuity employees who have a truck driver in their lives wrote letters of appreciation, then surprised the driver with a meeting that was captured in video. There were many smiles, surprises, and emotions. You can see some video excerpts of the meetings on **Acuity's Trucker Focus Facebook page**.

Acuity is also blessed to be giving back to the trucking industry by supporting three trucking-related nonprofits.

★ **St. Christopher Truckers Relief Fund** – *The fund helps over-the-road/regional semi-truck drivers and their families when an illness or injury causes them to be out of work.*

★ **Truckers Against Trafficking** – *Truckers Against Trafficking trains truck drivers to recognize and report instances of human trafficking.*

★ **Women in Trucking Foundation** – *The foundation encourages the employment of women in the trucking industry, promotes their accomplishments, and works to minimize obstacles faced by women working in the industry.*

**From Acuity Insurance—
thank you, truck drivers!**



ASK THE CONSULTANT

Cliff Johnson
 is Acuity's Trucking
 Consultant. Have a
 question for Cliff?
 Reach him at
cliff@acuity.com.



Ask Cliff

What do fleets need to know about marijuana?

In 1996, California was the first state to legalize medical marijuana. Today, medical use of cannabis has been legalized in 40 states and the District of Columbia, with recreational or adult-use of marijuana approved in 23 states and D.C.

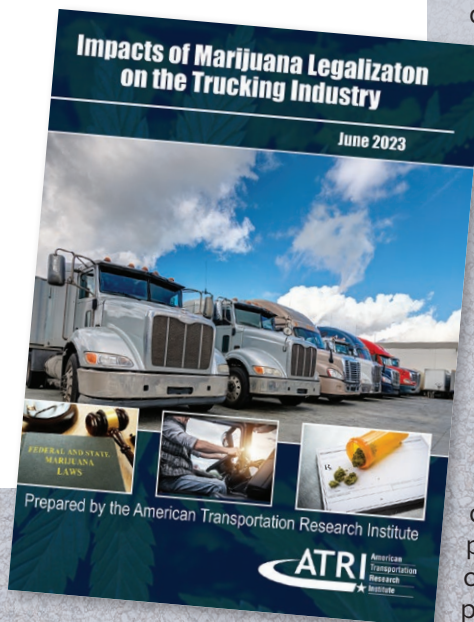
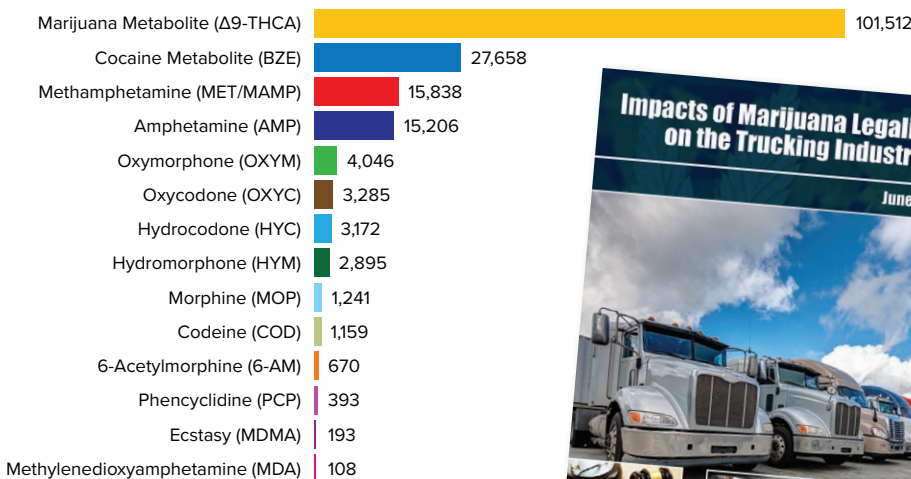
So, how does the legalization of marijuana affect regulations on commercial truck drivers? To date, it does not. Regardless of the state in which a driver is operating, marijuana usage—legal or not—is

2023 titled **Impacts of Marijuana Legalization on the Trucking Industry** that details usage trends and the impact on motor carriers.

Many motor carriers are struggling with this complex issue. Studies have shown marijuana-induced impairments can occur within minutes and last up to 24 hours. THC, the major psychoactive component in marijuana, can remain in a person's blood for up to one month. Unfortunately, no field sobriety test currently exists to identify drivers who are actively under the influence of marijuana. Until a reliable method of detecting active impairment of THC in a driver's system is approved and passes federal legislation, any level of THC found in the blood system will result in a failed test.

Fleets should both establish and communicate drug-free workplace policies and provide regular communication reiterating the importance of FMCSA's drug-free regulations. This would include making drivers aware that if they test positive for any percentage of THC, it will result in a positive or failed drug test. It's also important to note that trace amounts of THC may be detected from the legal use of CBD products, so truck drivers should consider avoiding those products as well.

Positive DACH-Reported Drug Tests
 (Substances Identified in 2020-2022)



banned for all commercial drivers regulated by FMCSA.

Nevertheless, according to FMCSA's **Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse (DACH)**, nearly 41,000 commercial drivers tested positive for marijuana in 2022, 31,000 in 2021, and nearly 30,000 in 2020. The American Transportation Research Institute (ATRI) released a study in June

trace amounts of THC may be detected from the legal use of CBD products, so truck drivers should consider avoiding those products as well.

BEST OF THE BLOG



Tips FOR PREPARING YOUR VEHICLE BEFORE AND AFTER A PERIOD OF INACTIVITY

With the national truck driver shortage, volatile freight rates, and high input costs, it is no surprise that some trucking companies are operating at less than capacity. This can result in company owners or owner-operators reducing the size of their active fleet by sidelining vehicles. However, there are risks associated with parking vehicles for extended periods of time.

Unfortunately, we have seen a few high-cost claims where electrical fires caused by inadequate servicing/maintenance of sidelined vehicles destroyed multiple trucks and damaged property.

If sidelining a vehicle is something you or your company is considering, here are a couple of things to keep in mind:

- *Oil and fuel—Depending on the climate (temperature, humidity, etc.), the truck could experience a variety of conditions. Changing oil, topping off fuel, and adding stabilizer can help prevent condensation from corroding your system.*
- *Battery health—Batteries can quickly die if the vehicle is not turned on for more than a few days. One option to consider is hooking up a trickle charger, which will monitor and maintain a consistent charge. However, batteries and electrical systems can be prone to fires through sparking, so monitor closely and be prepared with a fire extinguisher in the area.*

Bringing a vehicle back online after sitting for some time requires additional care. Have qualified technicians do a thorough inspection including:

- *Checking fluid levels*
- *Looking for condensation/water contamination and adding radiator coolant supplemental coolant additives (SCAs) as recommended by engine manufacturer and coolant type*

- *Checking battery strength/condition and inspecting wiring, lights, and other electrical components*
- *Completing a simple cleaning while checking for rodent damage and nests in the dash and heater core*
- *Checking and adjusting tire pressure as needed and inspecting tires for cracking and other issues*
- *Inspecting brake shoes and linings—keep in mind that rust can slowly creep behind the steel and brake lining and force the linings out of their rivets, especially in a salty environment*

Things become old, brittle, and prone to failure from sitting. These issues should be caught in the annual inspection, but a knowledgeable technician will catch and address them as common sense would dictate.

Communication is key and fleets must notify their technician of where the vehicle was coming from and what they are trying to accomplish.

- *Is the goal to do a quick Appendix G inspection, complete the required paperwork, and return the truck to service to be in “acceptable” compliance when pulled over roadside?*
- *Or is the fleet’s goal to thoroughly go over the vehicle and do preventative maintenance where needed for the greatest uptime and reliability?*

With sidelined vehicles, “out of sight” should not mean “out of mind.” Preparing your vehicle before, during, and after a period of inactivity can save you time and money in the long run. Finally, be sure that you have adequate insurance coverage applied to the vehicle both while in operation and when sidelined. Speak with your licensed agent to learn more.



Motor Carrier TOOLBOX

Acuity's Motor Carrier Toolbox serves as a one-stop shop for resources that help trucking businesses become more compliant and run more efficiently. It includes a wealth of information and provides access to tools, programs, and policies designed to help motor carriers comply with CSA and other FMCSA/DOT regulations.

Check out this handy annual vehicle inspection report form you can download and print. It's available without a sign-in at www.acuity.com/mctb under the *Maintenance* menu.

Annual Vehicle Inspection Report

Vehicle History Record
Report Number: _____ FLEET UNIT NUMBER: _____
DATE: _____

MOTOR CARRIER OPERATOR: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: _____
VEHICLE TYPE: TRACTOR TRUCK TRAILER OTHER

INSPECTOR'S NAME (PRINT OR TYPE): _____
THIS INSPECTOR MEETS THE QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS (BY SECTION 394.17): YES NO
VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION (VIN) AND COMPLETE: LIC. PLATE NO.: _____
INSPECTION AGENCY/LOCATION (OPTIONAL): _____

VEHICLE COMPONENTS INSPECTED			
ITEM	OK	NEEDS REPAIR	REPAIR DATE
1. BRAKE SYSTEM			
a. Service Brakes			
b. Parking Brake System			
c. Brake Drums or Rotors			
d. Brake Hoses			
e. Brake Subhy			
f. Low Pressure Warning Device			
g. Vehicle Protection Valve			
h. Air Compressor			
i. Electric Brakes			
j. Hydraulic Brakes			
k. Vacuum System			
2. COUPLING DEVICES			
a. Fifth Wheels			
b. Bunk Heads			
c. Drawbar Safety Eye			
d. Drawbar-Tongue Coupler			
e. Safety Devices			
f. Safety Alarms			
3. REARVIEW SYSTEM			
a. Any mirror not determined to be for backing or a power mirror or device before the driver's compartment.			
b. A line without system backing or otherwise to the driver's compartment.			
c. The amount of the rearview system of any mirror-vehicle backing or otherwise to the driver's compartment.			
d. The amount of the rearview system of any mirror-vehicle backing or otherwise to the driver's compartment.			
4. FUEL SYSTEM			
a. Visible leak			
b. Fuel tank filler cap missing			
c. Fuel tank secured closed			
5. LIGHTING DEVICES			
a. All lighting devices and reflectors required by Section 393.55 shall be operative.			
6. SAFE LOADING			
a. No load or condition of loading such that the driver has or any part of the load or damage can fall onto the roadway.			
b. Protection against shifting cargo.			
7. STEERING MECHANISM			
a. Steering Wheel Free Play			
b. Steering Column			
c. Front axle beam and ALL steering components other than steering column			
d. Steering Drive Sha			
e. Power Steering			
f. Ball and Socket Joints			
g. Tie Rods and Drag Link			
h. Hub			
i. Steering System			
8. SUSPENSION			
a. Any tie rod(s), spring hanger(s), or other axle assembly parts, control, ball(s), loose or missing resulting in shifting of an axle from its normal position.			
b. Spring Assembly			
c. Torque, Rod(s), or Tracking Components			
9. FRAME			
a. Frame Members			
b. The front Wheel Chassis			
c. Adjustable Axle Assemblies (Sliding Subframes)			
10. TIRES			
a. Tires on any steering axle of a power unit			
b. All other tires			
11. WHEELS AND RIMS			
a. Lock or Side Ring			
b. Wheels and Rims			
c. Fasteners			
d. Wrecks			
12. WINDSHIELD GLAZING			
a. Requirements and exceptions as stated pertaining to any 100% directional or vision reflecting member performance 29.02 for application.			
13. WINDSHIELD WIPERS			
a. Wiper and that has an inspection, or missing or damaged wiper that render a trucking unit unsafe for any other condition which may prevent safe operation of the vehicle.			

Instructions: Mark column entries to verify inspection. E, OK. N, NEEDS REPAIR. NS, IF ITEMS DO NOT APPLY. REPAIR DATE: _____
CERTIFICATION: THIS VEHICLE HAS PASSED ALL THE INSPECTION ITEMS FOR THE ANNUAL VEHICLE INSPECTION REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH 49 CFR 393.

TEAR ALONG THE PERFORATION LINE

WIN \$100!

FIND THE FLAGPOLE TO BE ENTERED!



Acuity is proud to hoist a 70- by 140-foot American flag on a 400-foot flagpole at our headquarters in Sheboygan, WI. Visit www.acuity.com/flag to learn more.

To enter, find the flagpole hidden in this issue and send an email with the location to flagcontest@acuity.com. We'll randomly choose a winner from the correct entries received by January 31, 2024.

WINNER
of last issue's contest was:
Amber Hodge
Garrett Insurance Agency LLC
San Angelo, TX

This contest is not open to employees of Acuity or their immediate family members. For a complete list of rules, visit www.acuity.com/flagcontestrules.





Acuity Knows Trucking!

Check out our dedicated trucking-focused online channels!



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acuity.com/trucking



Facebook
facebook.com/acuitytrucking



Blog
acuity.com/trucker-focus



YouTube
youtube.com/acuityinsurance
(Trucker Focus playlist)



LinkedIn
linkedin.com/company/acuity-insurance



Twitter
twitter.com/acuityinsurance

TRUCKING QUESTIONS?

Acuity's on-site trucking consultant provides over 30 years of industry experience to your business.



Email

trucking.news@acuity.com



Phone

800.242.7666, extension 1740





ARE YOU READY FOR WINTER?

TRUCKER TALK AHEAD ↗

DRIVERS

- Inspect your chains for defects at the beginning of each winter season and after each use.
- Practice chaining each truck you drive.
- Stay drier while chaining by using a small tarp or sheet of Visqueen to lie or kneel on.
- Keep a flashlight or mining lamp and backup batteries in your truck.
- Keep extra food, water, medications, and clothing (especially socks) in your truck in case you are stuck for an extended period of time.
- Wear reflective clothing when outside the truck.
- Keep footwear with extra traction in your truck and change into it before exiting the cab.
- Always wear gloves to maintain your grip and protect your hands.
- Don't turn your back on traffic while outside the truck.



MANAGEMENT

- Maintain the lighting in your yard.
- Fill potholes and keep the yard debris free.
- Have a snow and ice removal plan for your yard or terminal.
- Develop walking paths to keep pedestrians out of the way of trucks and forklifts.
- Provide headlamps and reflective clothing.
- Require that all chains be inspected for damage and that drivers are familiar with chaining all the trucks they use in your fleet.





focused on truckers

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