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Newsletter

Roadcheck 2015 inspection spree set for early June, CVSA releases checklists for drivers, carriers



Roadcheck, the annual inspection blitz done by a joint effort of the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and others, has been scheduled for June 2-4, CVSA announced this week.

Roughly 10,000 inspectors from state, local and federal enforcement agencies will perform nearly 70,000 inspections on trucks and buses over the 72-hour period. They will be stationed at 1,500 inspection points around North America.

This year's special emphasis will be cargo securement, though inspectors will still be primarily performing full 37-step Level I inspections — the most thorough inspection — throughout the week.

[Last year's Roadcheck](#), which also took place in early June, resulted in a vehicle out-of-service rate of 18.7 percent and a driver out-of-service rate of 4.8 percent. Also in 2014, more than 72,000 drivers and vehicles were inspected

CVSA has on its site resources for drivers and fleets. Here's a link to the nine top things inspectors will be looking for.

<http://www.cvsa.org/programs/documents/roadcheck/roadcheck-checklist-for-drivers-02202015.pdf>

BRAKES

Check for missing, non-functioning, loose, contaminated or cracked parts on the brake system; Check for "S" cam flip over; Be alert for audible air leaks around brake components and lines; Check that the slack adjusters are the same length (from center of "S" cam to center of clevis pin), and that the air chambers on each axle are the same size. Check brake adjustment; Ensure the air system maintains air pressure between 90 and 100 psi; Measure pushrod travel; Inspect required brake system warning devices, such as ABS malfunction lamps and low air pressure warning devices; Inspect tractor

protection system, including the bleed back system on the trailer.

COUPLING DEVICES

Safety Devices-Full Trailers/Converter Dolly(s): Check the safety devices (chains/wire rope) for sufficient number, missing components, improper repairs, and devices that are incapable of secure attachment. On the Lower Fifth Wheel check for unsecured mounting to the frame or any missing or damaged parts; or any visible space between the upper and lower fifth wheel plates. Verify that the locking jaws are around the shank

and not the head of the kingpin and that the release lever is seated properly and that the safety latch is engaged. Check the Upper Fifth Wheel for any damage to the weight bearing plate (and its supports) such as cracks, loose or missing bolts on the trailer. On the Sliding Fifth Wheel check for proper engagement of locking mechanism (teeth fully engaged on rail); also check for worn or missing parts, ensure that the position does not allow the tractor frame rails to contact the landing gear during turns. Check for damaged or missing fore and aft stops.

FUEL & EXHAUST SYSTEMS

Check your fuel tanks for the following conditions: Loose mounting, leaks, or other conditions; loose or missing caps; and signs of leaking fuel below the tanks. For exhaust systems, check the following: Unsecured mounting; leaks beneath the cab; exhaust system components in contact with electrical wiring or brake lines and hoses; and excessive carbon deposits around seams and clamps.

FRAME, VAN & OPEN-TOP TRAILERS

Inspect for corrosion fatigue, cross member(s) cracked, loose or missing, cracks in frame, missing or defective body parts. Look at the condition of the hoses, check suspension of air hoses of vehicle with sliding tandems. On the frame and frame assembly check for cracks, bends, sagging, loose fasteners or any defect that may lead to the collapse of the frame; corrosion, fatigue, cross members cracked or missing, cracks in frame, missing or defective body parts. Inspect all axle(s). Inspect for non-manufactured holes (i.e. rust holes, holes created by rubbing or friction, etc.), for broken springs in the spring brake housing section of the parking brake. For vans and open-top trailer bodies, look at the upper rail and check roof bows and side posts for buckling, cracks, or ineffective fasteners. On the lower rail, check for breaks accompanied by sagging floor, rail, or cross members; or broken with loose or missing fasteners at side post adjacent to the crack.

LIGHTING

Inspect all required lamps for proper color, operation, mounting and visibility.

SECUREMENT OF CARGO

Make sure you are carrying a safe load. Check tail board security. Verify end gates are secured in stake pockets. Check both sides of the trailer to ensure cargo is protected from shifting or falling. Verify that rear doors are securely closed. Where load is visible, check for proper blocking and bracing. It may be necessary to examine inside of trailer to assure that large objects are properly secured. Check cargo securement devices for proper number, size and condition. Check tie down anchor points for deformation and cracking.

STEERING

Check the steering lash by first turning the steering wheel in one direction until the tires begin to pivot. Then, place a mark on the steering wheel at a fixed reference point and then turn the wheel in the opposite direction until the tires again start to move. Mark the steering wheel at the same fixed reference point and measure the distance between the two marks. The amount of allowable lash varies with the diameter of the steering wheel.

SUSPENSION

Inspect the suspension for: Indications of misaligned, shifted, cracked or missing springs; loosened shackles; missing bolts; unsecured spring hangars; and cracked or loose U-bolts. Also, check any unsecured axle positioning parts and for signs of axle misalignment. On the front axle, check for cracks, welds and obvious misalignment.

TIRES, WHEELS, RIMS & HUBS

Check tires for proper inflation, cuts and bulges, regrooved tires on steering axle, tread wear and major tread groove depth. Inspect sidewalls for defects, improper repairs, exposed fabric or cord, contact with any part of the vehicle, and tire markings excluding it from use on a steering axle. Inspect wheels and rims for cracks, unseated locking rings, and broken or missing lugs, studs or clamps. Also check for rims that are cracked or bent, have loose or damaged lug nuts and elongated stud holes, have cracks across spokes or in the web area, and have evidence of slippage in the clamp areas. Check the hubs for lubricant leaks, missing caps or plugs, misalignment and positioning, and damaged, worn or missing parts.

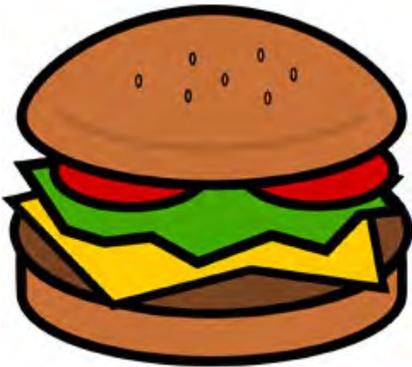


Happy Birthday!



Shaun McKenna 5/11
Keith Marrs 5/13
Stan Burkett 5/19

Ron Shedd has been with
Magic for 3 years!!



May is National Hamburger Month!

Nothing is more American than a big, juicy hamburger. Hamburgers and cheeseburgers have been a staple of the American diet for decades. In 2001, over 8.2 billion burgers were served in commercial restaurants in the United States. This number doesn't even take into account the number of burgers people eat at home, which is another 15 billion!

Although hamburgers originated in Hamburg, Germany, eating the burger in a bun is actually an American innovation. The hamburger sandwich was most likely invented in Seymour, Wisconsin. Each year the city hosts a hamburger festival called Burger Fest. That is where the world's largest hamburger made its debut in 2001. It weighed 8,266 pounds!

To celebrate National Hamburger Month, [host a backyard barbeque](#) with your friends and grill up some tasty burgers. Don't forget about all the delicious ways you can customize your burger — add bacon, ketchup, lettuce, tomatoes, mayo, and your other favorite fixings!



Three Ways to Help Achieve Your Financial Goals

Set a financial goal and you've taken the first step toward reaching it.

We all have dreams for the future, and many of those dreams require money to make them come true. Perhaps you want to buy a place you can call home, travel to Europe with your dearest friend, or start saving to send your children to college. Reaching those milestones starts with setting clear financial goals.

Define your goal clearly

A goal is the first step that sets you on a path. It should be inspirational and based on your own values and interests. What matters most to you? What are you willing to sacrifice in order to make it happen sooner? What can help you stay the course?

A realistic goal should also be:

- **Achievable.** Use your income (and expected income) to set your goals for the future. Don't count on winning the lottery to achieve what you want.
- **Specific.** "To get richer" is not a specific or clear goal, but "to pay for 50% of my child's tuition at a public university" is.
- **Measurable.** Set a deadline for your goal, such as the age at which you want to retire, or the timeline for buying a new house.

Identify your time frame

Categorizing your objectives by short-term, medium-term, and long-term financial goals provides focus to your plan. It also helps you match your goals with the appropriate investment resources.

Short-term goals are those you hope to achieve within the next one to three years, like taking a special vacation or making a down payment on a new car. For short-term goals, you'll choose investments with short-term maturity dates or savings vehicles that protect you from losing value. Make sure you can access your funds any time without penalties.

Consider:

- A savings account
- Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)-insured money market accounts
- U.S. savings bonds

Medium-term goals are three to five years away. Examples of medium-term goals include a down payment on a new house or funds to renovate your home. With medium-term investments or savings, you should still make sure you have access to your funds when you need them and without a penalty.

Consider:

- FDIC-insured Certificates of Deposit (CDs)
- Mutual funds with low-risk ratings (but only if you're willing to delay your goal should the markets dip)

Long-term goals are more than seven years away. Some of life's biggest goals, including retirement, fall into this category. For your long-term goals, you can consider riskier investments, which will potentially earn you more money. As your goal nears, increase the percentage of more conservative investments to reduce risk and ensure your financial stability.

Monitor your progress

Check in frequently on your money to make sure your goals are on track. At each check-in, ask: Am I earning as much money as I expected with my investments and savings? Am I contributing enough?

How often should you do these check-ins? If you're working with an investment professional, ask them how frequently you should meet to discuss your progress, and if you can check progress at other times on your own, too. If you're investing and saving without a professional, designate times to look at your account between now and when you need to reach your goal. Review your progress on a monthly basis for short-term objectives, and quarterly and annually for longer-term goals.

Saving and investing with a goal delivers its own reward: the purchase or life change that you've dreamt of and worked to achieve.