

Minnesota Commercial Truck and Passenger Regulations Fact Sheet

Systematic Maintenance

Vehicle inspection, repair, and maintenance standards are critical to the safe operation of commercial motor vehicles. They are designed to reduce accidents, injuries, and fatalities resulting from unsafe vehicles operating on the highways. We have 3 separate fact sheets on vehicle maintenance standards that cover systematic maintenance, pre-trip inspections and post trip inspection reports, and annual inspections. This fact sheet addresses systematic maintenance.

General Standards

Minnesota adopts most of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, 49 CFR, Part 393 (Parts and Accessories) and Part 396 (Inspection, Repair, and Maintenance). Under these regulations:

- A carrier is responsible for ensuring that it properly inspects, repairs, and maintains vehicles under its control;
- A motor vehicle may not be operated when its mechanical condition is likely to cause an accident or breakdown;
- Parts and accessories must be in safe operating condition at all times;
- A vehicle must be maintained according to the vehicle manufacturer's recommended schedule or an improved schedule based on actual operating conditions; and
- Push out windows, emergency doors, and emergency door marking lights in buses must be inspected at least every 90 days.

Intrastate Carriers Who Must Comply

The following carriers, operating in intrastate commerce, must comply with the systematic maintenance standards:

- For-hire carriers operating any size vehicle;¹
- Private carriers operating vehicles or vehicle combinations with a gross vehicle weight over 10,000 pounds;
- Carriers transporting hazardous material (HM) of a type or quantity that requires the vehicle to be placarded;
- Certain transit providers;² and
- Solid waste transporters.³

Interstate Carriers Who Must Comply

The following carriers, operating in interstate commerce, must comply with the systematic maintenance standards:

- Carriers operating vehicles that have a gross vehicle weight rating or gross combination weight rating over 10,000 pounds;
- Carriers operating vehicles designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver;
- Carriers operating vehicles designed or used to transport between 9 and 15 passengers, including the driver, for direct compensation when operated beyond a 75 air-mile radius from the driver's normal work reporting location; and
- Carriers transporting HM of a type or quantity that requires the vehicle to be placarded.

Intrastate Carriers Not Subject

The following operations in *intrastate commerce* are not subject to the systematic maintenance standards:

- Carriers operating under agricultural exemptions;⁴
- Certain carriers exclusively engaged in transportation of exempt commodities;⁵ and
- Government or political subdivisions.

Interstate Carriers Not Subject

The following operations, in interstate commerce,⁶ are not subject to the systematic maintenance standards:

- School bus operations (as defined);⁷
- Transportation by government or political subdivision;
- Occasional transportation of an individual's personal property not in a commercial enterprise;
- Transportation of human corpses or sick and injured persons; and
- Fire trucks and rescue vehicles while involved in emergency operations.

Required Records

For each vehicle a carrier controls for 30 consecutive days or more, the carrier must ensure the proper vehicle maintenance files are maintained. Each vehicle file must contain:

- Vehicle identification including company number (if so marked), make, serial number, year, and tire size. If the vehicle is leased, the person furnishing the vehicle must be identified;
- Due date and type of inspections and maintenance operations to be performed;
- A record of inspections, repairs, and maintenance indicating their date and nature; and
- A record of tests conducted on push out windows, emergency doors, and emergency door marking lights on buses.

Record Retention

Vehicle maintenance records must be retained where the vehicle is either housed or maintained for a period of **1 year and for 6 months** after the vehicle leaves the carrier's control.

This Fact Sheet is intended as a resource. It is not intended to explain all the requirements of Minnesota or Federal law. The actual Statutes and Regulations are recommended as a resource, and can be purchased at the Minnesota Bookstore (phone number 651/297-3000 or 1-800-657-3757). For additional assistance contact the US DOT at 651/291-6150 or Mn/DOT's Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations.

¹ STS and Limousine operators should refer to the rules that govern their operation.

They are found in Minn. Rules 8840.5950, 8840.5975, and 8880.0900.

² M.S. § 221.031, subd. 3a

³ M.S. § 221.031, subd. 3c

⁴ M.S. § 221.031, subd. 2a

⁵ M.S. § 221.025

⁶ 49 CFR 390.3 (f)

⁷ 49 CFR 390.5



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